

NEWS COVERAGE

Publication: Bangalore Mirror
Edition: Bangalore

Date: April 14, 2014
Page: 22 (Variety Page)

BangaloreMirror

[Home Entertainment](#) Lounge

The search for happiness

Apr 13, 2014, 07.19 PM IST



By: Vidya Iyengar

Fiction merges with reality in this film about the pursuit of meaning

A week before Elisabeth Rohm (of Dolly Polito from American Hustle fame) got the call to play the lead character of Juliet Palmer in docu-drama Finding Happiness, she was feeling an "active longing to deepen my spirituality," she says. The cosmos must work in mysterious ways, because the 90-minute film is a story of spiritual awakening, through the philosophy of the California-based Ananda World Brotherhood Village, a spiritual movement started by Swami Kriyananda in 1968. It is being screened at cinemas across Bangalore.

Written and directed by Ted Nicolaou, the film follows 24 people across California, Italy and Pune. Palmer plays the only fictional character of a woman journalist, who gets orders to do an expose on corruption. Unwilling to do the assignment, Palmer nonetheless, descends on the Ananda community in California. While there, she interacts with founder Swami Kriyananda, which turns out to be a life-changing experience.

FINDING Happiness

Pointing out that the film is based on Paramhansa Yogananda's vision of the World Brotherhood Community, Shivani Lucki, executive producer of the film, promises, "Anyone who identifies with the title will like the film. People in need of inspiration are sure to walk away with a transformative experience."

Lucki, who also has a role in the film, says the idea was to tell a true story. "However, we also wanted a character who would represent the dilemma that the audience goes through. At the end of the film, both the fictional character and the audience have an awakening," she says. "Fortunately, Swami Kriyananda, who gives answers to Palmer's quest for happiness, was able to view the film a week before his passing away."

Rohm too holds her meeting with Swami Kriyananda dear. "I had an appointment to call him once I was cast, and I feared he might grill me about my spiritual qualifications. But he was simple and brief," she says. Did the experience lead her to an awakening too? "Over the years I've realised that if I'm very quiet before I perform, and if I'm prayerful before I go to work, I have a much better day and I can give a much better performance," she says.

Towards the end of the film, Rohm goes from playing the character of Palmer to undergoing a change herself, which leaves the audience wondering what is real and what is not. And that, hopes Lucki, simplifies the viewer's chase of that elusive something/everything.

Finding Happiness, April 25, Inox, Lido Mall, Off M G Road and Cinepolis, Royal Meenakshi Mall, Bannerghatta Road.

Tickets on bookmyshow.com

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/entertainment/lounge/The-search-for-happiness/articleshow/33708980.cms>