

Three Generations of Jogi Umer Farukh

52 mins./HDV/2010/In Hindi & Rajasthani with subtitles in English

A documentary film in the form of a musical journey through the villages of Alwar district of Mewat, Rajasthan. A film about muslim Ismailiya Jogis who have been folk-singers of Hindu religious and secular poetry for the last 1000 years. Their poets and traditional patrons/listeners have been Meo muslims.

This is the story of three out of 18 generations of one singer – Umer Farukh, his deceased father Zahoor Khan and his younger brother Mehmood and son Yusuf. The muslim jogis of Alwar play the single-string plucked drum Bhopang and the Jogiya Sarangi. They sing the local Mewati language version of the Hindu epic *Mahabharata*, songs of Shiva's marriage, folk-versions of *Ramayana* and secular poetry of Kabir and many medieval Rajasthani composers like Ali Baksh. This film features rare performances by elder muslim Jogis like Dinanath and Kabirath, archival recordings of Zahoor Khan and fresh children's band of Yusuf and his cousins. Apart from their music, the film focuses on social issues of the community in today's urbanizing and globalizing world. Hence, education of children in the traditional art-form is of prime-concern on one hand, and on the other hand is the issue of shrinking traditional performance spaces as at the Meo patron's homes. The film also reveals the new expanding performance context of tourism, national days and international festivals. But the continuing secular practice of the muslim Jogis forms the overarching context of artistic changes and social mobility in the film.

CREDITS

Direction & Cinematography: SUDHEER GUPTA

Additional Cinematography: VON SAXENA & Prof. Dr. SADHANA NAITHANI

Location Sound & Mixing: K S SIVADAS

Editing: VON SAXENA

Assistance: SANJEET KUMAR & JOGI UMER FARUKH

Produced by: PUBLIC SECTOR BROADCASTING TRUST, New Delhi

Producers: PSBT & PRASAR BHARATI

Exhibited many times on the National Indian Television Networks DD1 & DD News