

The background of the entire image is a night scene of a crowded riverbank, likely the Ganges in Varanasi. The scene is filled with warm, golden-yellow lights from street lamps and buildings across the water. The lights create a bokeh effect and are reflected in the calm water. In the foreground, the silhouettes of people are visible as they stand along the riverbank, looking towards the water. The overall atmosphere is serene yet vibrant, capturing a moment of collective gathering.

FAITH

C O N N E C T I O N S

A film by PAN NALIN



ABOUT KUMBH MELA

Kumbh Mela is one of the most extraordinary displays of faith on Earth, a spectacular journey drawing tens of millions of people. And it takes place once every twelve years! One such year is 2013.

This Hindu pilgrimage is held for about one and a half months at the Triveni Sangama. In Hindu tradition Triveni Sangama is the “confluence” of three rivers. Sangama is the Sanskrit word for confluence. The point of confluence is a sacred place for Hindus. A bath here is said to wash away all of one’s sins and free one from the cycle of rebirth.

Kumbh means a pitcher and Mela means fair in Hindi. It is also believed in Hindu mythology — drops of nectar fell from the Kumbh carried by gods after the sea was churned. The festival is billed as the “biggest gathering on Earth”. An estimated four to five million pilgrims bathe on the most auspicious day. The total number of pilgrims for the entire duration of the fair is considered to be between 90 to 100 million.

FAITH ISN'T FAITH
until
IT'S ALL YOU'RE HOLDING ON TO.

Filmmaker Pan Nalin travels to Kumbh Mela, one of the world's most extraordinary religious events. There, he encounters remarkable men of mind and meditation, some facing an inextricable dilemma; to embrace the world or to renounce it. FAITH CONNECTIONS explores such diverse and deeply moving stories as a young runaway kid, a Sadhu, a mother desperately looking for her lost son, a yogi who is raising an abandoned baby, and an ascetic who keeps his calm by smoking cannabis – all connected by one faith against the spectacular display of devotion.

100 MILLION PEOPLE
55 DAYS
3 RIVERS
1 FAITH





KISHAN TIWARI

a runaway kid who is hardly ten years old. He is here for a different reason: It's his time to make money! Or to become somebody? He befriends a milkman, a policeman and a couple of Sadhus. He says he is an orphan. Is he really an orphan? Where is his home? Does he not fear the massive crowds? Ultimately, Kishan thinks he would like to become a Sadhu or a Sinner like a Don in Mumbai's Mafia. So we follow him around to witness what would be his final decision – to become a Mafia Don or Sadhu?



HATHA YOGI BABA

If Kishan is on the verge of leaving the world and entering into ascetic existence, then Baba's destiny is pulling him into the world. A wandering hermit, he had renounced the world long time ago. But his destiny changed one day when he discovered a new born baby at the doorsteps of his hut. He first searched for the baby boy's parents but as no one showed up to claim the boy; Baba was obliged to take the role of baby's father and mother. Three years since, Baba is being pulled into the worldly life as he nourishes the baby. He is being forced to learn the ropes of modern Indian society; child care, education, career.



VIVEKANANDJI & UMESHJI

Adult Sadhus, who have camped at the Agni Akhada to do Satsang and Bhajan; their spiritual discourses and discussions go on through day and night amidst the Ganja smoke-clouds!



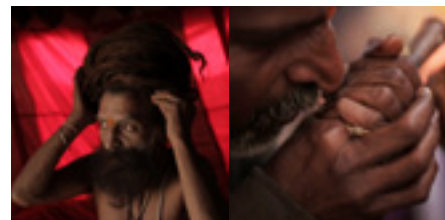
LOST & FOUND CAMP

It is the faith-shattering bureau of “Lost & Found People” that truly puts all our beliefs in question. Here people keep pouring in, day and night, to look for their loved ones who are lost among the millions of people. About seventy thousand loudspeakers are linked to this bureau announcing the names of missing persons around the clock.



MAMTA DEVI & SONU

At the “Lost & Found Centre” we came across parents Mamta Devi and Sonu who have lost their three-year-old son SANDEEP. We keep following them as they search for their missing son. After about three or four nights, the mother breaks down. Father loses all hope. They've not been eating and sleeping since more than a week... will they find their son? Is it God who is testing them? Will there be happy reunion? Or would their son become part of those five percent of people who are never found!



BHOLE BABA & SHUKLAJI

40 year old, is a pilgrim. He spends time visiting temples and meeting great minds. He loves sharing a “Chillum” – smoking of sacred marijuana in earthen pipe. He believes that Bob Marley could have been a Sadhu. He also thinks Babas and Sadhus are adapting to modern time. That's why now there are Sadhus called; Pilot Baba, iPad Baba, Visa Baba and even Obama Baba!



PAN NALIN

WRITER / DIRECTOR

Pan Nalin kick-started his career with creation of TV series **WAGLE KI DUNIYA** in association with India's legendary cartoonist R. K. Laxman and reached global limelight with his debut feature film **SAMSARA**. Nalin, a self-taught filmmaker, was born in a remote village in Gujarat. He made several short films and documentaries before venturing into feature films.

His first feature film **SAMSARA**, a huge commercial and critical success worldwide won him some thirty plus awards. With box office collection of US\$ 27ml, **SAMSARA** remains highest grossing Indian independent film internationally. Nalin's feature documentary **AYURVEDA: Art of**

Being has also won many awards and was theatrically released worldwide. Nalin's epic **VALLEY OF FLOWERS** was filmed in remote, high altitude Himalayas and in Japan and considered a major underground hit. It still continues to enjoy multiple - platform release with cult, critical and commercial success worldwide.

Nalin is probably the only Indian screenwriter, writing for major International productions. Nalin has been hired by Forecast Picture to write **RACE** featuring an incredible story of Jesse Owens and Adolf Hitler. Nalin has been scripting Paris set spy-thriller **CODENAME: MADELEINE** with Isabelle Sobelman (writer of Oscar winner *LA VIE EN ROSE*) for Cite Films & Virginie Films France.

He is also attached to direct forthcoming India-New Zealand set drama **BEYOND THE KNOWN WORLD** for The Reservoir Films NZ and Arsam International France.

Nalin has served as Jury member at many prestigious International Film Festivals, has attended several prominent, filmmaking and screenwriter's labs, and has been on the panels at many prestigious cinema, literature & arts conclaves.





GAURAV DHINGRA

PRODUCER

Gaurav has over a decade of experience producing some of the largest International TV shows and films in India. In 2011, Gaurav produced ‘Ice Road Truckers’ for History (USA), the biggest international TV show shot in India. He has line produced over 10 seasons of ‘The Amazing Race’ for CBS – USA. Apart from TV format, Gaurav has also line produced some of the biggest feature films in India such as Rang De Basanti, Delhi 6 and Mangal Pandey, amongst others. In early 2012, Gaurav co-produced ‘Peddlers’ which was selected in Critics Week Section of Cannes Film Festival, 2012. Gaurav has 2 other feature film releases in 2013 – Haram Khor & Vakratunda Mahakaya.

RAPHAEL BERDUGO

PRODUCER

Raphael Berdugo has over 30 years of experience in the movie industry. He owned and operated renowned French sales and production company Roissy Films for 15 years, which he later sold to Europacorp (Luc Besson). Berdugo is now focusing on production and international sales of his own co-productions with his new company Cité Films. His latest co-productions include “Respiro” by Emanuele Crialese, “Eros” by Antonioni, Soderbergh and Wong Kar Wai, “Caramel” by Nadine Labaki and “The Other Son” by Lorraine Levy. In 2012, Berdugo co-produced 2 Italian movies which were both selected at Cannes festival 2013 (“Mlele” at Un Certain Regard and “Salvo” at the Critics Week).

VIRGINIE LACOMBE

PRODUCER

Virginie Lacombe has been a Producer for fifteen years. She founded in June 2009 Rapsodie Production, her first project was “Extra-life” (50’X4) a TV series broadcasted on Orange Cinema Serie in November, 2011. She produced her first feature film “Le fils de l’autre” directed by Lorraine Levy which came out in the French theaters on the 4th of April, 2012 and gathered over 260,000 spectators. Later, she also produced Subarna Thapa’s first feature film “Soongava – Dance of the Orchid” which was entirely shot in Nepal. Since then, she is developing new feature films.

AN EPIC FEATURE-LENGTH
DOCUMENTARY
from the Director of
SAMSARA & VALLEY OF FLOWERS
and from the co-producer of
CAMEL & RESPIRO.

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