

8 Awards and 3
Nominations
including Best
Film at Venus
film festival
2004

Le Grand Voyage

The Great Journey

A Film by Moroccan
based French
Director

Ismael Ferroukhi

A few weeks before his college entrance exams, Reda (Nicolas Cazale), a young man who lives in the south of France, finds himself obligated to **drive his father to Mecca**. From the start, the journey looks to be difficult: Reda and his father (Mohamed Majd) have nothing in common. The **wide cultural and generational gap** between the two is worsened by the lack of communication between the two. Reda finds it hard to accommodate his father, who demands respect for himself and his pilgrimage.



From France, through Italy, Serbia, Turkey, Syria, Jordan to Saudi Arabia- the two will embark on a road trip to Mecca that will change their lives.



It shows us how Reda and his father move from a relationship marked with indifference and hostility to one of recognition of the other that leads to reconciliation. Dealing with a relationship between a father and his son, the director equally deals with ideas concerning Islam.



Le Grand Voyage feels authentic because it is authentic, with scenes shot on locations including **Blue Mosque Istanbul, Turkey, Bulgaria, Morocco as well as Mecca, Saudi Arabia**. And not only does this well-acted film successfully challenge cultural preconceptions of Islamic belief, but in the climactic scenes amidst the collective fervour of Mecca, it achieves an unexpected emotional intensity.



The film is a glorious surprise. Slowly, it stops being difficult - the miles stretching ahead like tiresome children - and the true impact of this extraordinary feat of endurance, pitted with problems and illuminated by insights, becomes plain, culminating in scenes of astonishing beauty. The performances are perfectly attuned and emotionally **the film builds to a life-altering finale.**

