

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

Gypsy Caravan: When the Road Bends... is a new documentary delving into the hidden lives of the greatest Gypsy bands in the world. Its title is derived from a Gypsy proverb – ‘You cannot walk straight when the road bends’ – philosophically advising that we must prepare for the unexpected.

Directed and produced by Jasmine Dellal, the film follows five Gypsy acts – Fanfare Ciocărlia, Taraf de Haïdouks, Esmă Redžepova, Maharaja and the Antonio El Pipa Flamenco Ensemble – on a tour of the US in 2001.

Dellal travels to Romania, Macedonia, Spain and India to discover how they live their lives and try to understand some of the pressures and realities of exclusion and repression that have shaped Gypsy society, and the values at the heart of the community.

What is striking about this film is the way in which it portrays the realities behind the glare of the stage lights. Whilst it reveals a world of poverty, racism and suffering – it also shows the supportive, proud and passionately dynamic side to Gypsy life that makes it so alluring to so many. As Johnny Depp himself says on the film, *“It would be great if by experiencing the Romany people and their music, people can learn more about them and understand that what you’ve believed about these people has been a lie your entire life.”* The film is a glimpse into a world many of us will be seeing for the very first time.

Gypsy Caravan: When the Road Bends... is released by ICA Films on September 28.

www.gypsyncaravanmovie.com

