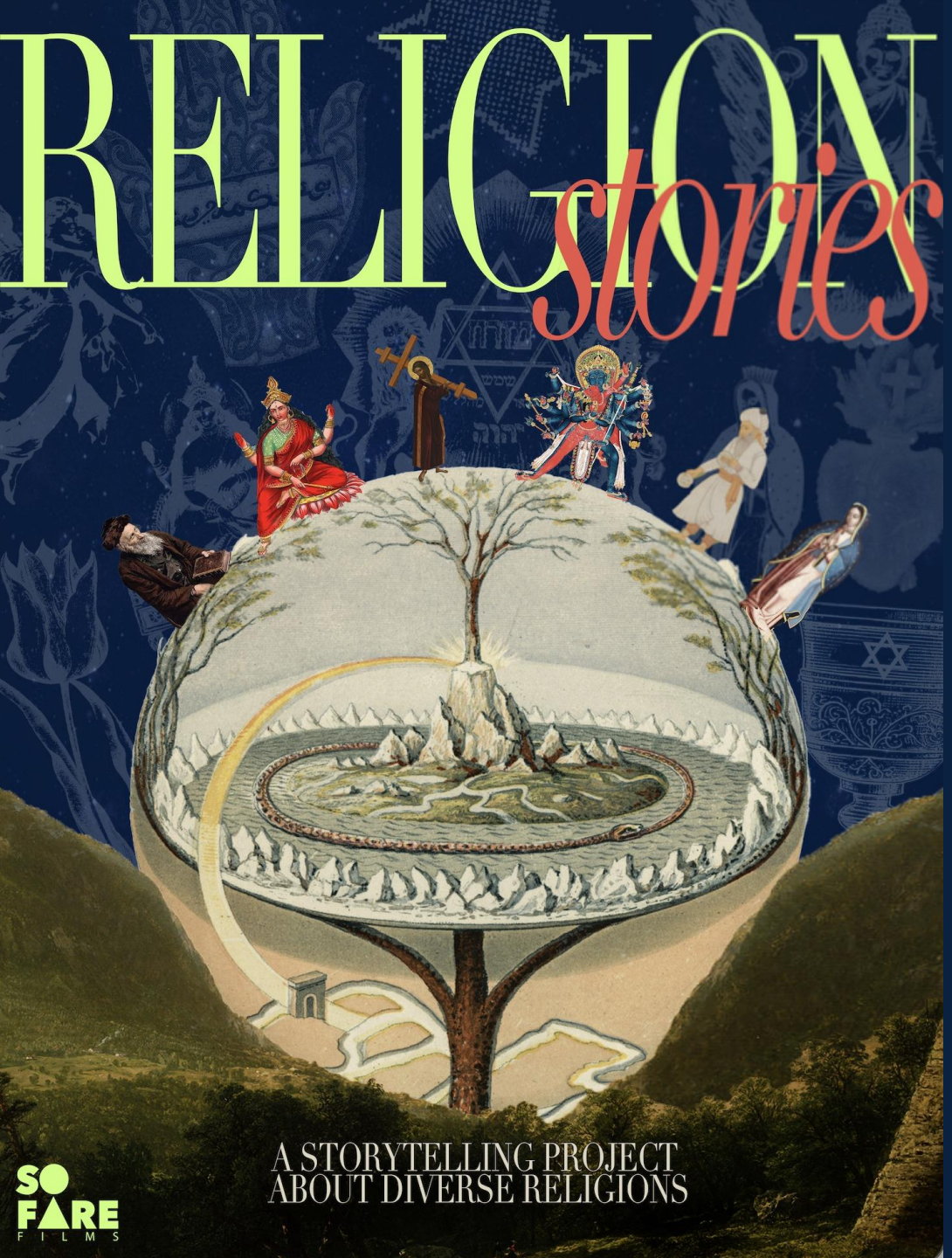


SIX RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS. TWELVE HONEST CONVERSATIONS.

Religion *Stories*

A six-part documentary series that develops religious literacy through authentic, first-person storytelling — culminating in the capstone film *Animananda*.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

A So Fare Films Production | Producer/Director: Jenn Lindsay
sofarefilms.com/religion-stories

LOGLINE

Six religious traditions. 24 storytellers.

One invitation to listen across difference.

Through intimate dialogue between religious experts and college-aged storytellers, *Religion Stories* explores how people inherit, question, and live their beliefs in an increasingly diverse world.





SYNOPSIS

Religion

Religion Stories is a six-part documentary series that develops religious literacy through authentic storytelling. Each episode pairs a religious expert with a college-aged storyteller to explore one major worldview — Atheism & Agnosticism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

Together they discuss belief, doubt, ritual, identity, ethics, and the everyday experience of living within (or outside of) a religious tradition.

Rather than comparing religions from a distance, the series invites viewers into intimate conversations that reveal the diversity within each tradition, while highlighting the universal human search for meaning, belonging, and purpose. The series culminates in the bonus capstone documentary *Animananda*, a poetic reflection on humanity's evolving relationship with faith and meaning.

FORMAT

6 episodes + capstone film

TRADITIONS COVERED

- Atheism & Agnosticism
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism

CAPSTONE

Animananda

ABOUT THE FILM

Living traditions, told by the people who practice them

At a time when religious diversity shapes classrooms, workplaces, and communities around the world, religious literacy has become an increasingly important civic skill.

Rather than presenting religion as a collection of doctrines or historical facts, Religion Stories introduces viewers to living traditions through the voices of people who practice them. Each episode combines historical context with personal narrative, encouraging audiences to encounter religions not as abstract systems, but as evolving ways of making meaning.

The project was developed with educators, students, and community organizations in mind, and is accompanied by a comprehensive Educator Guide.





MEDIA FORMAT

6 short episodes + *Animananda* capstone

PREMIERE

KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Lisbon — Dec 2025

THE SIX EPISODES

One tradition per episode, told through paired dialogue

1

EPISODE 1

Atheism & Agnosticism

2

EPISODE 2

Buddhism

3

EPISODE 3

Christianity

4

EPISODE 4

Hinduism

5

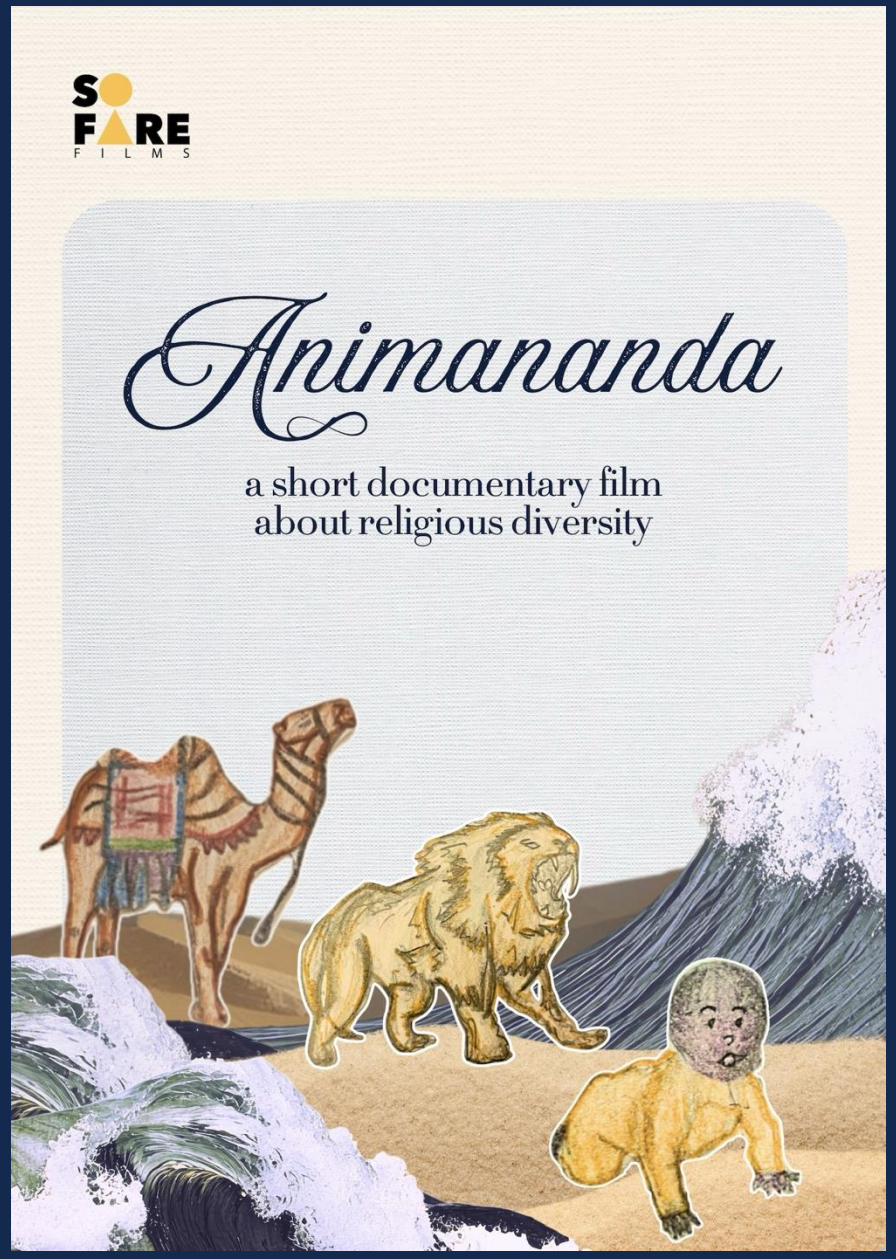
EPISODE 5

Islam

6

EPISODE 6

Judaism



BONUS CAPSTONE FILM

Animananda

a short documentary film about religious diversity

A poetic interweaving of voices across six spiritual traditions, *Animananda* traces the human journey through Nietzsche's three metamorphoses — camel, lion, and child — where at times we submit, at times we resist, and at times we create.

20 MIN	HD	POETIC STYLE MIXED-MEDIA & ANIMATION

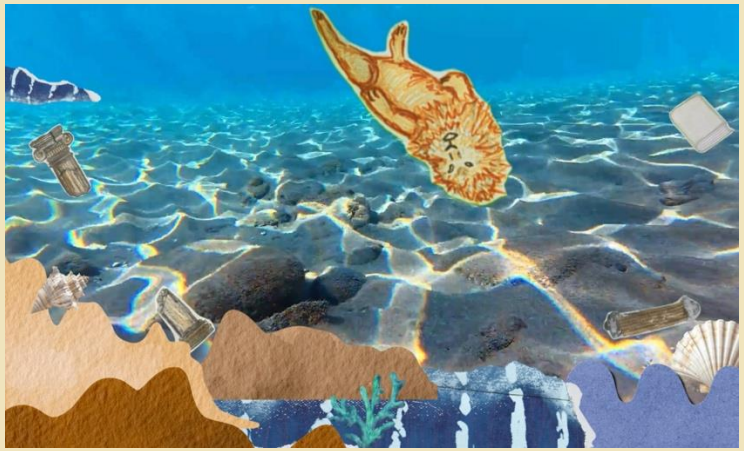
WHY IT'S SPECIAL

- Innovative mixed-media & animation, distinct from the rest of the series
- Synthesizes all six traditions into one poetic reflection on shared meaning
- Addressed in Learning Guide as an opportunity to reflect across traditions

World Premiere: Religion Today Film Festival, Trento — Sept 2026

Behind the animation & mixed media

Animananda uses stop-motion animation and mixed-media collage — a distinct visual language from the rest of the series — to move between the six traditions…as well as an original soundtrack!









TRAILER

Animananda has its own standalone trailer, separate from the Religion Stories series trailer.

ANIMANANDA TRAILER LINK
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iAkp2g9MWWUtCRWH-aqylBuU50QdP2U_/view?usp=sharing

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

A flexible teaching resource

Because each episode stands on its own, instructors may use individual films or the complete series across a wide range of disciplines.

- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Film & Media Studies
- Global Studies
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Humanities
- First-Year Seminars



EDUCATOR GUIDE INCLUDES

- Instructor guidance
- Orienting essays
- Vocabulary
- Discussion questions
- Reflective writing prompts
- Classroom activities
- Additional resources
- Bonus capstone discussion questions for *Animananda*

CLASSROOM VALIDATION

Pilot Classroom Evaluation

Religion Stories was pilot-tested for full-semester classroom use during the Spring 2026 semester in Exploring World Religions at Nebraska Methodist College.

The complete series — including all six documentary episodes and accompanying classroom integration — was used throughout the course as a teaching resource alongside lectures, readings, and other instructional materials. Both faculty and student evaluations demonstrated that the series significantly enhanced student engagement, deepened understanding of course concepts, and helped students connect academic study with the lived experience of religious practice.

The pilot confirmed the series' effectiveness as an educational resource for higher education and provided valuable feedback that informed the final refinement of the accompanying *Religion Stories* Educator Guide.

SEMESTER

Spring 2026, full-term

COURSE

Exploring World Religions

INSTITUTION

Nebraska Methodist College

MATERIALS USED

All 6 episodes + classroom integration

CLASSROOM VALIDATION

Piloted in a college World Religions course

"

Religion Stories *is a series of short films from So Fare Films that has added a new depth of enrichment for my course, Exploring World Religions. I know it has been helpful because every one of my students has attested to how it helped them understand and engage the material in our course in ways that aided their learning. Each short 10-12 min. film shows personal expressions of faith related to the major religions of the world. My students found them helpful in bringing the academic texts to life through the lived experience of real people. They cited how the films personalized their learning and helped them to see the abstract facts through a human lens. As their teacher, I found the films were just the right resource for helping students integrate a variety of intellectual readings, lectures and videos by seeing and hearing how that material is understood and lived in real people and their experience of faith and religion. It helped them to see our common humanity as each person of faith seeks to reconcile both the hope and the struggle they find in their religion. I searched for this type of resource for a while and nothing else I found gave me the combination of information and personal experience that* **Religion Stories** *conveys. I look forward to further collaboration with So Fare Films.*

Dr. Linda Rooney

Professor of Theology
Nebraska Methodist College
Exploring World Religions — 8/2026

Dr. Rooney is an adjunct Professor of Theology at several U.S. universities, a certified Catholic Chaplain and CPE Supervisor, and a Spiritual Director and Pastoral Counselor with many years of experience in education, administration, parish ministry, and spiritual direction.

Her most recent book is Walking the Disciple's Path *(Ave Maria Press).*

CLASSROOM VALIDATION

In their own words: students on the series

> *The* Religion Stories *clips were among the most meaningful additions to the course. They grounded abstract concepts in real human experience and helped me appreciate the diversity within traditions. I believe they should remain in the curriculum because they foster empathy, understanding, and connection, qualities essential for anyone entering a helping profession.*
>
> **SERGIO, NMC, 2026**

> *The addition of* Religion Stories *clips was very beneficial for my learning. Hearing real people talk about their faith made the material feel more real and easier to understand. It showed how religion is lived in everyday life, not just something studied in a book. These stories helped me better understand different perspectives. I think they should definitely stay in the course because they made the learning overall more meaningful.*
>
> **MORGAN, NMC, 2026**

> *I really appreciated how the personal faith clips for the* Religion Stories *and curriculum were presented. They provided clear, solid information about the religion you have already built a foundation of knowledge on, while also welcoming personal beliefs and experiences, making it easier to feel connected and engaged.*
>
> **ASHLEY, NMC, 2026**

In their own words, continued

> *The* Religion Stories *clips were one of the most valuable additions to the course. Reading textbook information helped me understand beliefs and history, but hearing real people describe their faith experiences made religion feel much more personal and realistic. The clips offered insight similar to the personal accounts included throughout the textbook, which made religions easier to visualize and connect to in realistic ways. Instead of seeing religions only as historical doctrines or beliefs, I was able to understand how faith shapes people's identities, relationships, values, and everyday decisions. I believe these clips should absolutely remain part of the curriculum because they encourage empathy, understanding, and open-mindedness.*
>
> **ANGELO, NMC, 2026**

> *The inclusion of* Religion Stories *faith clips in the curriculum positively influenced my learning experience. Listening to individuals share their faith journeys made the material more personal and relatable. Rather than relying solely on textbook descriptions, I observed how religion shapes real people's lives, challenges, and values. I believe these clips should remain part of the course, as they foster empathy and meaningfully humanize religious beliefs.*
>
> **MARGERY, NMC, 2026**

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

So Fare Films

Stories about people you've never met from places you've never been.

So Fare Films is an independent documentary production company based in Rome, Italy, dedicated to creating socially engaged films that foster empathy, dialogue, and understanding across cultures. Working with an international network of emerging creators, So Fare Films combines documentary storytelling with educational resources, public engagement, and impact campaigns to extend each project's life beyond the screen.

250+

EMERGING CREATORS

30+

COUNTRIES



OUR EMERGING CREATORS NETWORK

MEDIA MADE BY EMERGING CREATORS, FOR STUDENTS

Religion Stories is written, shot, and edited by an international team of students and recent graduates working alongside religious scholars — the same generation the series is built to reach in the classroom.

DIRECTOR BIO



Jenn Lindsay

Producer / Director — Sociologist of Religion — Professor

Jenn Lindsay is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, sociologist of religion, and professor based in Rome, Italy. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston University and has spent more than two decades studying religion, identity, dialogue, and visual storytelling.

Her films explore the intersection of psychology, spirituality, social justice, and human connection, combining scholarly research with intimate documentary practice.

As Founder and CEO of So Fare Films, she leads an international collaborative network of emerging creators producing documentaries designed for both festival exhibition and educational impact.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"

I've spent much of my career asking how people make meaning. As a sociologist of religion, I've studied how beliefs shape identities, relationships, and societies. As a filmmaker, I've become increasingly interested in something scholarship alone cannot fully capture: the lived experience of faith.

Religion Stories grew from a simple conviction that storytelling can build understanding where argument often cannot. Rather than debating which beliefs are "right," this series creates space for people to tell their own stories — and for others to listen.

By pairing religious scholars and practitioners with college-aged storytellers, we wanted to create conversations that were thoughtful, vulnerable, and occasionally uncomfortable in the best possible way. I hope *Religion Stories* encourages viewers to ask better questions, listen more generously, and discover that understanding difference begins not with agreement, but with genuine conversation.

Jenn Lindsay

Producer / Director



A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

I believe at the core of every faith, every belief system, there is a simple, shared temple of truth — that people are searching for hope, for meaning, for something to hold onto in their lives, and most carry a desire to be kind.

I first joined *Religion Stories* in January 2024 as an intern, then a research assistant — and now I'm a writer and Assistant Director. Working on this docuseries, listening to people share their personal journeys about faith, brought me closer not just to them, but to myself.

Vishwa Parmar

Writer & Assistant Director — age 21, India

Vishwa is a Rome-based writer and filmmaker who completed her undergraduate degree in English Literature (minors in Creative Writing, Communications, and Art & Design) in Spring 2026. She is now preparing for a master's program in Creative Writing [after receiving the top scholarship offer from every program she applied to.



FESTIVAL HISTORY & PREMIERES

On screen and in dialogue

DECEMBER 2025

KAICIID International Dialogue Centre — Lisbon, Portugal

World premiere of *Religion Stories*, presented to an international audience committed to interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Religion Today Film Festival — Trento, Italy

World premiere of the capstone documentary *Animananda*, extending the project's reach through international film festivals.

OCTOBER 2026

Visioni Verticali International Film Festival — Potenza, Italy

Highlight screening of the capstone documentary *Animananda*.





Religion *Stories*

TRAILER:

https://vimeo.com/1143852766?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

SO FARE FILMS

WEBSITE:

www.ReligionStories.org

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