

reviewjournal.com

NEON

-- Jun. 30, 2006

Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal

MOVIE REVIEW: 'Naked in Ashes'

Las Vegas offers a 'Naked' look at India's yogis

[By CAROL CLING
REVIEW-JOURNAL](#)

Written and directed by Las Vegas resident Paula Fouce, "Naked in Ashes" focuses on several of India's estimated 13 million Hindu holy men, who follow 5,000-year-old traditions in a 21st-century material world.

Clad in loincloths, covered in ashes, mystics like Shiv Raj Giri wander from place to place, gravitating toward the holy waters of the River Ganges and towering Himalayan peaks -- seeking spiritual riches while miring themselves in physical poverty.

Fouce and her colleagues, including editor William Haugse ("Hoop Dreams"), present undeniably fascinating glimpses of these ascetic lives -- including that of 14-year-old Satosh Giri, a Shiv Raj disciple whose initiation as a yogi gives the movie its most poignant moments.

Yet watching these yogis pursue their faith with such devotion -- especially in a world preoccupied with temporal pursuits -- can't help but provide inspiration.

"Doing good unto others is the greatest virtue in the material world," pronounces Shiv Raj Giri. We all know that -- but he and his fellow mystics live it.