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India Cabaret

Documentary, 16mm, color, 1985

Director: Mira Nair

Producer: Mira Nair

Production Co.: Mirabai Films

Running Time: 58 minutes

India Cabaret follows the lives of the strippers at the Meghja, a nightclub in suburban Bombay. Living outside the traditions of Indian society, which place women in the narrow role of chaste and submissive wife and mother, the dancers reveal their attitudes.

The film also follows Pujara, a patron of the cabaret, home to his middle-class family. Urmila, his wife, is a strong and articulate presence in the film. She is aware, though not resentful, of the limitations of her traditional existence.

Contact:

Mirabai Films

424 West 119th Street, Apt. 67

New York, NY 10027

(212) 316-4483