

Article Details

Review: A Hindu's Indictment of Heaven

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A Hindu's Indictment of Heaven – A Truly Celestial Comedy



Dev Khanna's *A Hindu's Indictment of Heaven* begins on a sombre note from the Bhagvad Gita: "For one who has taken birth, death is certain. And for one who has died, birth is certain. Therefore, if this is true, why worry?" The opening shot takes you inside a house in the woods where a young woman is dying.

She tells a crying man that they will be together again before she finally breathes her last. When she is greeted at the gates of heaven by St. Peter, she decides to wait for her soul mate. She is warned that it may take a while but she is persistent and spends her time playing games on the steps of heaven. When the time comes to be re-united with her true love, she is in for a surprise. *A Hindu's Indictment of Heaven* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival 2009. The film's cast includes David Fox and Georgina Reilly.

Khanna aptly displays in just a few minutes how a simple story can raise a lot of existential questions. The film takes a look at the concepts of love, eternity, soul mates, relationships and the definition of eternal happiness. Khanna tries to deal with heavy subject matter in a light manner. The film is visually appealing especially with spectacular shots of the snow.

"This project is very important to me," says Khanna, "because it is a brief summary of my feelings toward being a Hindu in a predominantly Christian land. The questions that the film suggests are my own and the film is my attempt to understand the often-touted concepts of "Eternal Bliss" and "Reunion with Loved Ones". Being a Hindu, my faith does not really have these ideas. However, these notions are not completely foreign to me. I did grow up in Canada and have come to be familiar with the idea of Heaven. My attempt with this film is to question our notions of the clichéd terms of 'Soul Mate' and 'Eternal Happiness'." In the film Khanna hopes to create a bridge between the two cultures.

Khanna who made his directorial debut at TIFF in 2007 is currently in pre-production of his first feature film entitled *FONDI '91*.