



REVIEW of *Reconnection* submitted by Maksim Varfolomeev

*Reconnection* is one of those films I struggle to put a label on. It isn't action packed or overly exciting. It's not an 'on the edge of your seat' thrill ride and there are no plot twists or even a surprise ending. Then what is it? Well, simply put, it's beautiful. *Reconnection* takes the viewer on a journey of spiritual awakening. It's the story of Sean Fletcher, a man finding himself at a crossroads in life and forced to hit the reset button. A planned retreat to the Himalayas leaves him stranded in the remote Indian village of Vrindavan. He finds himself unable to get a seat on an outgoing flight and rather than sit in his hotel room, decides to do some exploring. He discovers some of the rich history of the village and learns that Lord Krishna had also suffered a similar loss of a great love.

It's really hard to go wrong when choosing to shoot in a spectacular location like Vrindavan. No matter what direction you look you're going to find stunning scenery and beautiful landscape. I found myself in awe just watching the locals go about their day to day business. Though the film claims to be based on a true story, I often found myself feeling I was watching an inspirational 'self help' video or travelogue. Most of the dialogue is narrative in the form of Fletcher's inner voice describing his spiritual journey.

*Reconnection* is what you'd call a slow burn, but nicely paced. Maksim Varfolomeyev and Olga Avramenko wrote, directed and produced the film and did all the post as well. They did a fine job, technically. The film flowed nicely with no glitches or technical issues that I noticed. Fletcher's voice was warm and appealing and the sound design was clean and blended natural

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atmosphere with little foley accents here and there. I loved watching Fletcher interact with the locals. Armand Gachet was a great choice and easy to watch. The highlight for me was every time he engaged with the monkeys. Very well done!

It's hard to find fault with this film. The subject matter is either going to interest you or it's not. Technically, it's all there and I believe Maksim succeeded in making a truly engaging and beautiful 'feel good' movie. The only criticism, (though I don't like calling it that) would be that the film starts out with a quick pace that instantly engages the viewer, then about ten or fifteen minutes in, slows right down, almost to a standstill. The cinematography is so beautiful that it was hard to say I got bored, but for many, this might be an issue. As I said, the film is not for everyone. But for those looking for beautiful scenery, *Reconnection* offers it in spades.

Brian Lutes  
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