

CELEBRITY WATCH by George Christy

Natural Girls & Love-Fueled Arts

CHER & THE CHILDREN

"I was blown away by the children, thousands of them...from 18 countries singing in 15 languages. I couldn't believe my eyes," says Cher about Fred Nassiri's *Love Sees No Color*. Lending her full support to the 12-minute film that will be screened at schools, churches, synagogues, Cher hosted an evening in Los Angeles to premiere the production that promotes world peace, totally financed by Nassiri, who hired local directors in each country with their crews.



Cher

"We had our dangers and difficulties in some locales," says Nassiri, who prefers being known by his surname and who leads the children in the song he wrote for the movie. A former schoolteacher in Iran, Nassiri arrived in America during the '60s, washed dishes, and attended beauty school which led to owning a Beverly Hills salon. When he became a successful wholesaler of apparel, he underwent a spiritual epiphany during the '80s, wrote activist songs, met with Nelson Mandela, Shimon Peres and other world leaders, who encouraged him to make the film and promised to cooperate.

Within the short film, one finds children singing in such locations as the Wall of Separation that divides Israel and Palestine, the Holocaust Memorial and the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the Roman Coliseum, the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. Additionally at the hallowed grounds of the Taj Mahal (which, by the way, our Denise Hale has visited often), the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, inside the Vatican, at the Statue of Liberty, the

Pyramids, and the Unification Park in South Korea.

During the filming, he was haunted by a destitute area in India that he then adopted to continually provide clean water, food, clothing, bathing and restroom facilities for more than 600 homeless villagers. In Rio de Janeiro, Nassiri created a Cultural Center for the poverty-stricken children, whose schoolroom was filthy and unsafe with asbestos and spoiled food odors, to draw and paint and make music. Cher believes Nassiri's deeds and film will raise awareness for "international peace, love and unity."

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