

## **The Waiting City**

Director: Claire Macarthy

Cast: Samrat Chakrabati, Joel Edgerton, Radha Mitchell

The Waiting City is another movie about adoption, this time following the story of an Australian couple who travel to Kolkata in India to finalise the adoption of their daughter. Their visit is prolonged while the adoption authorities take more time than expected to undertake the necessary procedures, which are never quite explained.

As their exasperation builds so too does the pressure on their marriage, culminating in raw emotions erupting. Ben (Joel Edgerton) withdraws to his guitar and Fiona (Radha Mitchell) relies on the hotel owner's nephew Krishna (Samrat Chakrabati) for support. As they connect with India's extraordinary people and cultures they learn about themselves and what matters in life.

The Waiting City is shot entirely in India and is visually beautiful and enchanting. The characters are interesting, the cast perform them well and their story is a moving one. Yet there were some elements of this film I found too convenient. Krishna happens to be from the same town where their daughter was born and so takes them there, then back in Kolkata his cousin happens to have an extravagant wedding at which Ben is invited to perform, and spectacular deity festival pageants seem to be on every corner the couple turn.

Reviewed by Charlotte Smith.