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## Film award honours 'hug guru'

**Actress Sharon Stone has presented India's famous female guru, Mata Amritanandamayi, with an award for her humanitarian work.**

Amritanandamayi, also known as Amma, is best known for blessing her devotees with a hug.

Stone presented the spiritual leader with the prize in Paris at human rights film festival Cinema Verite.

Amritanandamayi has a huge following in India and beyond. She is said to have embraced over 26 million people.

Stone described her as a "remarkable angel".

In January 2005, Amritanandamayi pledged a billion rupees (\$23m) from her charitable trust to help survivors of the Asian tsunami.

The "hugging saint" is the subject of a documentary titled Darshan, which premiered at Cannes earlier this year.

Amritanandamayi goes on annual tours around the world and is due to visit London in December.



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