



INDIA TEACHER RESOURCES

ENTERTAINMENT

Orphan's Lifeline out Of Hell Could Be a Game Show in Mumbai

One Of Britain's premier directors Danny Boyle brings his latest picture, "Slumdog Millionaire." The film tells the tale of an orphan growing up in the squalor of Mumbai, India. Jamal (Dev Patel), who earns a living as a *chai-wallah* serving fragrant tea to call center workers in Mumbai and who, after series of exhilarating adventures, has landed in the hot seat on India's take of "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire." Danny Boyle's vision brings the streets of Mumbai to the big screen. Beautifully shot with sensitivity to detail makes "Slumdog Millionaire" a realistic viewing experience. Viewers will find the honesty and hear in "Slumdog Millionaire" similar to Danny Boyle's previous films "Trainspotting", "Millions", and "Shallow Grave."

Dargris, Manohla. "Orphan's Lifeline out Of Hell Could Be a Game Show in Mumbai" [The New York Times](#). 12 Nov 2008.

Extreme Mumbai, Without Bollywood's Filtered Lens

The extremities of Mumbai, India have found its home in cinema. British Filmmaker Danny Boyle shoots his latest film "Slumdog Millionaire" on the streets of Mumbai. The grit of Mumbai's slums brings life to a film that tells the tale of love, luck, and greed through the eyes of a child forced to grow up too soon. The story is told by Jamal (Dev Patel) in a series of flashbacks one game show question at a time. "Slumdog Millionaire" lacks the glamour of Bollywood's classic films, however still contains classic elements of popular Indian issues. Unexpectedly, the film contains close to a third of Hindi dialogue, with English subtitles—that expects to win over American audience.

Sengupta, Somini. "Extreme Mumbai, Without Bollywood's Filtered Lens" [The New York Times](#). 16 Nov 2008.

Filming Salman Rushdie's 'Midnight's Children'

Director Deepa Mehta and novelist Salman Rushdie have joined forces to create a movie of his novel, *Midnight's Children*. They plan to begin filming in 2010. This will be difficult due to the controversies both Mehta and Rushdie have encountered within their fields. Mehta's film *Fire* angered Hindu extremists for its sexual content, and Rushdie infuriated Muslims with his novel, *The Satanic Verses*.

“Filming Salman Rushdie’s ‘Midnight’s Children’ 11 November 2008.

<http://www.theweek.com/article/index/90600/3/Filming_Salman_Rushdies_Midnights_Children>.

A Spirit of South Asia Is Moving in Manhattan

“Erasing Borders” is a four day Indian dance celebration in Lower Manhattan. Different dance academies perform during the festival at Chase Manhattan Plaza. Odissi is a dance involving an audience connection; the dance involves sensuous movements and eye focus. Bharatanatyam involves footwork and ringing anklets along with hand motions are also used to emphasize a story or pose. The dances are often of Krishna and her cow girls, or another story of a god/goddess.

Macaulay, Alastair. “A Spirit of South Asia Is Moving in Manhattan” The New York Times. 21 August 2008.

Vogue’s Fashion Photos Spark Debate in India

This article discusses Vogue’s recent effort to put luxury designer clothes and accessories in the hands of India’s poor, trying to get the point across that designer goods are not limited to the rich. Many poor individuals in New Delhi carry handbags ranging from \$200 to \$1000 as a part of Vogue’s new fashion shoot. India’s stark contrast between the largely affluent population and those withstanding extreme poverty exhibits the growing wealth gap in the country. Many high end designers such as Gucci, Jimmy Choo, and Hermes have begun establishing retail stores throughout much of India’s more wealthy shopping malls. As a developing country, India is beginning to provide a new market for selling luxury goods, and consequently, many designer brands are attracted there. Also, as more and more individuals begin to garner income, they enjoy flaunting it to others by wearing designer apparel, which leads to yet even more demand for these designer products.

Timmons, Heather. “Vogue’s Fashion Photos Spark Debate in India” The New York Times.

36 Hours in Mumbai

It is the Jazz Age in Mumbai with emerging stock-market money, a growing art scene, and people spending time in bars until the wee hours. Late on a Friday afternoon you can find migrants moving to Chowpatty Beach with children on merry-go-rounds, families bonding over corn, vendors. There are services such as massaging, palm reading, and a type of trail mix called bhel puri up for sale. Later in the evening wealthy young people may be attracted to the top of the InterContinental Mumbai Marine Drive hotel for a romantic view of the Arabian Sea, arc of Marine Drive, and the seaside. Trishna offers dishes such as squid in chilly garlic, fried prawns, crab, and dal Hyderabadi, a spicy lentil soup. Dinner for two with beers will cost you about 3,000, which is about \$70. On a Saturday morning one can visit the seafood market at Mazagaon Dock for lobsters, baby sharks, and stingrays with leopard spots. Floors are covered by sludges of innards, blood, and ice, while photography is absolutely forbidden. Bombay Electric has boutique items for late morning shopping and Britannia

is a potential lunch spot for Persian and Indian cuisine and will cost about 600 rupees for two. Options for the afternoon include shopping at Chor Bazaar downtown for antiques or Mini Market to purchase original Bollywood posters. Mumbai's growing art scene also has the Kala Ghoda district, the gallery of Max Mueller Bhavan, and also the well known Jehangir Art gallery with shows and a café. For dinner you can go behind the Taj Mahal hotel to Bademiya for traditional Muslim cuisine and enjoy kebabs and paper-thin roomali flatbreads. For a night on the town the Blue Frog has global music for younger crowds and Bling in the Leela Kempinski Hotel is a club that is lively until breakfast time. The D.J. plays a mix of Bollywood beats with hip-hop and house music and will cost 1,000 rupees a couple. For those that cannot afford to go to the clubs, there are enjoyable tours in the Dharavi slum that start at 400 rupees for two and a half hours. There are direct flights from New York airports to Mumbai and round trips searched in July started at \$1,479, but taxis are everywhere in Mumbai and cost under 100 rupees, while 43 rupees are about a dollar. There are splurges and bargains for hotels which can range from 5,500 to 18,450 rupees at the Ascot Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel.

Giridharadas, Anand. "36 Hours in Mumbai." New York Times 22 June 2008.