

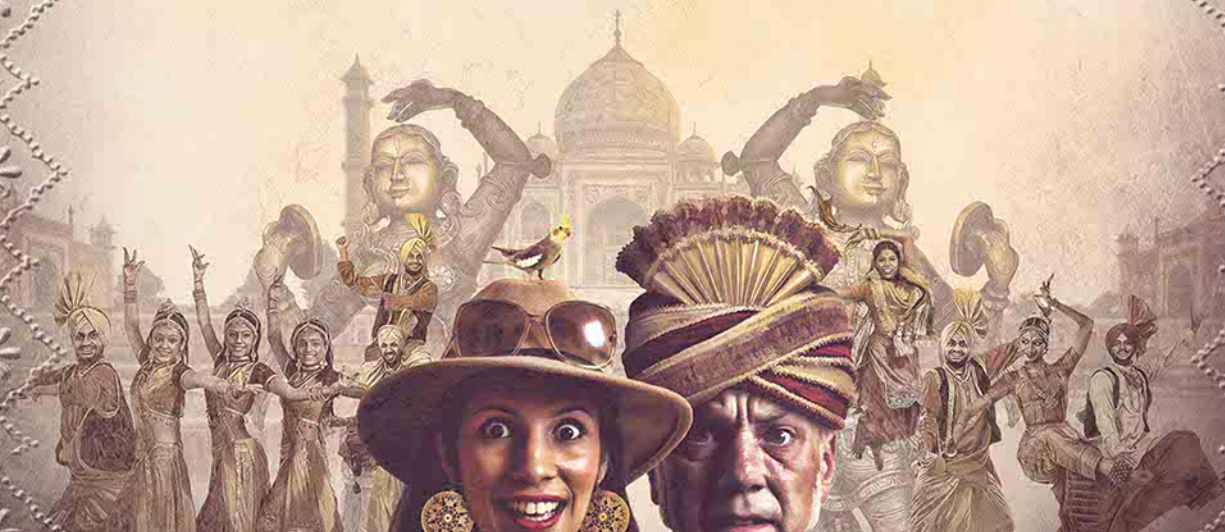
A
MESMERIZING
STORY
OF
CONFUSION
LOVE
&
INDIA



HOW I **LEARNED** TO STOP
WARRIVING
AND LOVE THE
PAPADUM

A FIELD GUIDE TO SURVIVING A JOURNEY THROUGH CHAOS

A BOLLYWOOD MOTION PICTURE PROPOSAL
BY MATTHEW RHODES



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INTRODUCTION

"In a time where people are intermarrying and making the world smaller, I think it's a great story to tell" -

Sarah Mcdonald. Author of international best seller 'Holy Cow'

It is with the greatest of pleasures and a sense of sheer excitement that I write to you today in order to introduce my cross - cultural UK / Bollywood motion picture proposal "How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Papadum"

Firstly though, may I introduce myself. My name is Matthew Rhodes. I am an artist and author, living and working between Britain and India. Over the course of the last three years, my life journey has taken a somewhat unexpected, and completely astounding new course.

The voyage into these enthralling, uncharted and on occasion, somewhat choppy waters have revolutionized my thinking, my world view and every aspect of what was arguably a traditionally British existence.

So, how did my journey begin? Essentially, some ten odd years ago, I rented the spare room in my house to an Indian girl called Ana, a business analyst who had arrived to work in the UK. Having stayed for near on four years, while a strong friendship and a deep bond flourished between us, Ana was eventually beckoned to return to Bangalore.

The following year, I flew to India to visit Ana and immediately, yet unintentionally fell head over heels in love with the country. Upon my return to the UK, it quickly became evident that I'd not only fallen under the captivating charms and curiosities of the Mother Land. I'd also desperately fallen for Ana.

So, what to do about that? Well, before you could say "Did that cow just wander into that supermarket?" I'd taken myself by surprise and proposed. Remarkably, Ana said yes. And I am now proudly Son-In-Law to Indian parents. Brother-In-Law to four sisters, and my extended Indian family trails off into the distance with seemingly no end in sight.

What also occurred to me was the fact that I'd blindly ventured way beyond "fish out of water" status. To say that India presents your average Westerner with what can only be described as the dictionary definition of "culture shock" is somewhat of an understatement. Not a single second of my time spent in country has failed to deliver wonderment, awe, shock, joy, love and terror. I simply knew that I had to record my experiences for fear of falling foul of a "fantastical tale telling" moniker. The journals and notes that I kept during my travels then became the basis for the first of three novels that I have written, detailing the happiness, the madness and the utter confusion of a simple, single western life adjusting to the warmth, charm and love of an Indian family.

The first installment of my story is titled "How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Papadum" A hilarious, culture shockingly slap-stick rom-com that follows Ana and I as we navigate not only our way across the country from Bangalore to the Bay Of Bengal, but also through the mind-bendingly fantastical landscape of Indian culture, tradition, love and life.

Considering the overwhelmingly remarkable reactions that my stories have generated, and the potential global audience, I am utterly convinced of the fact that this genuinely true, cross cultural romantic comedy ticks all the "box office success" boxes with the fattest of 'Sharpies' The silver screen cries out honest stories that bring the world closer together by reaching across borders with open minds and arms.

Finally, may I invite you to browse my proposal at your leisure, and I would consider it the greatest of honours to discuss this project further with you. And there most certainly is so much more to tell. Not only with regards to "How I Learned To Worrying And Love The Papadum" but also the completed sequels "No Country For Old Tweed" and "You fi-Rang Me Lord"

With the kindest regards,

Matthew Rhodes



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SYNOPSIS

'How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Papadum' follows the genuinely true story of Mat, a down on his luck, dead beat British artist, and Ana. A beautifully innocent Business Analyst who arrives in the UK, wide eyed and fresh faced from Bangalore, all set to begin work on an extended contract for her Indian employer.

With Mat desperate to sublet a spare room in his house in order to makes ends meet, and Ana dealing with the nightmare of a clerical error that leaves her struggling to survive in the confines of a facility free budget hotel, the perfect solution to both of their woes is staring them straight in the face.

4 Years later, a beautifully whacky friendship has blossomed. The unlikely pair have not only shared a house, but also their lives, their cultures and their dreams with each other. Ana finds herself perfectly schooled in the true ways of a down trodden, sarcastically native Brit, while Mat has become truly fascinated and enthralled by the stories and mysticisms of Ana's alluring and baffling culture. All is happily harmonious. All is perfectly peachy. Until...

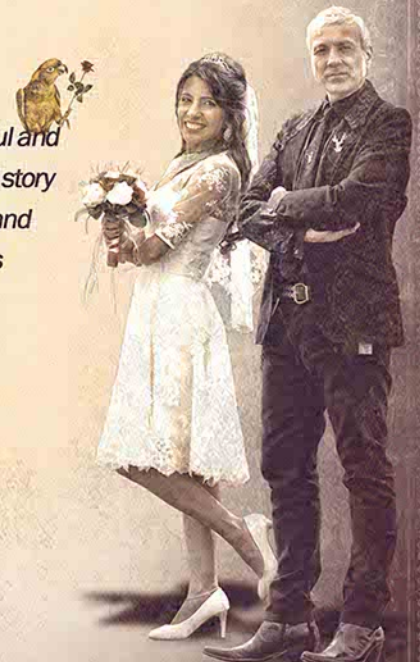
Ana's immediate return to India is suddenly and unexpectedly demanded. At the devastating drop of a hat, the walls of their serenely idyllic little world come tumbling down about their feet. As another years passes, the struggles and frustrations of maintaining a friendship through iPads and phone calls is beginning to take its toll. But, Ana is hatching a cunning, startling, daunting plan. "Matty, come and visit India. Come stay with me. You will absolutely love it" A statement of pure truth that Mat simply cannot deny. So, after a fierce battle to conquer his almighty fear of flying, the tickets are booked, and Mat is on his way. To the Motherland.

With the pair finally reunited, and a mind already brimming with a wealth of wonderfully distorted knowledge, Mat considers himself fully prepared to tackle the mysterious Indian adventure that lays ahead. Mat... is not prepared at all. To suggest that India is about to throw him in at 'the deep end' and leave him flailing about, scrambling for the shores of sanity, is somewhat of an understatement. As the beautifully, stunningly, terrifyingly true nature of culture shock begins to take hold, Mat very quickly arrives at the conclusion that, without Ana... he may not survive at all. And survival is most certainly the name the game. Every single Indian minute proves to elate, stun, baffle, confuse, delight and bemuse. Daily life. Religion. The customs. The traditions. The temples, the cows and the endless travelling hours. Seriously, if the sleeper train doesn't finish Mat off, the sleeper coach to Goa just might.

And throughout all of the madness, the mayhem and the chaos, Mat simple cannot help himself. He is beginning to fall head over heels in love. With India. But, not just the country. Not just the warmth and compassion of India's bewilderingly tightening embrace. He is beginning to fall in love... with Ana. And he's about to pluck up the courage to ask her a question that carries the power to change both of their lives. Forever.

"What an absolutely joyful and calamitously hap-hazard story of adventure, discovery and love. Bollywood deserves nothing less"

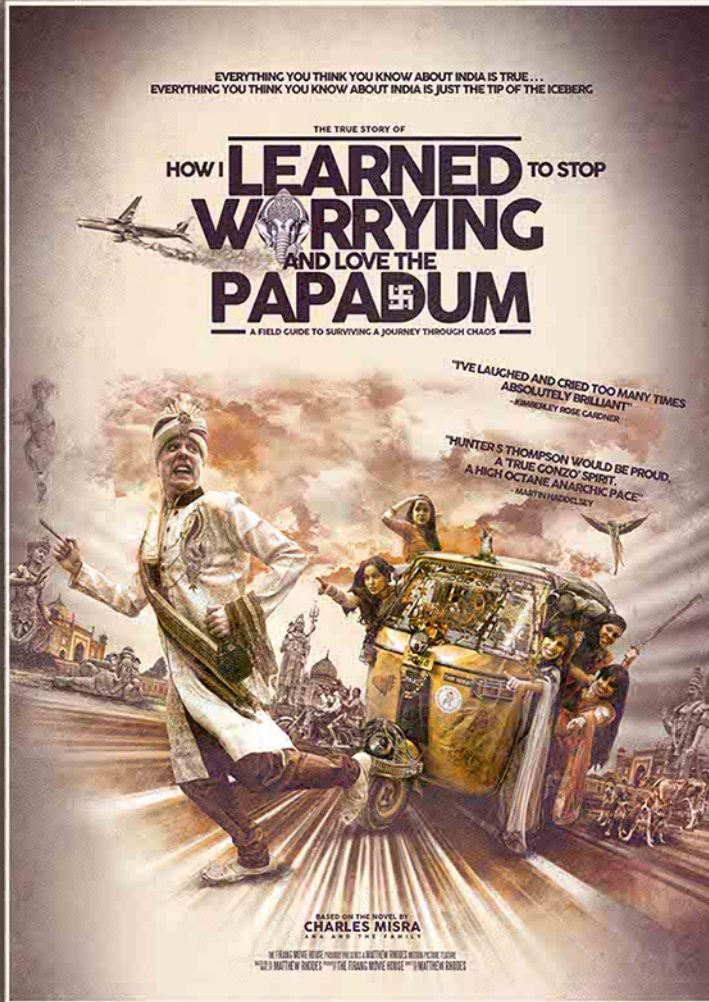
Fernanda Rizzo



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ADVERTISING / PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



"HILTSWALTP"
 Promotional / Film Poster Design



"HILTSWALTP"
 Advertising / Film Poster Design



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KEY SCENES / SET PIECES

ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME IN? Mat's arrival at Bangalore International Airport is quite an undignified affair to say the least. After his attempts to cope with his fear flying by masking his phobia with a cocktail of prescribed medication and red wine leaves him 'foggy' and drowsy to say the least an incomplete immigration form, a suddenly developed fear of moustaches and guns, and a desperate need to visit 'the little boys room' all become rather quite too much to cope with.

DANDIYA The first evening 'in country' see's Mat desperately attempt to fathom, perfect and perform the traditional 'Dandiya' dance at a party organized by the residents of Ana's apartment block. Queue a Bollywood dance extravaganza accompanied by a host of terrified screams, cuts, bruises and the odd broken bone. Mat needs disarming and removing from the dance floor, Immediately.

GINGER AND THE TRUE RULES Ana stays at the family home leaving Mat to his own devices. Whilst exploring the comforts and delights of an Indian budget hotel, an explosive toilet shower attachment, a belligerent television remote control and a curiously questionable regard to hotel maintenance all teach Mat his first valuable lesson in the unspoken rules that truly govern the splendor that is India.

BLESSED BY DURGA Utterly unaware of protocol, tradition and decency, Mat unintentionally causes a tsunami of hilarious havoc to come crashing down over the worshippers at the local Puja.

23 LONG HOT HOURS With his fear of flying still very much intact, Mat convinces Ana to take a train ride from Bhubaneswar to Bangalore. Mat is blissfully unaware that the journey will take 23 hours. He finds himself well and truly imprisoned alongside a gaggle of hyperactive school children, dabbawala's galore and a troublesome bunk bed, all in the confines of a sleeper carriage. To suggest that Mat is about to go a little 'stir crazy' is rather too mild a statement.

CURSED BY OLA. THE DAY FROM HELL After a disgruntled Ola cab driver lays a curse upon Ana and Mat, what could possibly go wrong? Well, everything as it happens. Fisticuffs, car crashes, bar room brawls, shopping mall imprisonment and a death defying Auto stunt guaranteed to terrify one and all to the very core. Will Ana's apartment offer a safe haven for the hapless duo? Erm... no. Absolutely not.

AN ANTIQUE STORE DEBACLE After Mat accidentally destroys a Bangalore antique store, he and Ana beat a hasty and embarrassed retreat, suddenly and unwittingly finding themselves at the head of a passing street parade. As they're swept away by the pounding of beating drums, an epic Bollywood dance off begins that engulfs the entire street. The frenetic fever pitch climaxes, and as the dance routine comes to a spectacular crescendo, the dancing pair find themselves deposited before the curious allure of what Mat mistakenly believes to be a high class Indian tailors shop. All is not what not seems though, and Mat is about to find himself backed into a rather tight and particularly challenging corner.

THESE DAYS ARE THE PAST, BUT IN THE TALES THEY'LL LAST As Mat's epic Indian odyssey upsettingly draws to a close, is the opportunity to cease not only the day, but also Ana's heart beginning to slip through his fingers? Are dreams and desires about to be shattered across the airport departure lounge floor? Or is Mat about to 'man up' do the right thing and ask Ana a question that will transform their lives forever?



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GALLERY



A TUK TUK TO DIE FOR



A BATH IN THE STREET



AN ANTIQUE SHOP DEBACLE



SISTERS LOVE AND HAPPINESS

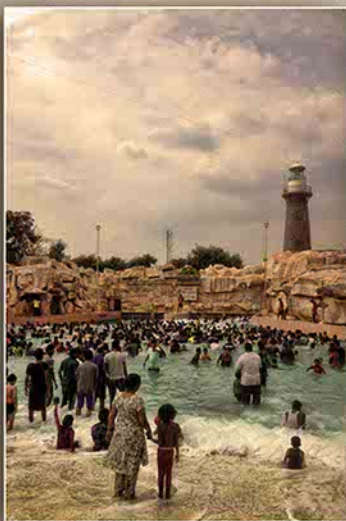


A FAMILY IN WAITING

WONDERLA... ?

TROUBLE AT THE PUJA

SERENITY AT LAST



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PRODUCTION / CAST / LOCATION / SCORE

Title - How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Papadum

Tag Lines - A Honky's Journey Through Chaos
A mesmerizing true story of confusion, love and India
A field guide to surviving a journey through India, chaos and love

Genre - Romantic Comedy / Slapstick Adventure / Anglo Bollywood

Potential Cast

Main Leads -

Matty /Narrator - Ewan McGregor
Ana - Alia Bhatt
Matty's Mind - Matthew Rhodes
Ana's Mind - Anandita Misra
Big Dimpy -

Supporting Cast -

Bapa - Amitabh Bachchan
Mammy - Ramya Krishnan
Anita (eldest sister) - Fatima Sana Shaikh
Aradhana (youngest sister) - Mithila Palkar

Cameos -

Ajay Devgn (as Tanhaji) - British Airways Captain
Ranbir Kapoor (As Barfi) - British Airways First Officer
Ranveer Singh (as Simmba) - A Policeman obsessed with upholding smoking laws
Shereen Bhan - Local TV News Anchor
Mrunal Thakur - Local TV News Reporter
Radhika Apte - Maggi Noodle riot victim
Ifran Khan - Mr Moritz the evil restaurateur
- Moritz head chef
Deepika Padukone (as Mastani) - Dandiya Mother
Aamir Khan (as P.K.) - The nude chap at the local bank
Warwick Davis - Leader of an angry mob
Nawazuddin Siddiqui (as Ganesh Giotonde) - Durga Puja Temple Owner
Pankaj Tripathi (as Guru Jee) - Durga Puja Priest
Anil Kapoor - The Hospital Doctor
Ali Fazal - Cool Dude
Akshay Kumar (As Halvidar Singh) - Department Store Mannequin
Prabhas (as Baahubali) - Wild West bar tender
Robert Carlyle (As Begbie) - Angry firang at Baga Beach

Locations

UK - Nottingham / London /Heathrow Airport

India - Bangalore / Electronic City
Bhubaneswar / Prava Apartments
Goa / Baga Beach

Music / Score

Ajay-Atul - Indian score
Alan D Boyd - British score
Nucleya - Indian EDM DJ / composer
Traditional Indian music -
Dam Maro Dam / Durga Devi Stotram



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During a trip to India, actor Will Smith was offered valuable advice regarding the formula behind a Bollywood movie success from none other than Karan Johar and Ranveer Singh. The tips underline that fact that the story of "How I Learned Stopped Worrying And Love The Pappadum" is abundantly rich with the suggested ingredients.

TIP #1 YOU CAN'T BE CRAZY ENOUGH

And "crazy" is most certainly the name of the game for Mat and Ana as they get to grips with a daily life filled to the brim with culture and cows, tuk tuks and traditions, pujas and prayers. Every single Indian minute proves to elate, stun, baffle, confuse, delight and bemuse. Daily life. Religion. The customs. Night trains? Bonkers. Sleeper coaches? Madness. Even a simple trip to the local Dominoes proves to be... well, just about as crazy as ordering a simple pizza can possibly be.

TIP #2 TONE DOWN THE SUBTLETY

And "subtlety" is most certainly *not* the name of the game. Most certainly not for Mat that is, as he comes to terms with the fact that in order to survive the magically bizarre world that is India, he is going to have to grab 'life' by the scruff of the neck, hold on tight and hope for the best. With 'kurtas' at the ready, Mat jumps in at the deep end. He really should have worn his water wings though. All this 'cultural' splashing about is actually as subtle as a brick.

TIP #3 DANCE LIKE MADMAN

As three major item songs feature within the story, there is most certainly ample opportunity to 'dance like a madman' A particular song routine sees Mat and Ana explode onto the streets accompanied by Mumbai's stunning Dance Crew, the exceptionally talented V.Unbeatable, during a shopping trip. Indian's premier EMD DJ, Nucleya drowns the street under a wave of funk up beats as a frenetic dance routine engulfs the masses. The dance climaxes in an unforeseen sticky situation that Mat must quickly escape, if he's to hold on to the thinnest shreds of reality.

QUOTES / COMMENTS

"In a time where people are intermarrying and making the world smaller, I think it's a great story to tell" *Sarah Mcdonald. Author of international best seller 'Holy Cow'*

"I've heard Firang stories of India in the past. Nothing comes even close to this. Whacky, truthful and utterly beautiful. Best Indian story ever told" *Jyoti Krishna*

"Even though I was there, I couldn't wait to see what happened next" *Anandita Misra*

"Hunter S Thompson Would be proud. A true 'Gonzo spirit. A high octane anarchic pace"
Martin Haddelsey

"I'm finding the story hilarious, well constructed and described in a way that is so engaging and real"
Raquel Codeas

"I've already laughed and cried too many times.
And I've only just finished chapter 5"
Kimberley Rose Gardner



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INSPIRATION

SIMMBA (IMDB - 6.3)

Vibrance, exuberance, charm, wit and fun are all abundantly present in Ranveer Singh's action - comedy crime thriller. A perfect example of modern Indian cinema.

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S EUROPEAN VACATION (IMDB - 6.2)

A classic 'fish out of water' slapstick adventure proving the fact that when diverse cultures come together, hilarious calamity is always lurking just around the corner.

CARRY ON ABROAD (Rotten Tomatoes - 77%)

A quintessential British comedy that truly gets straight to the heart of the cultural phenomenon that has become known around the world as 'Brits abroad'. An essential lesson in the fine art of British humour and wit.

TOTAL DHAMAAL (IMDB - 4.4)

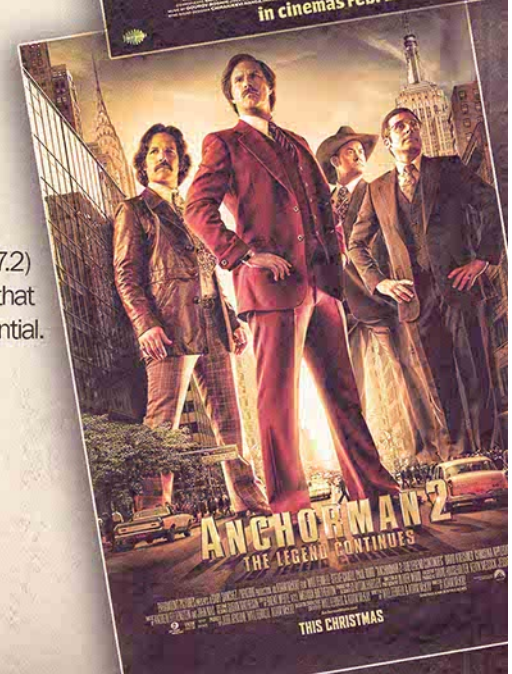
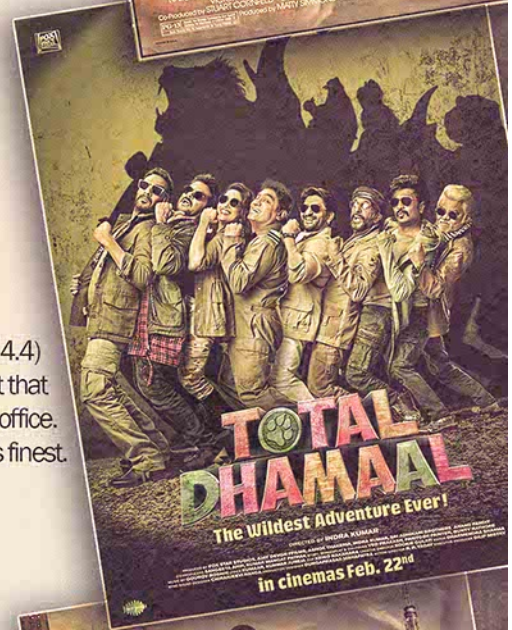
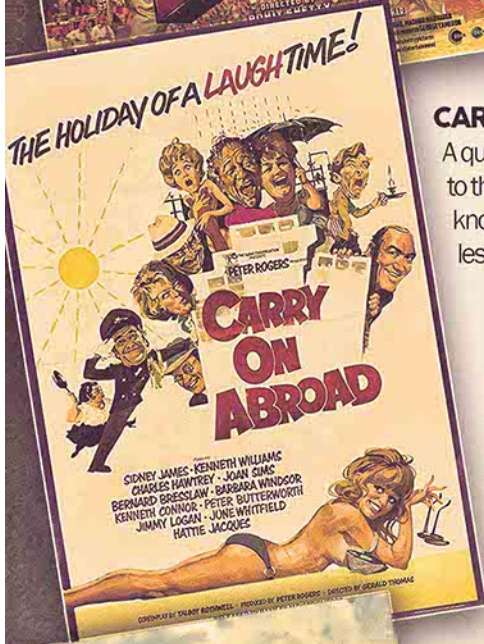
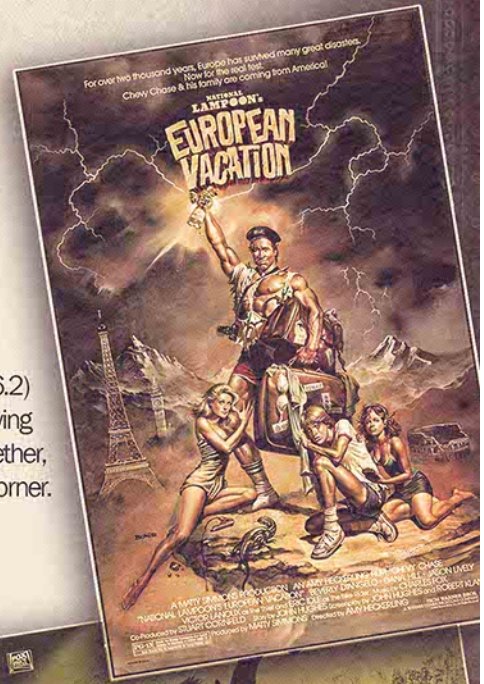
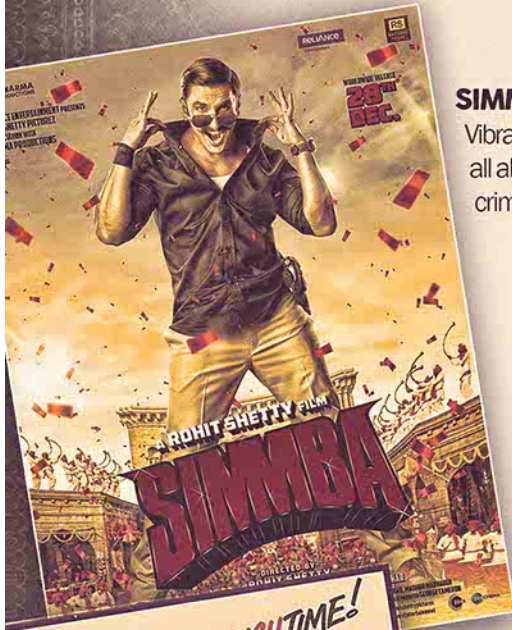
The crazy comedy adventure smash hit that collected in excess of 150 crore rupees at the box office. A perfect example of Indian slapstick comedy at it's finest.

BARFI (NADP - 8.1)

Drawing inspiration from the silent movies of old, Barfi ascends the status of mere film, becoming a master class in charm, wit, compassion, love and the art of beautifully realised visual comedy.

ANCHORMAN 2 (IMDB - 7.2)

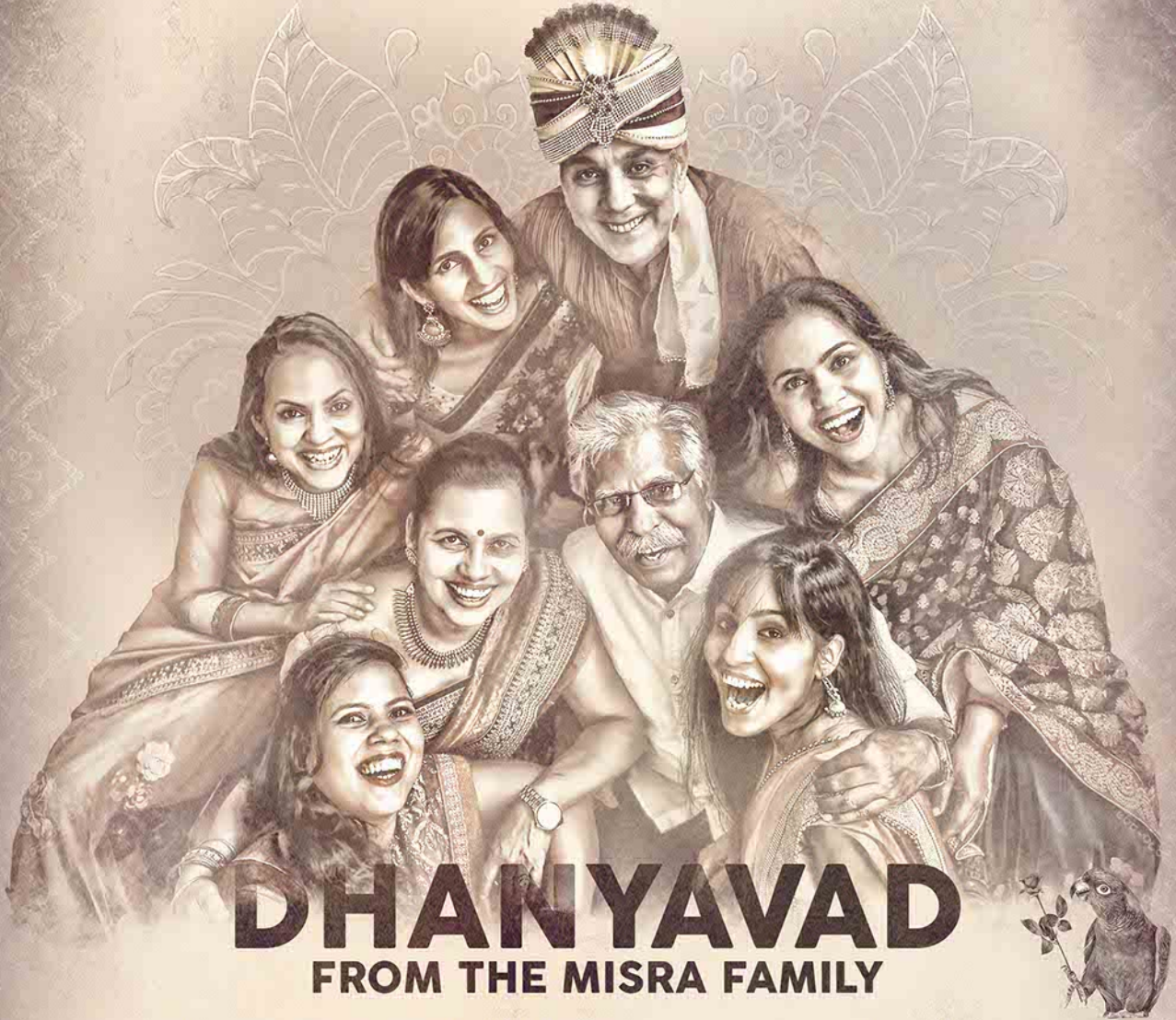
An action packed comedy movie that certainly shows that when the recipe is perfected, a sequel is absolutely essential.



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CONTACT INFORMATION



DHANYAVAD

FROM THE MISRA FAMILY

From myself, Ana and the family, from the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to say 'dhanyavad' Thank you very much for reading my proposal. There is still much much more to tell. And I would consider it an honour and a privilege to discuss this exciting film proposal of discovery, love and happiness with you further.

Should you wish to contact me at your convinience, please email me at -

charles@charlesmisra.com

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