

# MOVIE REVIEW

## Life lessons from the slums of Calcutta

- Jacqui Burgess

The words, lifestyle and mountain-moving faith of a simple nun, who devoted her life to the people in the slums of Calcutta, are as timely and inspiring today as they have been for the past 50 years.

The film *Mother Teresa* is an authentic portrayal of a woman who heard the word of God and, despite endless struggles, challenged the authorities - including the church - to care for the poor, the dying and the abandoned.

The movie begins in India in the late 1940s, where the British Raj has ended after 400 years, and civil unrest and murderous confrontations between Hindu's and Muslims have the new Indian nation in turmoil. Amid all the suffering stands one nun - Mother Teresa - and her unconditional faith and strength of spirit. Mother Teresa follows the life of this simple nun between the late 1940s until her death in 1997.

Filmed entirely in Sri Lanka and Italy, *Mother Teresa* is the real-deal. Authentic sets and colourfully silk-clad extras provide realism as the cast work their magic amid the stone and metal shanties and dirt paths that define the slums of Calcutta.

Reminiscent of Ghandi - this Italian production is an inspirationally cultural experience, enhanced by powerful orchestral melodies and impressive visual elements.

Actor Olivia Hussey, best known for her Golden Globe Award winning role in *Romeo and Juliet*, steals the show with her moving portrayal of Mother Teresa. Olivia has perfected the accent, gait and expressions of the Saint, and her aging over the course of the movie is a work of art - well done make-up team. Olivia is joined by lesser-known support actors who do a commendable job of retelling this motivating story.

I think *Mother Teresa* is a very moving and inspirational story that fills a void in the movie industry. Where most movies are aimed at 12-year-old mentality and don't have a lot of substance, *Mother Teresa* leaves the viewer with something to think about - it has an important message and an uplifting quality.

Star rating: 4 out of 5

