



February 16th, 2013

World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival

Attn: Renee De Palma

10866 Washington Blvd. #407

Culver City, CA 90232

Testimonial for the World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival

I attended the World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival in Los Angeles for World Interfaith Harmony Week, and was deeply impressed by the breadth and depth of the faith-filled and humanitarian movies that screened over a series of days.

The films portrayed love for humanity, love for mother earth, and love for God. Of particular note, for me, was Vishal Hiraskar's *The Time is Now*, which told the stories of human beings whose lives were crushed by tragedy. They turned to God and to others for help. *The Heart of a Murderer* revealed the story of a man who murdered a nun. He was forgiven and went on a long journey to forgive himself, with the help of a priest. *The Blue Jewel* explored the power of human spirituality and the link that the human mind, *nous*, has to creation. Each one of the movies screened, in its own way, spiritually edified, and uplifted the audience.

The Question and Answer sessions held after each movie were profoundly spiritual, and a common thread of love for God and love for neighborhood laced all of the films together. Hearing producers and editors mention the role of a higher power in the creation of their works, brought me to tears. A tangible bond was established between movie makers and audience.

The films were also educational. I learned about reincarnation watching the film *Yangsi*, and I witnessed a sense of community emerge between Christians and Muslims in the movie, *Dialogue in Nigeria*. The movie, *Divided We Fall*, taught me about the Sikh-American community in the United States, about which I had formerly been unaware.

Truly, the films continue to resonate in my mind, and will endure in my memory for a lifetime. This film festival deepened my faith and opened my heart to other faiths and beliefs.

Respectfully,

M.A. Sullivan

Dr. Mary Ann Sullivan

Editor, The Tower Journal

Associate Professor, Hesser College