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Healing Hugs?

One Woman's Special Embrace

By Jeff Rossen

(New York-WABC, July 18, 2004) — She is known and known for hugging people. Some 21 million worldwide, to be exact. She is in New York for a three-day stay. Thousands are lining up for her special embrace.

Kissing babies, hugging adults, all day, all night.

Her hugs make her famous. So famous, the Hammerstein Ballroom in Midtown Manhattan is packed.

Logical question: How did this woman end up here, hugging people?

Amma grew up in India...poor, as a child. She meditated. And then, she started hugging people...all people.

Still, I asked her, "Why do the people want to hug you?"

Translator: "Ask the people, not her."

So we asked the people, the people who wait for a hug.

One man suffered a stroke two years ago. Another woman has breast cancer. They believe her hugs have helped them.

Amma literally sits in a chair, and hugs people for 18 hours at a time. She doesn't even get up to eat. She is on a 10 city tour in the United States and will be in New York hugging people through Monday.

WEATHER

TODAY AT A GLANCE



Currently:

69

High: 78



Metro Radar



Northern NJ