

NEWS COVERAGE

Publication: Orient Publication
Edition: Filed from Mumbai

Date: January 5, 2014
Page: -

ORIENT PUBLICATION

Sunday, January 5, 2014

Finding Happiness

The film's backstory involves a familiar native son who achieved world renown in the 1920s–1950s. Known as India's "**spiritual ambassador to the West**," **Paramhansa Yogananda** was one of the most significant spiritual figures of our times, the founding spirit, and continuing guide, of the **now global yoga and meditation movement**. His *Autobiography of a Yogi* is the most-read autobiography of all times.

The film's lead actress is Elisabeth Rohm (see attached biography) who has featured in leading popular US TV series like *Law & Order*, *The Client List* and *Heroes*. Elisabeth's most recent film, *American Hustle* has just been nominated for the 2014 Academy Awards/Oscars in March this year.

Finding Happiness, a film that is both entertaining and enlightening, is produced by Hansa Productions; directed by Ted Nicolaou; produced by Roberto Bessi; executive produced by Shivani Lucki and Nancy Santoshi Kendall. **The film was released in the US in November 2013. Its release in India is scheduled for mid-April 2014**, preceded by premieres at which the actress, director and producer will be present, together with luminaries from Indian film and other fields. *Finding Happiness* has received the Award of Excellence at the International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration and Equality; was a Finalist at the Moondance Film Festival, and is debuting in South America at the Festival International de Cinema e Transcendencia in Brasilia.



The Story

"When you change, your whole world changes."

The World in Crisis

Economic collapse, government gridlock, climate disasters, senseless violence, pervasive corruption. Protests, anger, disillusionment, despair.

Against this background, fictional journalist Juliet Palmer, an investigative reporter specializing in stories that expose corruption, receives an unusual (and unwanted) assignment from her boss at Profiles magazine: she'll visit a spiritual community in northern California that has developed alternative solutions to the

FINDING Happiness

world's problems for nearly half a century. While at Ananda World Brotherhood Village, she'll interview its visionary founder.

With a fair portion of skepticism and a dash of curiosity, Juliet embarks on a professional and personal journey that will open her eyes and change her life. Filmed on location at the Ananda communities in California, Italy, and India, Finding Happiness follows Juliet as she talks with the real residents of Ananda, who answer her questions and welcome her to a reality she had never imagined possible.

The Background

The story has its origins in the 1920s when yoga arrived on America's shores in the person of Paramhansa Yogananda, whose book *Autobiography of a Yogi* is the best-read autobiography of all time. Yogananda's mission included two key points that powerfully influenced his young disciple, J. Donald Walters, later renowned as Swami Kriyananda. First – personal change starts within. Second – our environment greatly influences our search for happiness. Yogananda envisioned places where people could put high principles into action – “world brotherhood colonies,” he called them. In 1968, Swami Kriyananda founded the first community near Nevada City, California, in the beautiful foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

A Practical Alternative

As Juliet researches Ananda, an inspiring self-portrait of the community emerges. We meet a group of people who have made the personal journey from idealism to inner transformation, and who have developed practical solutions for a sustainable, harmonious, inwardly fulfilling way of life.

In her interviews, especially those with Kriyananda, she finds answers for her personal quest. His gentle wisdom helps her discover eternal truths with the power to transform her life.

Begin the journey...

THE FILMMAKERS

Creative Team

Producer Roberto Bessi

Born into a film-making family, Roberto's career as a producer spans nearly four decades. He is a driving force behind the State Film School of Rome (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia), which prepares young filmmakers. Roberto is widely respected for his filmmaking innovations, his creativity in resolving filming challenges, and his organizational and leadership skills.

He is the CEO of Empire Studios in Rome and teaches the business aspects of filmmaking at Tor Vergata University in Rome and the European School of Economics in London.

Roberto produced *Modigliani* (directed by Mile Davis, starring Andy Garcia), and *A Good Woman* (directed by Mike Baker, with Helen Hunt, Scarlet Johansson and Tom Wilkinson), and was line producer for *Ladyhawk* (directed by Richard Donner, starring Michelle Pfeiffer).

Recent Films: *Terzo Tempo* (release in October 2013, awarded at Venice Film Festival), *Amori Elementari* (post-production, release in February 2014), *Mozzarella Stories*, *Ten Winters* (Dieci Inverni, 2009-2010; received 28 awards),

Finding Happiness is Roberto's first venture into the spiritual documentary genre. He was pleased to bring his vast experience to a film with an uplifting message for humanity, and to establish a relationship with Swami Kriyananda and further his personal quest as a truth seeker.

Writer-Director Ted Nicolaou

Ted came to Finding Happiness through his long association with Roberto Bessi, with whom he made many films. He started with Finding Happiness at the beginning of the development process, three years ago, collaborating on the script and conducting extensive interviews with Swami Kriyananda and members of the Ananda communities in the U.S. and Italy. He created the teaser trailer, attended many of Kriyananda's public events, did background filming at Ananda Village in 2012, and travelled that year to Italy to direct filming there.

Ted's first film was the Student Academy Award nominated apocalyptic short *Southern hospitality*. After moving from Texas to Los Angeles, he honed his craft as a film editor on a dozen low-budget features. (continued)

www.findinghappinessmovie.com [findinghappinessmovie](#)

Begin the journey...

Ted Nicolaou (continued)

Ted wrote and directed the cult science fiction comedy *Terrorvision*. He created the atmospheric gothic thriller *Subspecies* (Paramount Home Video), the first American/Romanian co-production, shot on location in Transylvania.

For Moonbeam Entertainment and Paramount Home Video he co-wrote and directed the home video family hits *Remote* and *Dragonworld* (Best International Children's Film 1994, Ruhr International Film Festival, and Cinemagic Audience Best Feature Film Award 1994, Northern Ireland International Film Festival), and the enchanted comedies *Leapin' Leprechauns* and *Magic in the Mirror*.

More recently, he has written and directed innovative DVD and Blu-Ray documentary bonus features for Walt Disney Home Entertainment, including *Behind Walt's Story Meetings* for the recently released *Diamond Edition of Bambi* – and the feature-length documentary *Dali & Disney: A Date with Destino* for *Fantasia*, about the little-known friendship and collaboration between Walt Disney and surrealist painter Salvador Dali which led to *Destino*, the world's first surrealist cartoon.

Producer Frank Hildebrand

Frank Hildebrand's production credits over the last five years include films such as *The Tree of Life* directed by Terrence Malick and winner of the 2011 Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, *Fair Game* starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts, *The Runaways* with Kristen Steward and Dakota Fanning, as well as the documentary *Food Inc.* which emerged as one of the most successful documentaries ever distributed in the U.S. Previously he served as executive producer on *Into The Wild*, directed by Sean Penn, which started his relationship with River Road Entertainment.

Hildebrand's strong international expertise led him to produce films in Europe, Asia, Africa, New Zealand, and Canada, including *Into the Sun*, *Out of Reach*, *Sleeping Dictionary*, *Beowulf*, and *Freeway*. In addition to working as a freelance producer, he served as a production executive on feature projects for Sony, Fox, Miramax, New Line and other studios.

Hildebrand also was executive VP of production at Kushner-Locke, overseeing *Picking up the Pieces*, *The*

FINDING Happiness

Last Producer and Susan's Plan, and others. While head of production at Epic/Transworld, he oversaw production of Triumph of the Spirit, Firebirds, Bad Influence, and Night Games, among others.

A native of Switzerland, where he received a degree in business administration, he began his career in London as founder of Jade Film Marketing Ltd., representing major international distributors and producers.

Elisabeth Rohm

Elisabeth Rohm, who plays the lead role of Profiles magazine journalist Juliet Palmer in Finding Happiness, is known in Hollywood and around the world for her role as Serena Southerlyn, the assistant district attorney on NBC's Law & Order TV series.

Most recently Elisabeth is playing in the Academy awards-nominated film, American Hustle, directed by David O'Russell (Silver Linings Playbook), which has just won the 2013 Best Film award by the New York Film Critics, where she stars alongside Jennifer Lawrence, Amy Adams, Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Renner and Roberto De Niro.

In addition to acting, Elisabeth is an author, whose third book, Baby Steps, recounts her journey from infertility to having a child, a daughter to whom she is intensely devoted. Her weekly celebrity blog on People.com is followed by 1 million-plus readers. An ardent yoga practitioner, Elisabeth was featured on the cover of LA Yoga with a 6-page article on "Finding Happiness."

In 2012, in addition to filming Finding Happiness, she starred in the Warner Brothers thriller Transit opposite James Caviezel, and played with Kyra Sedgwick and Vincent Donofrio in Chlorine. She also filmed the Lionsgate feature Officer Down directed by Brian A. Miller, and Darkroom, an independent feature directed by Britt Napier, produced by Michael A. Liberty and Ron Stein (The Kids Are Alright). At the same time, Elisabeth continues her regular appearance on Lifetime TV's The Client List as Taylor Berkhalter.

Born in Germany and raised in New York City, Elisabeth's childhood obsession was horsemanship, for which she trained extensively. By the time she entered the prestigious Sarah Lawrence college, she'd begun writing fiction and history, and it was in her college years that she fell in love with acting. After achieving her degree, she quickly found work in TV and had a recurring role in highly popular shows, Angel, as Detective Kate Lockley, and in Heroes.

Elisabeth is a spokesperson for the Red Cross, and supports such charities as the Go Red Foundation, and Healthy Child Healthy World. She's also actively engaged in helping children and women in need globally.

Begin the journey...

Dolly Polito in
American Hustle
Serena Southerlyn
in Law and Order
Lauren Gilmore
in Heroes
Detective Kate
Lockley in Angel
Robyn in
Transit

***Finding Happiness* is filmed on location at the Ananda communities in the United States, India and Italy.**

TRAILER <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFBxdQcuC74>

<http://orientpublication.blogspot.in/2014/01/finding-happiness.html>

<http://orientpublication.wordpress.com/2014/01/05/finding-happiness/>

NOTE: Facebook and Twitter Links follow on next page....

FINDING Happiness

facebook

Email or Phone: roma1703@gmail.com Password: Log In

Keep me logged in Forgot your password?

ORIENT PUBLICATION
Cover Photo

Orient publication is on Facebook.
To connect with Orient publication, sign up for Facebook today.
[Sign Up](#) [Log In](#)

ORIENT PUBLICATION
Orient publication
1 like · 1 talking about this

Media/News/Publishing
NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT DAILY AFFAIRS / BUSINESS / PRODUCT LAUNCH / INTERVIEWS / ENTERTAINMENT NEWS.

About Photos Likes

Orient publication shared a link.
January 4

Finding Happiness <http://wp.me/p3QV5J-fx>

 **Finding Happiness**
orientpublication.wordpress.com

Finding Happiness The film's backstory involves a familiar native son who achieved world renown in the 1920s–1950s. Known as India's "spiritual ambassador to the West," Paramhansa Yogananda was one of the...

Like · Comment · Share

<https://www.facebook.com/ORIENTPUBLICATION>

FINDING Happiness

Browser address bar: <https://twitter.com/orientpublicati>

Twitter navigation: Search, Have an account? Sign in

Profile picture: Red maple leaf

Profile header: **ORIENT PUBLICATION**
orientpublication
@orientpublicati
mumbai

Stats: 244 TWEETS, 31 FOLLOWING, 9 FOLLOWERS

Follow button: Follow

Follow form: Full name, Email, Password, Sign up

Footer: © 2014 Twitter About Help Terms Privacy Cookies Ads info Brand Blog Status Apps Jobs Advertise Media Developers Directory

Tweet: **orientpublication** @orientpublicati
Finding Happiness .. wp.me/p3QV5J-fx
4 Jan
View photo, Reply, Retweet, Favorite, More

<https://twitter.com/orientpublicati>