

With Love to Allahabad

a father and son's odyssey

*An observational documentary
about a father and son who
undertake a journey to Kumbh
Mela, the largest human
gathering in the world.*



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“With Love to Allahabad - a father and son’s odyssey”



A father and his estranged son undertake a journey to Kumbh Mela, the largest human gathering in the world.

Afonso is a Brazilian man who has traveled to India for the last 20 years, learnt the yoga techniques, and gain the status of Brahmin in the holy city of Benares. In 2013 the Ganges planes will host one of the most important Hindu celebration, the Kumbh Mela. From Allahbad to Benares up to the delta of the river, millions of people will bath, pray and live for a two months long monumental event. Even Afonso a borne and bred Rio de Janeiro man who gained the status of Brahmin - uncommon privilege among westerners - will go on the hindu pilgrimage with his estranged 16 year old son. They will join friends, Sadhus, and Babas on an intense pilgrimage from Benares to Allahbad - the modern Prayag of the Veda tradition. The film will explore the personal relationship of a man and his son in the context of a boat journey from Benares to Allahbad on the Ganges waters, while crossing the alluvial plane, its villages and traditions which moulded this incredibly diverse and contradictory the western.

The Kumbh Mela is an old hindu tradition first mentioned in the VII century and acknowledge as the world’s largest act of faith. The event is held every 12 years in different cities, but the most relevant is in Allahbad, at the confluence of the River Yamuna and Ganges. Since the the Hindu religion concedes the hindutva to those people not born on sacred Indian ground - and allows religious conversion - Kumbh Mela attracted more Western people in the former edition in 2001 than in the past. Afonso gained his position and managed to create a bridge between two social divides making this secular tradition, especially its highest cast, more open. Now he is sharing his achievement with his youngest son who has no understanding of his father’s spiritual life. Will Afonso be able to succeed in trasmitting the importance of his religious practice to his son in this long pilgrimage to Allahbad with all the difficulties of the indian life?

We propose a 40’ film about Afonso and his son’s journey to Allahbad during the pilgrimage of Kumbh Mela and the challenges this will bring to them.



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