

= Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey =

Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey is a 2010 British documentary film directed and produced by Maninderpal Sahota . It is presented and narrated by American actress Lindsay Lohan . In the hour long documentary , Lohan talks to victims of human trafficking in Delhi , Kolkata and a village in West Bengal . She also talks to a former trafficker , parents of trafficked children and visits the Sanlaap women 's and children 's shelter in Kolkata . The documentary was filmed in India over a period of a week in December 2009 . Lohan became involved in the project after meeting Sahota at a social event and expressing an interest in participating .

Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey received extensive negative media coverage since its inception . The BBC were heavily criticized for hiring Lohan despite her then recent widely publicized drink @-@ driving conviction and " party lifestyle " . BBC said they chose Lohan to attract an audience that might otherwise not watch . Indian non @-@ governmental organization , Bachpan Bachao Andolan , criticized Lohan for a Twitter post where she appeared to take credit for one of their raids , something BBC said was a misinterpretation . The media coverage did not translate to high ratings . In its original broadcast on BBC Three on 1 April 2010 , it was viewed by 224 @,@ 000 households , a 0 @.@ 9 % share of the audience . Critics complimented the documentary for being well researched and compelling , but found Lohan 's presence to be odd and distracting .

= = Synopsis = =

In Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey , Lohan meets and interviews victims of human trafficking in Delhi , Kolkata and a village in West Bengal . They talk about the exploitation and abuse they have experienced , describing sexual slavery , physical abuse and difficulties in bringing their traffickers to justice . She also talks to a former trafficker and parents of trafficked children . One trafficked boy says that he can not go back home because his mother is ill . A mother who trafficked her daughter describes how her family did not have enough food , and how even though they never received the promised payments for her daughter 's work , at least she was fed .

Lohan visits the Sanlaap centre , a women 's and children 's shelter in Kolkata . The centre offers dance therapy as part of their treatment and a group of girls perform a dance they have rehearsed . She talks to girls who had been held at a brothel and they describe being raped and drugged . The director of the Sanlaap centre describes how Lohan taking an interest in trafficking might inspire other young people to get involved in counteracting exploitation . Bharti Ali , director of the Non @-@ governmental organization Centre for Child Rights , criticizes the government for not prioritizing child protection . Returning home , Lohan and the film crew are chased by paparazzi photographers at the airport . Two months later , Lohan is in London , England talking to Kate Redman , from Save the Children UK , who describes how one of the issues with government intervention is that only sex and drug trafficking is illegal . She also advocates raising awareness of the issues with trafficking .

= = Production = =

Lohan spent a week in December 2009 in India filming Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey with a BBC crew consisting of four people . Lohan became involved in the documentary after meeting Sahota at a social event and expressing her interest in doing it . Sahota stated that he was under the impression that Lohan chose to participate in the documentary " as a result of working in an adult world since she was ten , she feels childhood is precious , and when you lose one you can never replace those years " . He also stated that the people they met in rural India were not previously familiar with Lohan .

On the second day of filming the documentary , Lohan posted a message on her Twitter account stating : " Over 40 children saved so far ... Within one day 's work " . Indian non @-@ governmental organization , Bachpan Bachao Andolan , said she had not been part of the raid mentioned and threatened legal action over the post . BBC said Lohan was " misinterpreted " and that " she was

merely referring to a raid that happened connected to child trafficking " . A few days later Lohan posted again on Twitter praising the work of Bachpan Bachao Andolan . She was originally scheduled to be present for the raid , but due to rescheduling arrived in the country too late . Lohan had also been scheduled to interview a representative for UNICEF for the documentary , but failed to show up . The BBC failed to ensure that Lohan had a proper work visa , which might lead to her being added to an immigration blacklist in India . Of her experience working on the film , Lohan said : " [t] he strength of the young boys and girls I met has been truly humbling " and " I hope my presence in India will bring awareness to the really important issues raised in making this film " .

= = Reception = =

According to John Plunkett of The Guardian : " Few BBC3 programmes have generated quite so much media attention in such a short space of time . But the controversy generated by Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey ... was not quite matched by its ratings " . In its original broadcast on BBC Three on Thursday , 1 April 2010 , the documentary was viewed by 224 @, @ 000 households . It had a 0 @. @ 9 % share of the audience between 9pm and 10pm .

Critics complimented Lindsay Lohan 's Indian Journey for being well researched and compelling , but they also found Lohan 's presence to be odd . In her Lost in Showbiz column in The Guardian , Marina Hyde repeatedly criticized the documentary , in particular the choice to include Lohan , since its inception . She mentions Lohan 's then recent conviction for " drink @-@ driving and drug possession " , describing her as a " trainwreck star " with a " [career] ... in foreclosure " and goes on to question if BBC was doing " image @-@ laundering services " and whether the decision to hire Lohan was " symptomatic of a wider cultural malaise " . Salon.com 's Mary Elizabeth Williams likewise criticized BBC3 's decision to have Lohan , whom she called a " disaster @-@ prone starlet " , front the programme , though she also said that " an effort that raises awareness of a global epidemic ? even one that employs a crazy hot chick ? is still an effort . "

Amelia Gentleman of The Guardian described Lohan as " better known for what is euphemistically termed a party lifestyle " and said that while her participation did bring publicity to the project , the attention was uniformly negative and about her person , not the issues . Of the documentary she said that " the material is potent and persuasive " , but that Lohan was a " constant , distracting presence " . Sam Wollaston of The Guardian wrote a satirical , mocking letter ostensibly from the point of view of Lohan : " Some of these kids are sent to work when they 're so young . Which I can relate to because I started out working as a child model aged three , and got into movies when I was 11 . I can , like , so totally understand where these people are coming from " .

Andrew Billen of The Times described the documentary as " a crash @-@ course sentimental education " and " a rush job " . He said that rather than highlight the crime of trafficking , " the spotlight was effectively turned on Lohan and under it she wilted " . In a review in The Times , Caitlin Moran wrote that the juxtaposition of Lohan with the human suffering of trafficking made for " an odd , disconcerting programme " . Alice @-@ Azania Jarvis of The Independent found the documentary " very well put @-@ together , very thoroughly researched , and very compelling " and she said that the inclusion of Lohan was " definitely not a terrible choice . Just a very , very odd one . "