

THE AGE OF REASON



The Doon School Quintet is an intimate study of India's most prestigious boys' boarding school, located in Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal. Sometimes called 'the Eton of India,' Doon School has nevertheless developed its own distinctive style and presents a curious mixture of privilege and egalitarianism. It was established by a group of Indian nationalists in the 1930s to produce a new generation of leaders who would guide the nation after Independence. Since then it has become highly influential in the creation of the new Indian elites and has come to epitomize many aspects of Indian postcoloniality.



In this fifth and final film in the **The Doon School Quintet**, MacDougall focuses on the life of one student whom he discovers at the school. The film was made in parallel with *The New Boys* and intersects with it at several points. However, instead of looking at the group, it explores the thoughts and feelings of Abhishek, a 12-year-old from Nepal, during his first days and weeks as a Doon student. This is at once the story of the encounter between a filmmaker and his subject and a glimpse of the mind of a child at 'the age of reason'.

"It was a remarkable decision to end the Doon School series with this portrait of one child, after having moved progressively closer to it in the earlier, more collective and group-oriented films. THE AGE OF REASON demonstrates once again how respectful MacDougall is of his young subjects in all of these films. This peculiar tact is rare in representations of children's lives and can teach other filmmakers much about ethical concerns and awareness. Here Abhishek, the 12-year-old from Nepal, seems in fact to invite MacDougall to share the actual moments of his emerging self-awareness, as a child becoming a responsible adult. We follow the formation of his patterns of sociability, his emerging agency as a growing adolescent encountering new rituals and social constraints, his personal discoveries, and the processes by which he learns. Never seen simply as an "assimilated" subject, Abhishek shares with the filmmaker, and with an attentive audience, the building up of a particular way of 'reasoning' in the world - as it occurs, and in context."

- ROSSELLA RAGAZZI, DIRECTOR OF THE FILM LA MÉMOIRE DURE.

"I LOVED IT... ELEGANTLY SHOT, UNDERSTATED, NUDGING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN OBSERVATION AND AUTHORIAL ENGAGEMENT."

- MICHAEL RENO, PROFESSOR OF CRITICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA; EDITOR OF *THEORIZING DOCUMENTARY* AND AUTHOR OF *THE SUBJECT OF DOCUMENTARY*.

PART 5 OF THE DOON SCHOOL QUINTET

THE AGE OF REASON



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From the film series by David MacDougall

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM RONIN FILMS IN THE DOON SCHOOL QUINTET

PART 1 - DOON SCHOOL CHRONICLES
PART 3 - KARAM IN JAIPUR

PART 2 - WITH MORNING HEART'S
PART 4 - THE NEW BOYS

Approx.
87 mins

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