



BRILLIANT DISGUISE:
The Samadhi of K.C. Tewari
(2022; 77 Minutes)

Released by:
Love Serve Remember Films

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SYNOPSIS

Brilliant Disguise tells the unique story of a group of inspired Western spiritual seekers from the 60s, who in meeting the great American teacher, Ram Dass, followed him to India to meet his Guru, Neem Karoli Baba, familiarly known as Maharaji. Two days before he left his body, Maharaji instructed K.C. Tewari to take care of the Westerners, which he did resolutely until the day he died in 1997.

K.C. Tewari—in the guise of a headmaster of a boys school in the foothills of the Himalayas—was secretly a High Yogi, frequently able to go into altered states of trance, known as Samadhi, at any moment.

Brilliant Disguise features Krishna Das, Jai Uttal, Raghu Markus, Radha Baum, and others – including K.C.'s two sons, as well as rare archival interviews with K.C. himself. Set in the stunning backdrop of India, the film is adorned with spectacular and moving footage from the 1989 Maha Kumbha Mela—the largest spiritual gathering in the world, attended by K.C. and the group of Westerners featured throughout this colorful biopic.

This film is the story of a man who represents the intrinsic potential in all human beings to live in direct contact with the Divine Presence. K.C. chose to live within the humble disguise of a husband and school teacher. The brilliance is K.C.'s ability at a moment's notice to go beyond himself into sublime states of consciousness.

MAKING OF A BRILLIANT DISGUISE

In the late 1960s, Ram Dass brought a group of westerners to India to meet his Guru Neem Karoli Baba, also known as Maharaji. In this breathtaking biopic, viewers will get a rare glimpse into the years following, and the life-changing journey that would later influence an entire generation of spiritual seekers. The film is set in the stunning backdrop of India with rare archival footage that allows the world to peek into the profound alteration of these young lives. The film tells the story of Maharaji leaving his body and instructing his close disciple, K.C. Tewari, to care for these westerners, creating an unbreakable bond for those seekers who journeyed to India.

In the years after K.C.'s passing, this group of westerners, including Krishna Das and Raghu Markus, come together for the first time to share the remarkable story of K.C. Tewari's life, much of which was hidden in plain view from the rest of the world. Once the filmmakers confirmed the existence of video footage of K.C. during this time, the film began to take shape. *Brilliant Disguise* offers a rare glimpse into this culture-shifting experience, and features never-before-scene footage from this time, including their trip to the 1989 Kumbh Mela, a spiritual gathering attended by more than 25 million people.

K.C. was a fascinating example of a high Yogi who also lived amongst others in this worldly life as a family man and school teacher. His ability to go into, "Samadhi" –a deep trance-like state, known as the highest form of consciousness one can achieve through meditation–mirrored what Ram Dass always said was possible through the practice – the ability to inhabit more than one plane of consciousness at the same time.

Through K.C. Tewari's story, this film will inspire the next generation of seekers to the limitless possibilities we have in this life to achieve higher states of consciousness through deep devotion, practice and grace. It also serves as a never-before-seen look into how Maharaji and his closest devotees helped shift the wellbeing and spiritual perspective of an entire generation.

SOME CONTEMPORARY ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE CONVERSATION

Although not an “issues film,” the history and conversation brings up some of society’s most perennial issues.

What is Samadhi and how everyday people can achieve these higher levels of consciousness

How to integrate the spiritual and worldly life; walk in two worlds at once and know there’s no difference –it’s all sacred (i.e. career and personal and interior life) What these possibilities hold for us as a society.

K.C. Tewari prompted the teaching of mindfulness before it became mainstream; invertedly influencing America’s mindfulness culture

The nature of a true Guru as a reflection of the Divine Presence

One man’s journey being adopted by high yogi (Krishna Das)

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

For me, meeting and experiencing K.C. Tewari in America was a true delight and it resonated for years after he left us. When a film about his life and practices was first contemplated, it seemed like an obvious opportunity for an innovative yet personal biopic. I felt that a film of his extraordinary life would appeal to anyone who wanted to encounter a being who embodied an intense commitment to transcendent states of consciousness while living the normal life of a teacher, husband and father. I was driven to show people that such incarnations actually exist despite the fact, as in the case of K.C. Tewari, he was “hidden from view” by his very special disguise.

I had seen a good amount of archival footage of Mr. Tewari, and therefore was confident that a movie about him would ring with its very own authenticity. I also knew that some of his best Western friends would be happy and willing to recollect his place in their lives on camera. And so, voila, a film started to form in my mind and I was quickly buoyant about capturing his essence and gestalt on film.

I never met anyone remotely like him and deeply sensed that it would be a grand service to show his unique vibration and expressive charisma in a film. My love and respect for him made the trajectory of actually making the film about him a true labor of love.

- David Silver

CAST & TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Raghu Markus - Producer

Raghu Markus spent two years in India with Maharaji and Ram Dass. He has been involved in music and transformational media since the early 1970s when he was program director of CKGM-FM in Montreal. In 1974 he collaborated with Ram Dass on the box set, *Love Serve Remember*. In 1990, Markus launched Triloka Records and Karuna Music in Los Angeles, California. Triloka established itself as a critical leader in the development of world music and for 17 years was home to such artists as Krishna Das, Hugh Masekela, Walela, and Jai Uttal. He produced transformational media projects that featured Ram Dass, Deepak Chopra and Les Nubians. Markus is the executive Director of the Love Serve Remember Foundation. In 2016, he co-founded the Be Here Now Podcast Network and hosts *Here & Now with Ram Dass* as well as his own *Mindrolling* podcast. He is also the producer of the Ram Dass documentary *Becoming Nobody*.

David Silver - Director

David Silver's #1 charting MGM/UA/Warners film, "***The Compleat Beatles***" is the critically acclaimed biopic about history's most famous band. *Rolling Stone* recently described the film as a "master work." His Warner Brothers' feature film, "***No Nukes***" helped start the whole trend of music/activism feature documentaries. Twenty years later, David's film about the teen band Hanson was the fastest selling home video of all time. David has been responsible for three Billboard #1 charting home videos. In 2008/09, David worked as the consultant to Academy Award-winning director **Ang Lee**'s "Taking Woodstock."

David Silver has produced, directed or written films about ***The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Marley, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Allen Ginsberg, Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Timothy Leary, Joey Ramone***, and many others.

David started his unorthodox media career, hosting his own talk show out of PBS premier station **WGBH-TV** in Boston: the weekly nonconformist, Zeitgeist-saturated talk show, "***What's Happening Mr. Silver?***" is considered to be the only authentic sixties counter-cultural broadcast TV series and way ahead of its time. **Abbie Hoffman** was David's first guest, **William F. Buckley Jr.** his second...

LOVE SERVE REMEMBER FOUNDATION and the continued work of Ram Dass

The Love Serve Remember Foundation is dedicated to preserving and continuing the teachings of Neem Karoli Baba and Ram Dass. The foundation facilitates the continuation of these teachings through online courses, blog content, films, podcasts, social network channels, and collaborative projects with conscious artists and musicians.

Love Serve Remember launched the Be Here Now Network to support today's rapidly expanding new generation of spiritual seekers with accessible platforms to propel these teachings into the future. One of the most important things to Ram Dass over these many years is to share what he received from his guru, Neem Karoli Baba, on his first trip to India. It was through this intent that the Be Here Now Network was born.

The Be Here Now Network offers weekly doses of digestible Eastern philosophy from a range of spiritual teachers in the form of mindfulness podcasts, articles and videos. The "Be Here Now" adage is an important aphorism from Ram Dass and serves as a mantra for those on their own path towards self-discovery.

BILLING BLOCK & CONTACT INFORMATION

Brilliant Disguise: The Samadhi of K.C. Tewari – A Film by David Silver – Film Footage: Kabir Das (India), Raghu Markus (India), Steven Newmark (India), John Phaneuf (Maui and U.S.) David Silver (U.S.) – Additional footage: Andrea Boston, Todd Boston, Sunseed footage courtesy of Amertat Cohn, Video Free America footage courtesy of Skip Sweeney – Completion Editor: John Phaneuf – Editors: Zachary Bennett, Karen Nourse – Sound Design: Todd Hannigan – Photography: Balam Das, Rameshwar Das, Tewari Family Archives, Roy Bonney, Parvati Markus, Mohan Baum, Dasi Ma, Kabir Das, Love Serve Remember Foundation Archives – Produced by: Raghu Markus for the Love Serve Remember Foundation

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FILM CREDITS

BRILLIANT DISGUISE

Directed by
Produced by
Executive Producer
Film Footage

David Silver
Raghu Markus
Krishna Das
Kabir Das (India)
Raghu Markus (India)
Steven Newmark (India)
John Phaneuf (Maui and U.S.)
David Silver (U.S.)

Additional Footage

Sunseed Footage courtesy of Amertat Cohn
Andrea Boston
Todd Boston
Video Free America courtesy of Skip Sweeney

Completion Editor
Editors

John Phaneuf
Zachary Bennett
Karen Nourse
David Silver

Sound Design
Photography

Todd Hannigan
Balaram Das
Rameshwar Das
Tewari Family Archives
Roy Bonney
Parvati Markus
Mohan Baum

Thank you

Dasi Ma
Kabir Das
Love Serve Remember Foundation Archives
Radha Baum
Kabir Das
Sandra DeFeo
Katrina Fernandez
Edna Hartley
Pam Holmes
Sharada Kagel
Parvati Markus
Dena Merriam
Steven Newmark
Kevin O'Reilly
Skip Sweeney
Chinnu Tewari
Heena Tewari
Madhu Tewari
NC Tewari
Neeru Tewari
Nitten Tewari
Sarad Tewari
Jai Uttal

Very Special Thanks
to Ram Dass without whom we
Westerners would not have met Neem Karoli Baba

Music

Equinox 1970
Video Free America

Jago Jago Ma
Composed by: Trevor Hall
Performed by: Trevor Hall
Published by: Love Serve Remember Foundation Publishing

The Nest
Composed : Todd Hannigan
Performed by: Todd Hannigan

Shri Guru Charanam
Live on Earth (For A Limited Time)
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by: Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Tabla U Rasta
Composed by: Ray Powers
Performed by: Ray Powers
Published by: Ray Powers

The 12th 12th
Composed: Todd Hannigan
Performed by: Todd Hannigan

Bija Mantras: Watering the Seeds
Loveland: Music For Dreaming and Awakening
Composed by: Jai Uttal, Nubia Teixeira, and Ben Leinbach
Performed by: Jai Uttal, Nubia Teixeira, and Ben Leinbach
Published by: Pavana Suta Music, BMI / Old Bull Music, BMI

Sita Ram
Kirtan! The Art and Practice of Ecstatic Chant
Composed by: Jai Uttal
Performed by: Jai Uttal
Published by: Pavana Suta Music / Scriptures Publishing Co.

Only the River's Call
Written by: Ray Powers
Performed by: Ray Powers

Published by: Ray Powers

Guru Puja
Trust In The Heart
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by: Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Kainchi Hare Krishna: God's Melody
Composed by: Shubal
Performed by: Shubal
Publisher: Love Serve Remember Foundation Publishing

Baba Hanuman
Breath Of The Heart
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Cave of Dreams
Composed: Ray Powers
Performed by: Ray Powers & Alarra Sarras
Published by: Ray Powers

God is Real
Door of Faith
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Sunrise Mandala
Heart of the Mother
Composed by: Ray Powers
Performed by: Ray Powers, Josh Balbien, Phil Parlapiano
Published by: Ray Powers

The Meaning of Forgiveness
Composed by: Ray Powers
Performed by: Ray Powers
Published by: Ray Powers

Goddess
A Drop of the Ocean
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Namah Shivaya
Live On Earth (For A Limited Time)

Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by: Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Prayer to Shakyamuni Buddha
Loveland: Music For Dreaming and Awakening
Composed by: Jai Uttal, Nubia Teixeira and Ben Leinbach
Performed by: Jai Uttal, Ben Leinbach, and Nubia Teixeira
Published by: Pavana Suta Music, BMI / Old Bull Music, BMI

Radiance: Prayer to Goddess Saraswati
Loveland: Music For Dreaming and Awakening
Composed by: Jai Uttal, Ben Leinbach, and Nubia Teixeira
Performed by: Jai Uttal, Ben Leinbach, and Nubia Teixeira
Published by: Pavana Suta Music, BMI / Old Bull Music, BMI

Hara Hara Mahadev
One Track Heart
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by: Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Overland
Hotel Ambient
Composed by: Moby
Performed by: Moby
Publisher: Little Idiot

Windows
A Drop of the Ocean
Composed by: Krishna Das
Performed by Krishna Das
Published by: Mustamullah Music

Twameva – Jai Uttal
Loveland: Music For Dreaming and Awakening
Composed by: Jai Uttal and Ben Leinbach
Performed by: Jai Uttal and Ben Leinbach
Published by: Pavana Suta Music, BMI / Old Bull Music, BMI

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For further information:
RamDass.org/BrilliantDisguise

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LOVE SERVE REMEMBER FILMS

Running Time: 77 minutes. Color, Stereo, Format: Mixed Digital Media;

Producer: Love Serve Remember Films; Completed: March 2022

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