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The Laughing Club of India

Directed by Mira Nair

India 1999, 35mm, color, 30 min.

Marathi with English subtitles

THIS NEW FILM by the director of *Salaam Bombay!* and *Mississippi Masala* takes the documentary to the far edges of credibility and delight. Bombay residents, mostly middle class, meet early in the morning with their instructors to perform a series of laughing exercises. The techniques are taught in the schools as well. Uninhibited laughter seems to cure bodily disease and to provide relief from the oppressions of everyday life and release from tragic personal histories. We see a lot of Bombay in the film and meet some captivating individuals. Audiences will be challenged to remain uninfected by the laughter.

cover:

Agnès Varda, Jacquot de Nantes 1991, p.14