

## Award for heritage film

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A short film casting the light on Muslim heritage entitled, *1001 Inventions and The Library of Secrets*, starring British actor Sir Ben Kingsley has won four awards at the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA) ceremony in London. According to the judges, the film was "in a league of its own" and its awards include a gold award for Best Education Film, a gold award for Best Photography, a silver award for Best Drama as well as a silver award for Best Original Music.

The movie sees a group of young school children take a trip to a library after their teacher challenges them to research the Dark Ages of civilisation. The children are unenthusiastic about the project at first, until they meet the librarian (Kingsley - also known for his award winning role as Mahatma Ghandi) who helps them discover the many scientific mysteries that took place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The film forms part of the *1001 Inventions* exhibition launched at London's Science Museum in January this year. It was produced by the Foundations for Science Technology and Civilisation (FSTC). The exhibition is sponsored by the *Jameel Foundation* and has been described by critics as one of London's most successful new exhibitions and has received more than 100,000 visitors in its opening weeks.

### Cast

"We were fortunate to get such an amazing cast of actors for the film, and it is now hard to imagine anyone else could have played those roles," said Professor Salim Al-Hassani, executive producer for the film. "The chemistry between the actors was exceptional. They looked like they were really enjoying themselves bringing to life 1000 years of under-appreciated history. And the popularity of the 1001 Inventions exhibition is down, in no small part, to the exceptional acting and production talent involved in the Library of Secrets film. The Edge Picture Company, which produced the film for us, has achieved something quite amazing as a result."

The film *1001 Inventions and The Library of Secrets* can be viewed online at [www.1001inventions.com](http://www.1001inventions.com). It is a global educational initiative which promotes awareness of scientific and cultural achievements from the Islamic civilisation for a thousand years and the contribution of which has helped build the foundations of the modern world.

1001 Inventions was created by the FSTC and is a British based non-profit, non-religious and apolitical academic organisation. It engages with the public through educational media to highlight the technological inheritance of humanity to improve social cohesion. VOC (Aqeela Bawa)

