

Iman Ali, playing the part of Mary/Maryam, is a popular Pakistani model and also the daughter of renowned television and film actor Abid Ali.

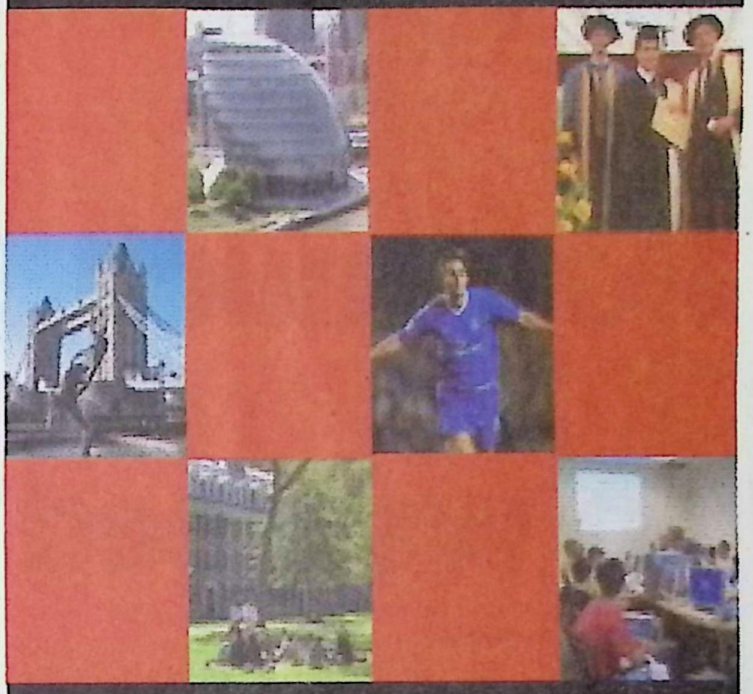
rhythms and their melodies, yet not one note is out of tune, not one beat jars. Shoaib takes a potshot at American ignorance when Mansoor's girlfriend asks him, "What is Pakistan, is it a city or is it a country?" "Country," says Mansoor. "Where can one see it on the globe?" she asks again. Mansoor picks a few French fries from his plate to show her.

Mariam's father, who has lived in the UK for 30 years, is a classic example of fundamentalism being a mindset and not necessarily a product of wrong preaching. Juxtaposed against this is his elder brother who has lived in Pakistan all his life but is a progressive yet practicing Muslim. The musical score is rich, throbbing, versatile and hypnotic. The cinematography is outstanding. It captures the heritage architecture of the mosque, the arid desert sands of Waziristan, the blues and whites of London and Chicago and the warm and lavish interiors of the brothers' home. The torture chamber that bears clear marks of emotional and physical torture that finally break Mansoor's mind is realistic, raw and scary.

Khuda Ke Liye, with minor warts, is a must-watch film because it educates, entertains, informs and hopefully, in the course of time, may also turn a precursor to social and political change. Khuda Ke Liye was released in Pakistan in July 2007 and shown in the UK and US in November 2007 where it received rave reviews. It recently won best picture at the 31st Cairo International Film Festival and became the highest grossing Pakistan film of all time. It is now being screened across India.

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House 72, Road 17, Block C, Banani, Dhaka-1213
Phone : 8822729, 9891180, 01911 342 801,011 902 79910
Chittagong Office : IFCO Complex, (5th Floor) 1147/A, GEC More East Nasirabad, Chittagong. Ph. 031-656129,01195177022