

## Namaste and Dobrý den, moji přátelé

My name is Aadheeraj (Friends call me Aadi) I live in Mumbai.

Country: India

Languages: English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and knowledge of French.

**Personal Description**: I am 25 and working as an associate creative director in an advertising agency. I am a non-smoker and an occasional drinker. I plan to direct films very soon. I have acted in Theatre. I love history and philosophy. I'm fond of hand-written letters. I love telling and listening to stories. I'm fond of running and meditation. I have worked with kids aged 5 to 10. I used to teach them drawing and mathematics.

**Hobbies:** Reading and writing, watching movies, travelling.

**Favourite Music and Movies:** I love old Hindi songs, pop, R&B, country. I like drama and action thrillers. I also like intense romantic movies or dark comedies. The top song on my current playlist is 'Be Open' by Rhye.

The craziest thing I've done in my life: Our city had been experiencing heavy rains for a week and on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 many low-lying areas were flooded. We stayed in a 4-storey building and our house for on the bottom floor. The water came in suddenly and we had to rush to the upper floors. We had to leave all our things because the water levels were rising too quickly. I was 15 and in my final year at school, and my exams were scheduled in the coming week. So, all I could care about was my study notes getting destroyed. I had kept them in the topmost cupboard but I could see that water would reach them pretty soon. Without telling anyone, I walked down to my house, through the 5ft deep water and got by books back by holding them over my head. When people saw me soaking wet from head to toe, with books which were in perfect condition, they called me mad. My Mom started crying when she saw me. I stood second in the exams.

**Things I like:** Meeting new people, having real conversations, exploring newer ways of thinking and living, meditating, philosophizing.

**Things I don't like:** I don't like being judgmental about ideas or people and I don't like to be reactive to situations. I also dislike stagnation and conformity to dogma.

**What I expect from host family:** That they be as excited to meet me as I am to meet them. Would be great if they adore food, music and stories.

**Life Motto:** To love and be loved. I want to matter. I want to touch people's lives and hope that my work contributes to their happiness.