

thus have I seen

Buddhist Film Festival 2014

20 – 27 SEPTEMBER

SHAW THEATRES LIDO





The third
edition of Thus Have I
Seen (THIS) Buddhist Film Festival will
showcase specially curated films that reflect the
cultural, social and religious aspects of Buddhism, told
through original, thought-provoking films from around the
world. Playing on the oft-cited verse "Thus have I heard" recited
by Venerable Ananda at the start of many Buddhist sutras,
THIS Buddhist Film Festival 2014 hopes to achieve a similar effect
amongst the audience, as they discuss Buddhist Teachings
and values and reflect within themselves.

After one year of intensive research work and Open Call exercise, reviewing
more than 100 films, we are excited to bring to Singapore 16 brilliant films and
three post-screening discussions with filmmakers.

THIS Buddhist Film Festival 2014 strives to stay true to the spirit of sharing films
that ask good questions and we hope you will enjoy the films as much as we
had bringing them to you.

May the merits accrued from this meritorious deed be dedicated to all
sentient beings, whether born, unborn or being born.

May they be relieved from all suffering.

May they attain the Bliss of Nirvana.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Thus Have I Seen (THIS) Buddhist Film Festival 2014! We are delighted to be back to present to you Buddhist themed films curated from around the world.

Film is a powerful medium to present perspectives and insights which often pass unnoticed in our everyday lives. It draws us closer to stories seemingly different from our daily encounters, yet resonate within us because of their universal values and themes.

Our aspirations to share the Buddha's Teachings for the benefit of all have brought us together this past year to select films which have reminded each of us to look inwards. Themes like compassion and determination woven into these films illustrate Buddhist Teachings in ways that we otherwise might not appreciate in our daily lives. It is our hope that beyond the usual purpose of entertaining viewers, these films about life's experiences will also bring the audience to reflect on how we can live better ourselves as well as for those around us.

From its humble beginnings in 2009, THIS has grown to an established biennial event among the local Buddhist community. It has become a platform for Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike who share an interest in films to explore this genre and exchange their views.

The organisation of THIS would not have been possible without our supporters and well-wishers. We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their contributions and advice.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions on how we can grow THIS in 2016 and even after that. In the meantime, enjoy the films and may you be well and happy.

Teo Puay Kim
Director
Dharma In Action Limited

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

DHARMA IN ACTION

Dharma In Action Limited (DIA) began as a gathering of enthusiastic Buddhists promoting Buddhism as a way of life in 2008. By 2009, DIA was officially incorporated in Singapore as a Company Limited by Guarantee to further our mission of presenting cultural and educational programmes rooted in Buddhist values. It is a dynamic platform where Buddhists can share resources and work together for the betterment of the Buddhist community and, ultimately, the society.

Our past activities include Buddhist Youth conferences, Dharma talks and music workshops. We also work and collaborate with others on initiatives such as youth camps and Buddhist publications. DIA activities are organised purely by volunteers from all walks of life and various age groups. All contributions generated from our activities go toward events which foster fellowship among the Buddhist community and raise awareness on the relevance of Buddhist Teachings to daily life.



For more information about DIA,
please visit www.dharmainaction.net

THIS BUDDHIST FILM FESTIVAL 2014

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Teo Puay Kim

Vice Chairman: Cell Lim Siew Wee

Administrator: Lim Sin Mian

Advisor: Teo Swee Leng

Film Programming

Chan Boon Kian
Cassandra Lew
Cell Lim Siew Wee
Low Cheng Hyork
Poh Yong Hui
Renee Tan
Teo Xin Wei
Karen Yap

Marketing

Cell Lim Siew Wee
Poh Yong Hui

Fundraising

Victor Lim
Teo Puay Kim
Jason Wee

Members

Elis Ch'ng
Chua Pair Shen
Fu Chun Li
Lee Tse Ying
Wendy Low
Chloe Tan



不肯去观音 AVALOKITESVARA

Singapore Premiere 新加坡首映

During the Tang Dynasty, Yu Xiufeng, a porcelain artist from Mount Meicen, makes a ceramic statue of the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara at Mount Wutai as a blessing for the sickly young prince, Li Yi. Shortly after, Xiufeng comes across an orphaned baby girl and adopts her, naming her Little Lotus. 20 years later, Little Lotus grows up to be a compassionate and benevolent young lady and is said to be a manifestation of Avalokitesvara herself.

When Emperor Wu Zong orders the destruction of Buddhism, Little Lotus finds herself embroiled in the ensuing political turmoil and social unrest. Despite the situation, her compassion and loving kindness make an indelible impact on those around her – much like a pristine lotus emerging from murky waters. By offering non-judgmental help to those who need it, Little Lotus exemplifies the qualities of Avalokitesvara, the Bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas.

普陀山开山成为举世闻名的观音道场背后有一则非一般的故事。唐朝时期，梅岑山瓷艺人万秀为体弱多病的光王李怡烧制护身秘色瓷观音宝像供奉于五台山。宝像制成时，他偶然抱养了一名女婴，取名为莲妹。20年后莲妹长成楚楚动人的少女，乐善好施，慈悲待人，许多人都称她为观音菩萨的化身。

唐武宗颁旨灭佛，民女莲妹虽卷入纷争，却如莲花般出淤泥而不染，以她纯洁的善意与慈悲的胸怀，感动被纷乱所扰的众生。莲妹超脱苦难，舍己为他的精神，使众人称之为观世音菩萨的化身。

SAT 20 Sep | 1:00PM
SAT 27 Sep | 11:30AM

CHINA 中国 2013

110 min
PG

Mandarin with English and
Chinese subtitles
华语对白附中文字幕

Director: Zhang Xin
导演：张鑫



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Beijing Spencer Cultural & Media Co Ltd
(Mr Xu Jian)
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Director's Bio

Winner of multiple international and domestic film awards, Chinese director Zhang Xin, who frequently wove Buddhist themes into his films, took on the challenge to film China's first Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva-themed movie.



关于导演

本片导演张鑫是中国一级导演，拍摄过多部宗教影视题材，也荣获各大国际与中国电影节所颁发的奖项。这是张导演首次挑起大梁挑战拍摄中国第一部以“观音菩萨”为主题的电影。





薄饼 POPIAH

Presented by Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery and directed by Royston Tan, POPIAH pays homage to the transient Singaporean family; its past, present and eternal core. As we unravel the story of a son's estrangement from his father, POPIAH reveals itself to be a lyrical yet authentic record of the joys, heartaches and frustrations of ordinary family life.

家人默默付出的爱，犹如薄饼一般含蓄、朴实无华。陈子谦在最新的短片《薄饼》里，透过一对父子在情感上的隔阂，反映一个普通家庭所经历的喜怒哀乐。影片由光明山普觉禅寺呈献，温馨感人的故事，点明培养感恩心的意义。

SAT 20 Sep | 1:00PM
SAT 27 Sep | 11:30AM

SINGAPORE 2013

14 min
PG

Mandarin with English and
Chinese subtitles
华语对白附中英文字幕

Director: Royston Tan
导演：陈子谦



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Chuan Pictures
enquiries@chuanpictures.com



Director's Bio

A graduate from Temasek Polytechnic, Royston Tan's films have been screened worldwide at film festivals and received over 75 awards. He has made 4 feature-length films and continues to work within the short film genre when the right idea comes along. Tan is one of the most influential filmmakers in Singapore and POPIAH is his second collaboration with Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery, following *Little Note* (2009).

关于导演

陈子谦毕业于淡马锡理工学院，作品迄今共囊括了国内外超过75项电影奖项。被誉为新加坡最具潜质的年轻电影人的他，共有四部长篇电影作品。《薄饼》是继《小字条》后，第二部与光明山普觉禅寺合作的短片。





原来你还在 MY MANDALA

Singapore Premiere 新加坡首映

Years after the son of a Taiwanese couple died in a car accident, the grieving wife still believes that her son's wandering soul is yet to be reincarnated. She decides to invite a Tibetan Lama home to chant for her dead son. Her husband regards her practice with much disdain, but he soon finds that things have changed for the better somehow. Just then, a triad boss shows up at the door and accuses the Lama for being a fraud who just got out of jail. In attempting to differentiate between faith and blind faith in their absurd lives, who will achieve relief from their pain in the end - a professional con artist, an amateur impersonator or an estranged married couple?

一对台湾婚夫妇的儿子几年前在一次车祸中去世了，悲痛的妻子仍然相信儿子的灵魂尚待转世。她决定邀请一个突然出现的仁波切回家供奉，为儿子的灵魂诵经超度。毫无疑问，丈夫发现妻子的做法可笑和荒谬的。只是正当家里的东西莫名其妙地理顺后，一个黑社会的头却上门来找他刚出狱的弟弟！一个专业诈欺犯、一个混世神棍，一对貌合神离的夫妻，在信仰与迷信之间，他们的生活会如何的荒谬，最终谁能得到解脱？



SAT 20 Sep | 4:00PM*
THU 25 Sep | 7:15PM

TAIWAN 2013

103 min

NC16

Some coarse language
些许粗俗语言

Mandarin with English and
Chinese subtitles
华语对白附中英文字幕

Director: Elsa Yang
导演：杨南倩

*There will be a post
screening discussion with
the Director
导演将出席映后交流



Scan to
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Print source:
Asia Entertainment International Co. Ltd.
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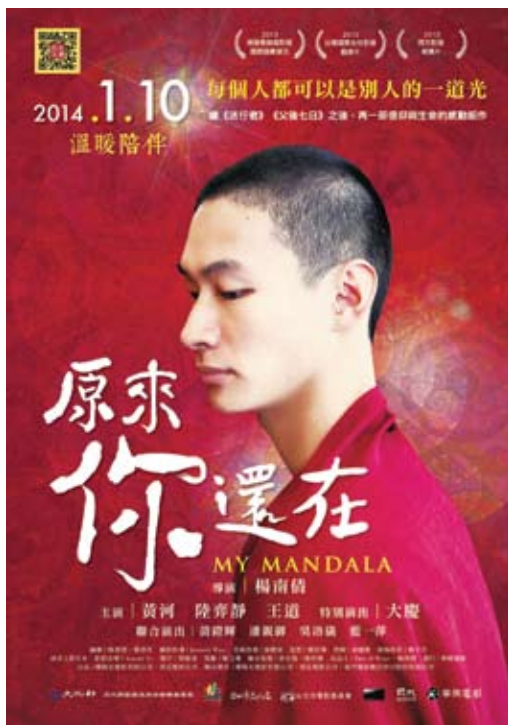
Director's Bio

Elsa Yang is a writer-director from Taiwan. She graduated from Université de Paris 8 with a Masters Degree in Film. Prior to her film career, Elsa worked as a film journalist travelling around several top international film festivals. In addition she published one novel before she wrote the script for *Return Ticket*, which won the 48th Golden Horse Award Best Original Screenplay in 2011. *MY MANDALA* is her directorial feature debut.

关于导演

杨南倩是来自台湾的编剧兼导演，毕业于法国巴黎第八大学拥有电影硕士学位

在她的电影生涯之前，艾尔莎曾作为电影记者，穿梭与世界各地的国际电影节。此外，她也出版过小说和写了《到阜阳六百里》并赢得了第48届金马奖最佳原创剧本。《原来你还在》是她的第一部自编自导的剧情长片。





周梦蝶 THE VERSE

Singapore Premiere 新加坡首映

"Life is but a dream"

This song is inspired by the poems of Chou Meng Tieh, renowned Taiwanese poet who passed away in May 2014 at the age of 92. His poems were deeply influenced by Buddhism, and he led a secluded, almost ascetic life, adding a mystical hue to his intriguing life and work.

In this artistic tribute to the enigmatic poet, who is represented by the butterfly, a literal translation of his name "Tieh", Cheer Chen lends her ethereal vocals to haunting hand-drawn animation.

台湾音乐人陈绮贞以诗人周梦蝶（1921–2014）为灵感，引用佛经中的寓言故事，歌颂诗人及作品中似幻似真的生命意象。

为了表现这首富有禅意且带有空灵气息的歌曲，导演刘耕名找到新生代插画家「手指」，创造出充满温度的逐格手绘动画，以抽象的方式阐述歌词中层层幻想的意境。

陈绮贞所谱的歌词为该曲灵魂，为配合插画的手感，影片字幕特别选用逐渐失传的老技艺「铅铸字印刷」，少了现代电脑字体的冷漠，让歌词字幕变成构图的一部份；同时保有文字的感性思维，更能营造周梦蝶诗人的时代氛围。

SAT 20 Sep | 4:00PM
THU 25 Sep | 7:15PM

TAIWAN 2013

5 min
PG

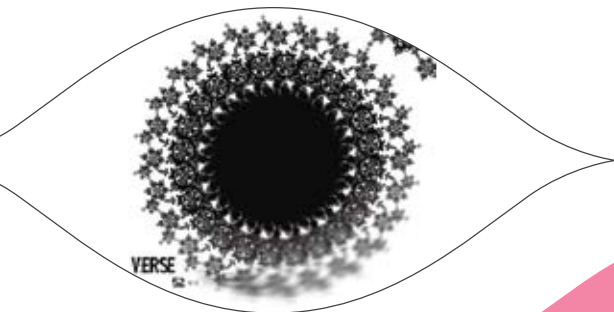
Mandarin with
Chinese subtitles
华语对白附中文字幕

Director: Liu Keng Ming
导演：刘耕名

Music: Chen Chien Chi
作曲：陈建骐

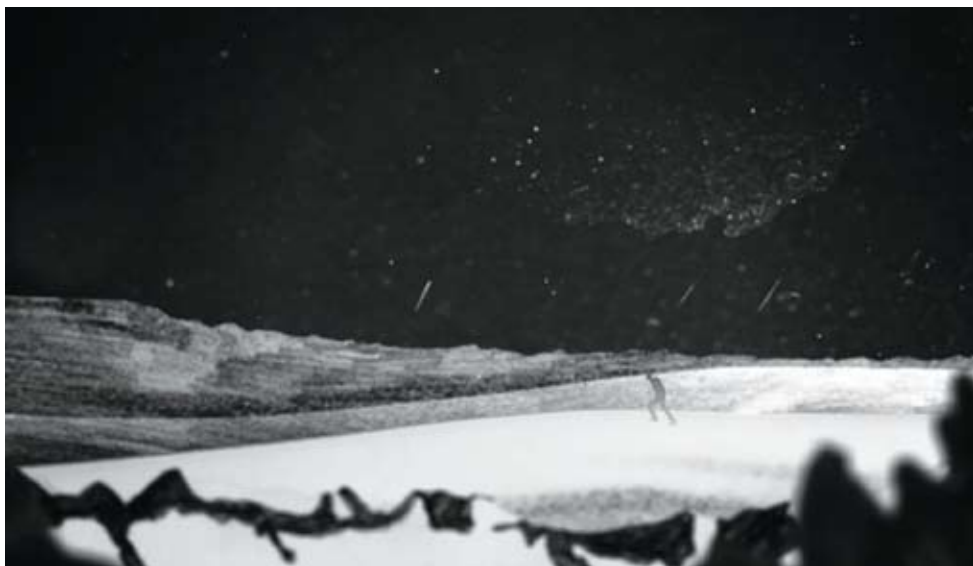
Lyrics & vocals: Cheer Chen
作词/演唱：陈绮贞

Print source:
Bito Studio (Oskar Lin)
info@bito.tv



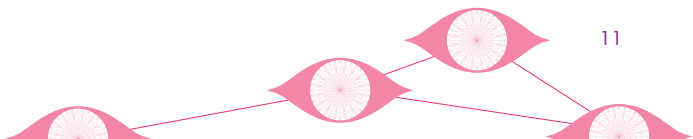
Director's Bio

Liu Keng Ming lived in New York for 9 years and works across film, television, image, TV commercials, music videos, illustrations and other fields. In 2006 his first animated short *Travel Dairy* won the first prize of Adobe Design Achievement Awards and more than 50 other awards from international film festivals. His illustrations were also used in a global shark conservation charity campaign by Discovery Channel. In 2010 Liu began working with Taiwanese independent singer Cheer Chen and won the highest global visual arts Communication Art 50 Anniversary Animation Award. In 2012, Facebook invited him to direct a global promotion films in nine languages. Liu is currently travelling between New York and Taipei, actively promoting the motion graphics design concept in Asia through his company Bito Design Studio.



关于导演

刘耕名旅居纽约九年，作品横跨电影、电视台、形象、电视广告、音乐录影带、插画等领域。2006年初试啼声，以首支动画短片*Travel Dairy*拿下Adobe设计成就奖首奖，其后多支作品获逾50个世界影展及奖项。Discovery探索频道举办全球鲨鱼保护活动，即以他的插画创作进行慈善义卖。2010年与独立歌手陈绮贞跨界合作，以独树一格的风格荣获全球视觉艺术的最高殿堂Communication Art 50周年动画大奖。2012年，Facebook邀请他执导九国语言的全球宣传影片。目前刘耕名在纽约、台北两地奔波，在亚洲积极推广动态图像的设计概念，并创立以亚洲第一动态图像设计工作室为目标的Bito。





MATTHIEU RICARD ON THE PATH TO COMPASSION

Singapore Premiere

Born to a philosopher father and artist mother in France, Matthieu Ricard grew up among the personalities and ideas of French intellectuals.

After completing his doctoral thesis in molecular genetics, Matthieu Ricard decided to forsake his scientific career and concentrate on the practice of Tibetan Buddhism. He lived in the Himalayas studying with great masters of the tradition and became the close student and attendant of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche until the latter's death in 1991.

Since then, Matthieu Ricard has dedicated his life to fulfilling Khyentse Rinpoche's vision. In 2000 he co-founded Karuna Shechen, a humanitarian organization that provides education, health care, and social services to the needy in the greater Himalayan region. Dubbed "the happiest man in the world" by popular media, Matthieu Ricard is also engaged in research on the effect of mind training on the brain.

This film allows us to discover the intricate links between mind training and compassion, told through the life story of a man who has devoted his life to both practices.

ALSO WATCH

YANGSI, a film about the reincarnation of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, who was Matthieu Ricard's teacher – page 30

SAT 20 Sep | 7:00PM

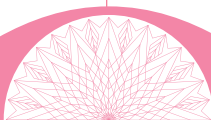
FRANCE 2011

52 min
PG

French and English with
English subtitles

Director:
Jeanne Mascolo de Filippis

Print source:
Wide House (Yael Chouraqui)
+33 153950465
festivals@widemanagement.com

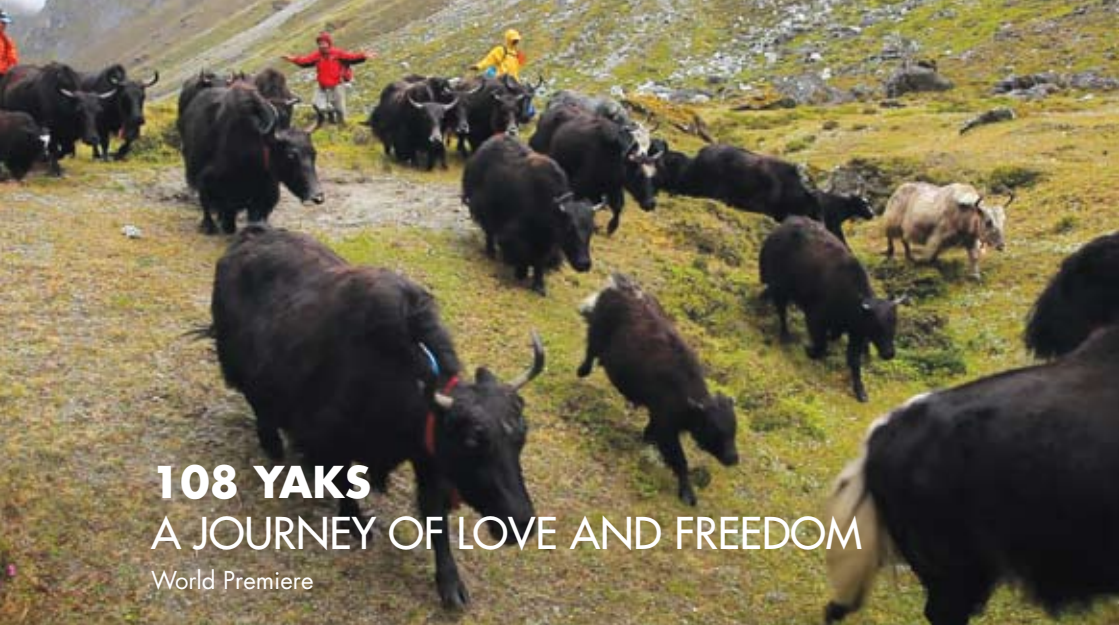


Director's Bio

Born in Paris where she still lives nowadays, Jeanne Mascolo always had an intense passion for travelling. At the age of 24 she hitchhiked through India and the Himalayas with a friend, not knowing that this love for the land and Tibetan culture will change her life. From 1978 to 1987, Jeanne organised and led tours in Asia, particularly the Himalayan region.

She co-directed *Around the World with Tippi* (2004), a documentary series about a girl who spent 10 years of her childhood in the African bush.





108 YAKS

A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND FREEDOM

World Premiere

Inspired by the teachings of his guru Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche, a monk leads a herd of 108 Himalayan yaks across a rugged terrain of mountain passes, narrow valleys, freezing rivers and treacherous cliffs to a remote haven in the high grasslands of northeastern Nepal, where the foot prints of Guru Rinpoche are said to be. The monk bears the hardship on every step of this extraordinary journey, overcoming the odds to save these wonderful animals and grants them liberation. This documentary is a collaborative effort between a dedicated team of 22 Nepalese herders and porters known as the Sherpas, and a group of Singaporean volunteers.

SAT 20 Sep | 7:00PM*

NEPAL 2012

34 min

PG13

Some disturbing scenes

English with English and
Chinese subtitles

Director:

Geshe Thubten Jinpa
(Kopan Monastery)

*There will be a post
screening discussion with
the Director

Print source:

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Director's Bio

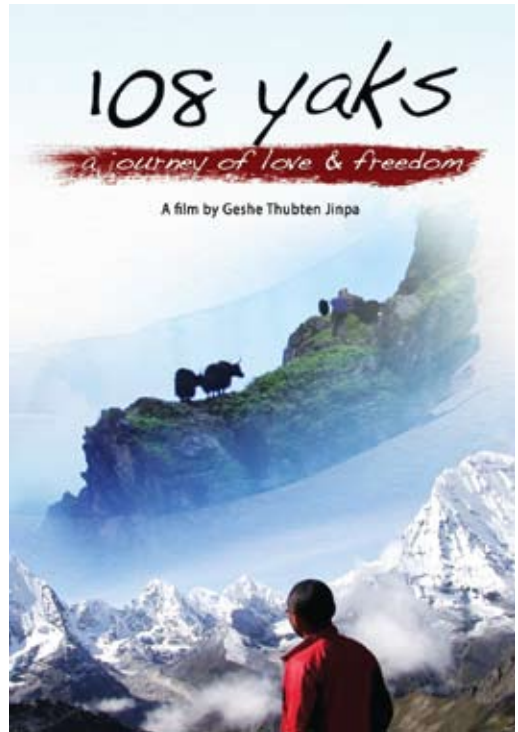
Geshe Thubten Jinpa Sherpa is a Buddhist monk who was ordained and studied in Kopan monastery near Kathmandu, Nepal. Geshe Jinpa did his Masters in Buddhist Philosophy and had travelled widely in Asian countries and Europe, serving his guru Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche. A revered Buddhist master, Lama Zopa Rinpoche is one of the pioneers who brought Tibetan Buddhism to the West and leads a global network of Buddhist centres and community service centres.

Since a young age, Geshe Jinpa was inspired and fascinated by his gurus' love for animals and strong practice of vegetarianism. Although Geshe Jinpa has no access to the modern technology of videography at the monastery, he has always felt that much joy and wisdom could be expressed from behind the camera. 108 YAKS is a culmination of his love for animals and filmmaking.

Director's Note

Unlike humans who are endowed with perfect physical form and blessed to seek medical help when they need it, cook and eat the food that they like, animals live in constant fear of predators. Animals also face constant threat from humans who infringe upon their natural habitats by burning forests and poaching them for various food products and goods.

But animals are just like us human beings. They share and experience the same emotions of happiness and suffering as we do. Sometimes, just for our little comfort, we undermine the lives of these beings who deserve to be cared and loved in the same way as we do. As fellow living beings on planet Earth, it is our moral responsibility to look after the happiness of all other humble beings and help them! If not, the very least we can do is not harm them.





THE BUDDHA'S FORGOTTEN NUNS

Singapore Premiere

Wiriya was raised a Buddhist, but like many women who wish to advance in their practice, she came up against walls of sexism within the traditional Theravada order. Is Buddhism a religious movement based on equality? Or is it rooted in a male dominated culture found in almost all other religions? The Buddha Himself invited women to join his group of disciples as female monks – or bhikkhunis – and allowed them to be ordained alongside men some 2500 years ago. What happened?

This documentary sets out to find out how the role of women in Buddhism changed so drastically and why so few women's orders remain today. Wiriya travels to Buddhist centres around the world, interviews nuns and monks, and examines the cultural baggage that has accumulated around the Buddha's teachings. Will the Bhikkhuni movement expand beyond a few independent-minded Western communities and gain momentum in still traditionally male-oriented cultures?

SUN 21 Sep | 2:15PM

AUSTRALIA 2013

34 min

PG

English with no subtitles

Director:
Wiriya Sati



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Budaya Productions (Katrina Lucas)
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trina@budaya.com.au



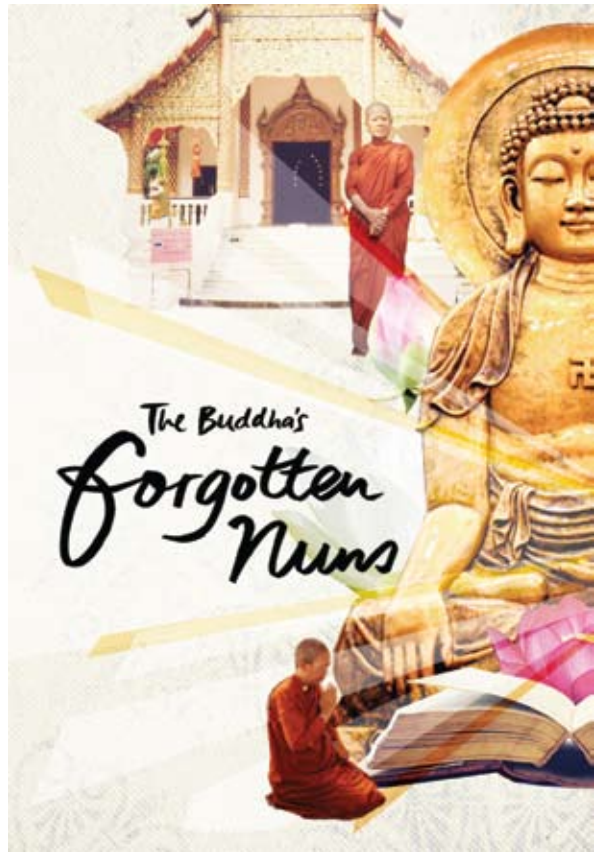
Director's Bio

Wiriya Sati is a documentary filmmaker, working as an ABC Open Producer for the last three years, with an interest in collaborative projects that empower people to tell their story, and a special interest with Indigenous film and media. She previously worked in central Australia for a period of five years, collaborating with Aboriginal filmmakers to help tell stories of their culture and spirituality through documentary films, as well as training and facilitating Aboriginal media. She has worked with National Indigenous Television (NITV), Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) and Pitjantjatjarra Yankuntjatjarra Media (PY Media).

Director's Note

Having completed the film I feel several things at once. Relief that we've come this far with it after such a long journey, both with my personal practice and seeing this subject unfold over the past eight years. Excitement, that the film is receiving thoughtful and positive feedback. Lastly a great sense of achievement that we've made a film that is a historical document about this complex subject.

Over the course of six years I travelled to five countries and filmed over 40 hours of material. The final piece is just over 30 minutes long, so it was challenging to edit! It by no means attempts to explain the entire history of Bhikkhunis, or explore in depth, the situations addressed within the film. The film is made to provide an introductory view into the range of issues that surround women's place in Buddhism and how revolutionary events unfold.





THE GOLDEN LAND OF MYANMAR

Asian Premiere

Enter the world called Suvanabhumi, the Golden Land in the Mon State of Myanmar, a beautiful and auspicious land that has remained a hidden treasure, unseen and untouched by the modern world. THE GOLDEN LAND OF MYANMAR explores this magical land with rare, never before seen footage of the communities, countryside and the numerous ancient Buddhist pagodas recently rediscovered and renovated by the Abbot, Venerable Kyaithisaung Sayadaw.

Monasteries and communities of villagers surround this beautiful place that has remained essentially unchanged from the time Buddhism first arrived over 2500 years ago. Travel to this timeless place of peace, tranquility and compassion for a rare glimpse of the majestic vistas of this ancient Buddhist land.

SUN 21 Sep | 2:15PM

USA 2014

63 min
PG

English with English subtitles

Director:
Shoshana Cathy Korson
(Daw Sanda Wadi)



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:

Shoshana Cathy Korson
(Daw Sanda Wadi)
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Drow Millar
+1 415-297-9013
drowmillar@mac.com



Director's Bio

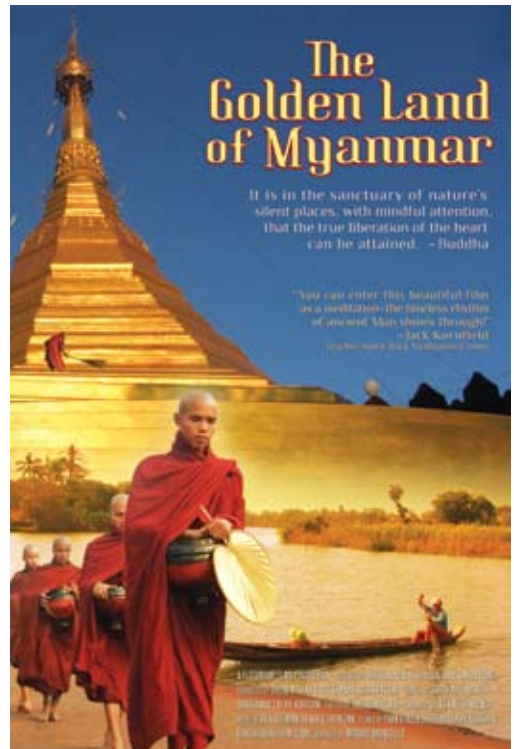
While traveling in Asia in 2002, Shoshana fulfilled a long held dream when she took a trip to visit the beautiful golden Shwedagon Pagoda in Myanmar. While wandering the grounds of this majestic spiritual site, she found herself inexplicably drawn to a Burmese monk who graciously invited her to his remote monastery in the south of Myanmar. At the monastery she experienced his openhearted teachings and felt this was a path she wanted to follow. She returned to America greatly inspired by the disciplines and practice of Theravada Buddhism. On her 50th birthday she traveled back to Myanmar, accepting the Venerable monk's invitation to be ordained as a Buddhist nun and was given the Burmese name "Daw Sanda Wadi". She shaved her head and donned the traditional robes, knowing her life would never be the same. It is her love and appreciation for the true simplicity, beauty and refinement that Myanmar so exquisitely exemplifies, that drew her to the creation of this film. Shoshana considers Myanmar her home, and this film was developed over her many years of living in the monastery.

Director's Note

"It is in the sanctuary of nature's silent places, with true mindfulness, that the liberation of the heart can be attained." - *Buddha*

This opening quote from the film goes straight to the heart of the Golden Land. It is a sanctuary so deep, pure, thoroughly embodying the guiding principles of Buddhism that being there felt like the Buddha is alive. The experience of living and practicing in this sacred holy land brings to life the Buddha's Teachings in a timeless and transformative way. Suvanabhumi has managed to protect the purity and truth of the Dharma by living it fully. Within the sanctuary of this golden land, mindfulness and the liberation of the heart are deeply cultivated.

This beautiful precious land holds the Buddha's Teachings in its embrace like no other. We of the West can only marvel that a place such as this still exists in the modern world. It is worth honoring, preserving and protecting for future generations.





ROOM TO BREATHE

Asian Premiere

Marina Middle School, San Francisco – a weekday home to almost 1,000 children who regularly hurl strong language and exhibit raw physicality towards one another. Topping the district in disciplinary suspensions, overcrowded classrooms and a nearly impossible learning environment, overwhelmed administrators turn to meditation teacher, Megan Cowan, for help. Confronted by the defiance and poor discipline of the class of seventh graders, will she repeat the cycle of forcing tuned-out children to listen, or experiment with a set of age-old practices for the inner self? Will this new method provide them with the social and emotional skills that they need to succeed?

This film highlights the importance for inward reflection to be taught in schools, for children to learn a new approach to living their lives.

SUN 21 Sep | 4:45PM

USA 2012

76 min

PG13

Brief coarse language

English with no subtitles

Director:

Russell Long



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:

Russell Long

+1-800-475-2638

russell@roomtobreathefilm.com



Director's Bio

Russell Long was executive producer for the award-winning films *Someplace With A Mountain* (2010) and *A Sheltered Sea* (2008). He was also executive producer of *Sweet Dreams* (2012), and co-executive producer of *The Island President* (2012). As an environmental activist earlier in his career, he founded the environmental group Bluewater Network and was responsible for numerous state and federal laws including the United States' first law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He received his B.A. from Harvard, MBA from Columbia, and attended Columbia's Graduate Film Program. He serves on the Board of Friends of the Earth in Washington, D. C.

Director's Note

As a full-time environmental activist prior to making ROOM TO BREATHE, I fought corporate polluters in legislative hearing rooms, courtrooms, boardrooms, shareholder meetings and then one day realised we were only combating the symptoms of these problems. The real problems were far deeper, tied to our culture's pervasive disconnection from the natural world, our families, and our own deeper selves.

I made ROOM TO BREATHE to try to examine the potential for tackling these problems through social and emotional learning programs focused on the nation's youth, in public school classrooms. I believe these programs offer great promise for helping kids reconnect with their innermost selves, our society, and the natural world. And as those kids mature, they will hopefully carry this new level of awareness into the world. This has certainly been proven to me as result of my own inner practice of doing transcendental meditation in my teens, and later, mindfulness.

It has been said that as our children go, so goes the nation. I believe this is true, and that teaching our children how to foster deeper connections with themselves through inward reflection will lead to greater connections with the natural world, with family and society.





ON THE ROAD

Singapore Premiere

"I left a letter at home."

Sangook, studying abroad after graduating from a prestigious university, finds her calling in a Zen centre. Afraid to be persuaded by her family to postpone her departure, she leaves a letter at home which devastates her parents. Sunwoo, who lost her parents at a young age, questions if she is destined to take the monastic path.

Baekheung-am Temple rarely opens its doors to public and is one of Korea's most restricted areas. **ON THE ROAD** follows the lives of four Korean women, each with their own stories, who have decided to become Buddhist nuns. For 300 days, Director Lee Chang-jae opens a window to their world, as he spends four beautiful seasons with the nuns at Baekheung-am Temple. This feature-length documentary promises a beautiful side of Korea that has been well-hidden until now.

SUN 21 Sep | 7:00PM

SOUTH KOREA 2012

104 min
PG

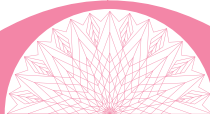
Korean with English subtitles

Director:
Lee Chang-jae



Scan to
watch trailer

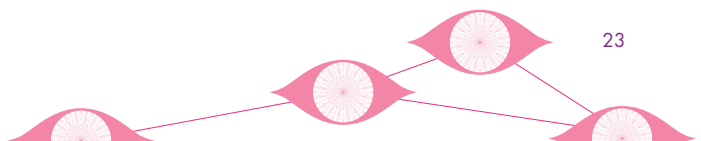
Print source:
Between Pictures
dada717@hanmail.net



Director's Bio

Lee Chang-jae was first acknowledged in many international film festivals in 2004, with his feature-length documentary *Edit*. His documentary successes continued with *Between* in 2006, and *ON THE ROAD* in 2012, which has drawn further public attention by revealing the world of Buddhist nuns that was never previously exposed.

Lee Chang-jae graduated from School of Art Institute of Chicago with a Master of Fine Arts. He also graduated from the Department of Law at Han-Yang University. He is currently an Associate Professor of Film Department (MFA Course) at Chung-Ang University.



SCHEDULE

DATE & TIME	FILM
SAT 20 Sep 1:00PM	OPENING FILM: AVALOKITESVARA 不肯去观音 POPIAH 薄饼
SAT 20 Sep 4:00PM	MY MANDALA 原来你还在* THE VERSE 周梦蝶
SAT 20 Sep 7:00PM	MATTHIEU RICARD - ON THE PATH TO COMPASSION 108 YAKS - A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND FREEDOM*
SUN 21 Sep 2:15PM	THE BUDDHA'S FORGOTTEN NUNS THE GOLDEN LAND OF MYANMAR
SUN 21 Sep 4:45PM	ROOM TO BREATHE
SUN 21 Sep 7:00PM	ON THE ROAD
MON 22 Sep 7:30PM	HAPPY
TUE 23 Sep 7:00PM	THREE MARKS OF EXISTENCE*
WED 24 Sep 7:30PM	YANGSI - REINCARNATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING
THU 25 Sep 7:15PM	MY MANDALA 原来你还在 THE VERSE 周梦蝶
FRI 26 Sep 6:50PM	SHIP OF THESEUS
SAT 27 Sep 11:30AM	AVALOKITESVARA 不肯去观音 POPIAH 薄饼
SAT 27 Sep 2:30PM	THE SUN BEATEN PATH 太阳总在左边
SAT 27 Sep 5:00PM	OSAMU TEZUKA'S BUDDHA 2

* There will be a post screening discussion with the Director

FILM CLASSIFICATION

Parental Guidance (PG)

Suitable for all, but parents should guide their young

DIRECTOR	COUNTRY	YEAR	RUNTIME(min)	RATING
Zhang Xin	China	2013	110	PG
Royston Tan	Singapore	2013	14	PG
Elsa Yang	Taiwan	2013	103	NC16
Liu Keng Ming	Taiwan	2013	5	PG
Jeanne Mascolo de Filippis	France	2011	52	PG
Geshe Thubten Jinpa	Nepal	2012	34	PG13
Wiriya Sati	Australia	2013	34	PG
Shoshana Cathy Korson	USA	2014	63	PG
Russell Long	USA	2012	76	PG13
Lee Chang-jae	South Korea	2012	104	PG
Roko Belic	USA	2011	75	PG13
Gunparwitt Phuwadolwisid	Thailand	2012	114	PG13
Mark Elliot	USA	2012	82	PG
Elsa Yang	Taiwan	2013	103	NC16
Liu Keng Ming	Taiwan	2013	5	PG
Anand Gandhi	India	2012	149	NC16
Zhang Xin	China	2013	110	PG
Royston Tan	Singapore	2013	14	PG
Sonthar Gyal	China	2011	89	PG
Toshiaki Komura	Japan	2013	86	PG13

All information is correct at the time of print. For updates, please visit www.thisfilmfest.com

Parental Guidance 13 (PG13)

Suitable for person aged 13 and above but parental guidance is advised for children below 13

No Children Under 16 (NC16)

Suitable for person aged 16 and above



HAPPY

Singapore Premiere

This film will transport audience from the bayous of Louisiana to the deserts of Namibia, from the beaches of Brazil to the mountains of Bhutan. Happiness is a universal concept, yet at times people need to be told how to be happy. Take in the wisdom of a Kolkata rickshaw driver, the compassion of a volunteer at Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying and the unexpected findings from some of the world's leading researchers of happiness. Realisation dawns on middle school students who applaud the bravery of their peers during a moving presentation on bullying. HAPPY combines real-life human stories with scientific evidence to provide insights into the mysteries of happiness.

MON 22 Sep | 7:30PM

USA 2011

75 min

PG13

Some nudity

English with no subtitles

Director:

Roko Belic



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
The Happy Team
info@thehappy movie.com



Director's Bio

An Academy Award® nominee and Sundance Award winner, Roko Belic was born to Czechoslovak and Yugoslav parents in America. In 1996 he founded the film production company Wadi Rum with his brother Adrian. His directorial debut, *Genghis Blues* (1999), which the brothers shot using home video cameras, was nominated for an Academy Award® for best documentary feature. Roko's multinational upbringing, together with his mother's encouragement to explore the world through television documentaries, set the foundation for his passion and vision as a filmmaker. Roko has worked in numerous capacities during his career, including director of photography, editor, writer, producer and director.

Director's Review

Six years in the making, the film is full of insight from happiness researchers, positive psychologists and real people from every demographic, all asking the question: What lies at the core of a human being's happiness? Roko Belic says his favorite take-away from the movie is how important feeling and expressing gratitude is to our happiness. If you write a letter thanking someone from your past, he says, even if you don't mail it, you'll feel happier for days. If you do mail it, you'll feel it for longer, and if they respond in kindness, it may change your entire outlook. "Start saying thank you, and meaning it," he says.

- excerpt from review published on *Forbes.com*





THREE MARKS OF EXISTENCE

Singapore Premiere

M, a young man who wishes for a better life embarks on a lone pilgrimage to India, visiting the four main holy sites of Buddhism: Lumbini, the Buddha's birth place, Sarnath, where Buddha delivered His first Teachings, Bodh Gaya, the place where Buddha gained Enlightenment, and Kusinara, the place of Buddha's Parinibbana. On his journey, he meets people who shape his understanding of Buddhism in many unexpected ways. Uncle Kamol, who hopes to heal his own pain; Ayako, a Japanese backpacker searching for an answer to a question she does not understand; and Jane, a "hipster" who has everything M could ever want but is never satisfied. To achieve what he wishes for, M will have to take one last journey in order to face the origin of suffering.

TUE 23 Sep | 7:00PM*

THAILAND 2012

114 min

PG13

Some sexual references

Thai and English with
English subtitles

Director:

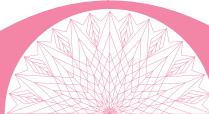
Gunpar Witt Phuwalodwisid

*There will be a post
screening discussion with
the Director



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
N-Do Production Co Ltd
(Gunpar Witt Phuwalodwisid)
+6682 353 8656
note281@hotmail.com



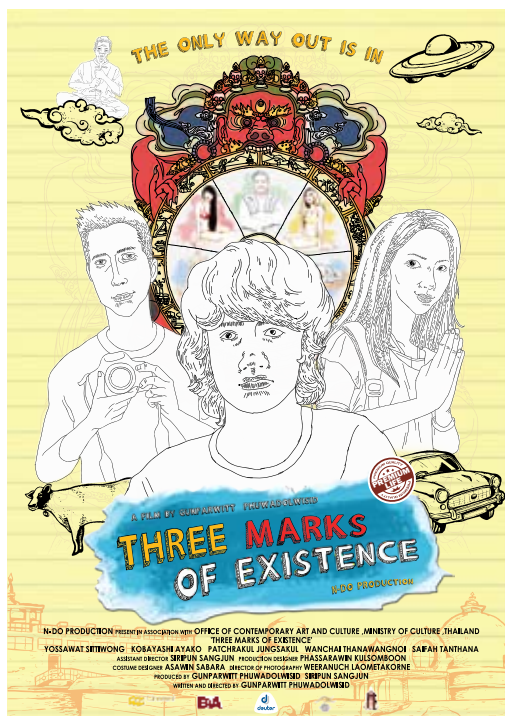
Director's Bio

Gunparwitt Phuwadolwisid was born in 1980 in Uttaradit, a city in the north of Thailand. He obtained a B.A. in Mass Communication from Chiang Mai University and a M.A. of the Motion Pictures and Still Photography from Chulalongkorn University. In 2005, he was a Fellow Participant of the Asian Film Academy at Pusan International Film Festival and received guidance from Dean Mr. Hou Hsiao Hsien and Mentor Mr. Yu Lik-Wai. He completed his first independent feature, *THREE MARKS OF EXISTENCE* in 2012 and is currently the Director and Producer of N-Do Production Co Ltd, which he founded in 2010.

Director's Note

What makes a person become what he thinks he is? Is it appearance, thought or feeling? Does selfhood really exist or is it just a consequence of mind activity? About seven years ago, after a pilgrimage trip to India, I realised that as a Buddhist, I knew nothing about it. All I got was a belief and faith that did not seem to answer my question - How to end the suffering forever?

After studying more about Buddhism, I began to understand that it is a theory of how the mind works. With this knowledge and a lot of practice, life can be easier to manage. Unfortunately this perspective seems to be less important in a ritual centric Thai society. So I decided to make *THREE MARKS OF EXISTENCE* to deliver the heart of Buddhism to the audience. It was challenging to transform abstract concepts of Buddhism to a form of storytelling on film. But at the same time it was fun to deconstruct the self to reveal self grasping and attachment. *THREE MARKS OF EXISTENCE* is a puzzle to discover what is Buddhism and what really exists.





YANGSI REINCARNATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Singapore Premiere

Following the personal life story of Ugyen Tenzin Jigme Lhundrup, also known as Yangsi Khyentse Rinpoche, the reincarnation of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, the film unfolds over 14 years. It provides intimate glimpses into Yangsi's life as he undergoes spiritual training before assuming his responsibilities to perpetuate the legacy of his predecessor, one of the most revered Tibetan Masters of the 20th century. Narrated by Yangsi himself, the story delves into his personal experience of being "recognized", his doubts and concerns, his determination and conviction to fulfill his duty. How will his teachers guide his development amidst traditional and modern influences? What does this unique inheritance mean to him? YANGSI paints a unique and honest coming-of-age story about the lineage of Tibetan Buddhism as it explores Yangsi's hesitations and how he overcomes obstacles with his unusual strength of character.

WED 24 Sep | 7:30PM

USA 2012

82 min
PG

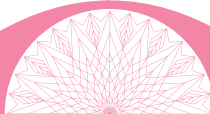
English and Tibetan
with English subtitles

Director:
Mark Elliot



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Crestone Films (Mark Elliott)
+1 719 256 4764
mark@crestonefilms.com



Director's Bio

Mark Elliott has been making documentary films since the early 1970's, when he walked into Dharamsala, India, with a primitive video camera and made a film on Tibetans in exile at the invitation of the Dalai Lama. His films include *The Lion's Roar*, the acclaimed portrait of the Sixteenth Karmapa; *Concert in the Sky* featuring the high wire walker Philippe Petit; *Crow Dog's Paradise* with the Lakota medicine men Henry and Leonard Crow Dog; and *Eros, Love and Lies* with R.D. Laing. His films were shown on television internationally, and in the US through outlets such as The Discovery Channel, Landmark Theaters and PBS Network.

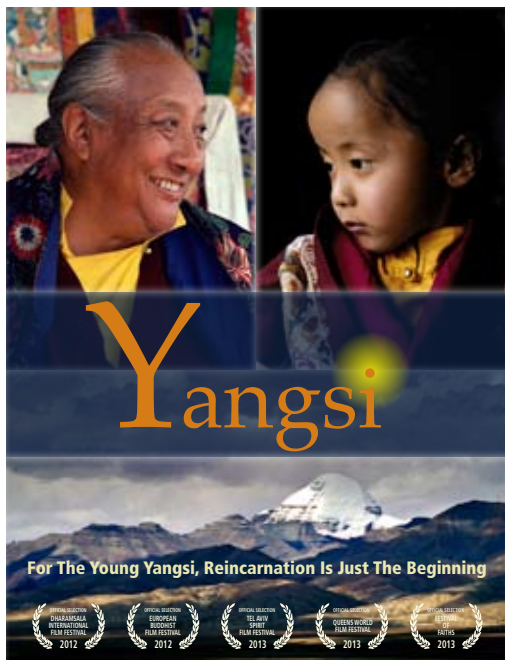
Director's Note

YANGSI is the most personal film I have made. It follows the path of a four-year old boy, the incarnation of one of the most revered Tibetan Lamas of the 20th century, from early childhood until he reaches maturity. The lama, Dilgo Khyenste Rinpoche was the teacher of my teacher, and the boy an enchanting little being with whom I made an immediate connection when I first met him at the age of four.

One of my first thoughts was, this young boy had a lot to live up to. How does he deal with the expectations placed upon him? How will the Yangsi relate with the modern world? How does he face the challenge of preserving his ancient lineage and making it relevant?

Originally I had planned to film his enthronement in Boudhanath, Nepal. But then it occurred to me that it would be very worthwhile to keep filming him over the years to see how he grew up, and how he met these challenges. So I returned every few years to capture various chapters in his development. Much of YANGSI was filmed in Bhutan, where he receives his training in this beautiful and isolated mountain kingdom.

Making this film has been a wonderfully satisfying journey. The complete friendliness and openness, with which I was treated by Yangsi, his teachers and attendants, as well as his birth family, was quite stunning. Now 19 years old, Yangsi has fully come into his inheritance, showing a wisdom and maturity far beyond his years. It has been a privilege to get to know him, and to share my experience of him in this film.





SHIP OF THESEUS

Singapore Premiere

If the parts of a ship are replaced, bit-by-bit, is it still the same ship?

An unusual photographer grapples with the loss of her intuitive brilliance as an aftermath of a clinical procedure; an erudite monk, who is a practitioner of non-violence and animal rights activists, confronting an ethical dilemma with a long held ideology, has to choose between principle and death; a young stockbroker, following the trail of a stolen kidney, learns how intricate morality can be.

Following the separate strands of their philosophical journeys, and their eventual convergence, SHIP OF THESEUS explores questions of identity, justice, beauty, meaning and death.

FRI 26 Sep | 6:50PM

INDIA 2012

149 min

NC16

Some coarse language

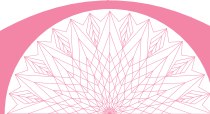
Various languages
with English subtitles

Director:
Anand Gandhi



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Fortissimo Films (Laura Talsma)
+3120-627-3215
laura@fortissimo.nl



Director's Bio

Anand Gandhi is a filmmaker, playwright and artist, deeply interested in philosophy, evolutionary psychology and magic. His work in theatre, television and short cinema has been appreciated by audiences around the world, and has won him several prestigious awards in the past decade. SHIP OF THESEUS is his first feature. He is now engaged in producing cutting edge contemporary world cinema under his banner Recyclewala Films.

Director's Note

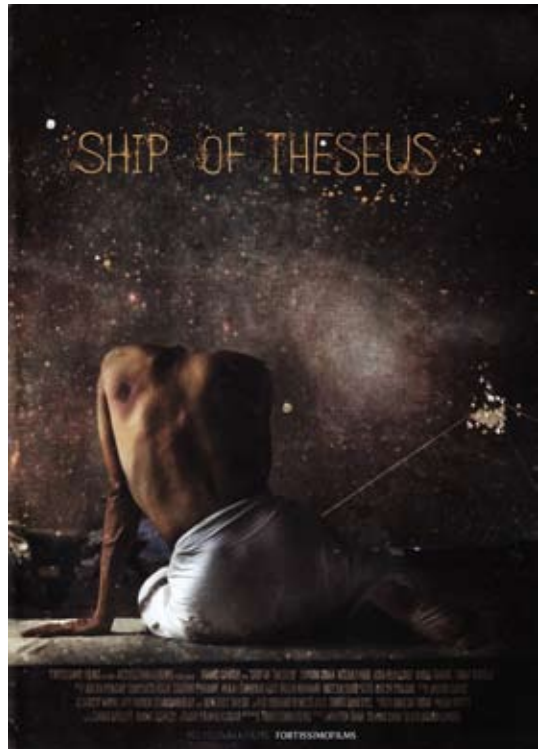
What got you thinking about the themes you've explored in *Ship of Theseus*?

Questions we had as children were the very questions that triggered everything off. When I was three or four or five years old, I started to question my identity: who am I? Where do I come from and what the hell it is I'm doing here? As you grow older you realise that these questions are really vast and too wide for the answer to make sense. The quest was to try and find that equation.

Were there any objections from viewers over the portrayal of a Jain monk fasting unto death?

He's not a Jain monk. It's a fictitious religion that we've created for the film. A lot of people assume he's Jain because there are similarities. But there is as much dissimilarity. The rituals in their world are fictitious but draw from Jainism, Buddhism and some other traditions. The reason I wanted to create a fictitious religion was that I didn't want it to become a story about context and politics. I wanted it to be a story about an ethical internal dilemma. I wanted the focus to be on the ethical dilemma.

- excerpt from interview with Anand Gandhi published on Mumbaiboss.com





太阳总在左边 THE SUN BEATEN PATH

Singapore Premiere 新加坡首映

On his way home from a long pilgrimage to Lhasa, Nima is still haunted by the guilt and pain from causing his own mother's death. Traversing the vast Gobi desert alone on foot, a forlorn Nima meets an unlikely companion in an old man who will follow him on his path across Tibet's No Man's Land. The story follows Nima's journey across the Gobi Desert after his arduous pilgrimage to Lhasa and the passing of a loved one. Beneath a moving tale of redemption is a powerful contemplation on the Buddhist concepts of attachment and impermanence.

主人公尼玛将亲身母亲碾压致死，无法抑制内心的悲痛和自责，带着渗有母亲血迹的一把黄土，只身磕着等身长头朝拜拉萨，却依然没有消解无时不在的悲痛和自责。返程途中，尼玛遇见一位坦荡执着、又空虚失落的老者，两人穿行在茫茫戈壁滩，相互影响，相互救赎，终于让主人公重新获得生存的勇气和自我的释然，将渗有母亲血迹的黄土撒在原来酿成惨剧的地方。影片通过主人公特定的经历和心灵体验，探寻和追问生活迷茫和内心失落背后的生存价值和生命意识，引领观众与主人公一道找回生命中的阳光。

SAT 27 Sep | 2:30PM

CHINA 中国 2011

89 min
PG

Tibetan with English and
Chinese subtitles
藏语附中英文字幕

Director: Sonthar Gyal
导演：松太加



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
The Film Library (Alexandra Sun)
+852-2860-0033
thefilmlibrary@aol.com



Director's Bio

Born into an art teacher's family in the Tibetan region of Amdo, Sonthar Gyal grew up amongst shepherds and herdsmen in Qinghai Province and was taught to draw 'thagkhas' - traditional Buddhist paintings - by his father. He worked as an art teacher, a curator at the Tongde Cultural Museum and graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts at the Qinghai Normal University in 2003. Sonthar's dream to become a filmmaker came true when he received a grant to study at the Beijing Film Academy for two years, majoring in cinematography. He became a prominent member of the first generation of Tibetan filmmakers making films in the Tibetan language, as an art director or cinematographer. Amongst others he regularly collaborated with Pema Tsedan on many of his films such as *The Search* and *The Silent Holy Stones*.

关于导演

出生于安多藏区青海省一个艺术老师的家，松太加自幼跟父亲学习绘画传统佛教唐卡，在草原上与牧民一起度过童年。2003年毕业于青海师范大学美术系，担任过美术老师和同德文化博物馆的策展人。收到前往北京电影学院主修摄影的补助金那一年，松太加想成为电影人的梦想终于实现了。毕业后，他成为第一代以藏语拍片的藏族导演之一，也曾以美术与摄影身份参与《寻找智美更登》、《静静的嘛呢石》等获奖影片。

Director's Note

My father told me a story from the Buddhist scriptures when I was a child: A grieving mother who could not accept the death of her young son went to the Buddha and asked him how to bring her son back to life. Buddha told her to go look for a kind of herb called the 'lucky herb', which would save her son. He said this herb could be found in homes where no one from the family had died before. The woman went from house to house, ceaselessly seeking the 'lucky herb' that could save her son. But there was not a single family that had not experienced death before and thus she could not find any 'lucky herb'. Buddha then said: "Now you understand there is no family that has not experienced death before. With every phenomenon in the world, every creation comes destruction, where there is life there must be death." In life, we will always come to experience the passing of some of our loved ones, and may be overshadowed with grief. But regardless, things never stay the same, and as long as one can see impermanence as the natural order of everything, one will be able to face all pain calmly. Life, will always go on.

太阳总在左边

松太加 作品





OSAMU TEZUKA'S BUDDHA 2

Singapore Premiere

India, 2500 years ago. Siddhartha, heir to the throne of the Shakya Kingdom, gives up his royal privilege to embark on a great quest. He embarks on his seemingly endless journey accompanied by Assaji, a mysterious boy who can foretell the future, and Dhepa, a one-eyed trainee monk. He witnesses what has become of Migaila, the woman he once loved, and the tragic death of Assaji who had prophesied his own end. Siddhartha is tormented by the suffering and death that humankind cannot escape from.

Meanwhile, there is an upheaval over the secrecy concerning the birth of the Prince Virudhaka of Kosala Kingdom. The outraged Kosalan prince with his subservient giant, Yatala, makes a move on Shakya, once Siddhartha's home and the root cause of his anguish.

A man who gave up his country and a man determined to destroy it — Siddhartha and Prince Virudhaka. Their worlds start spinning rapidly when their paths cross.



SAT 27 Sep | 5:00PM

JAPAN 2013

86 min

PG13

Some disturbing scenes

Japanese with
English subtitles

Director:
Toshiaki Komura



Scan to
watch trailer

Print source:
Toei Company Co., Ltd.
(Daichi Yashiki)
+81 3-3535-7621
dai_yashiki@toei.co.jp



Director's Bio

Toshiaki Komura made his debut with the television anime *Genji Tsuushin Agedama* (ゲンジ通信あげだま, Murasaki Shikibu Genji Monogatari) in 1991. After joining Toei Animation, Komura's major works include *Yes! Pretty Cure 5* (Yes! プリキュア5, Yes! Purikyua 5, 2007), *Digimon Fusion Battle* (デジモンクロスウォーズ, Dejimon Kurosu Woozu, 2010) and *Toriko* (トリコ, 2011). Toshiaki Komura is acclaimed for depicting heartwarming, realistic human dramas with a touch of fantasy in his storytelling.

Production Note

The film is based on the original comic series *Buddha* by Osamu Tezuka, the master of comics, known for his masterpieces including *Astro Boy* and *Black Jack*. He devoted 10 years to complete this epic series, which has been read around the world. The original comic is a two-time winner of the Eisner Award, said to be the Oscars of the comics industry. Not just a simple biography or tale, the series has been winning many fans as it tells the story as an entertainment spectacular involving a grand scale and great imagination.

BUDDHA 2 is part of an epic saga that transcends the realms of animation, powerfully depicting the battle scenes and the spectacles of nature as well as the inner struggles of the characters. Just like the first film *Buddha The Great Departure* which was screened in 30 countries, this film has drawn international attention with its imaginative dramatisation of the Buddha's life story.



84000

TRANSLATING THE WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

Die
Worte des
Buddha übersetzen
बुद्धवचनानुवादः
Traduire les
paroles du
Bouddha
Переводя
Будды
слова

बुद्धवचन अनुवाद

Traduciendo las palabras del Buddha

Oversette ordene til Buddha

만대장경 번역 佛典傳譯

Μεταφράζοντας τα λόγια του Βούδα

Prekladame Buddovy slova

မြတ်စွာဘုရားတရားကို အဘွားပြန်ခြင်း

แปลพระพุทธพจน์สู่สากล

Buddanin sozderin audaramyz

বগবদ্ভবসবস্তুসি 팔만대장경 번역

Traducendo le parole del Buddha

ブツダの言葉の翻訳

Menterjemahkan sabda-sabda Buddha

To access the latest translations of the Buddha's words, please visit www.84000.co

*This advertisement was generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

ABOUT US

Buddhist Fellowship (BF) is a non-sectarian Buddhist organisation. Our membership consists of like-minded Buddhists from various traditions who share the Buddha Dhamma to promote the path of higher happiness and spiritual fellowship.

WELCOME



ABOUT DHAMMA

Recognising how the world has changed and yet the Dhamma remains relevant, Buddhist Fellowship strives to ensure that the Dhamma is propagated in contemporary language and forms.

Sunday:

Service in English and Bahasa Indonesian

Weekday:

Dhamma Classes, Pali Sutta Chanting and Group Meditation

Retreat & Pilgrimage:

Annual Executive Happiness Retreat (since 2007), Jhana Grove Retreat and India Pilgrimage.

ABOUT COMMUNITY

Buddhist Fellowship prides itself in being an organisation that dares to be different, embarking on new, revolutionary projects and activities that benefit the community and constantly striving to meet the needs of its members.

Past Projects:

Tsunami Reconstruction Projects in Thailand and Sri Lanka, Project Nargis, Bangkok, Laos and Bihar Flood Relief.

Current Projects:

Geylang East Home for the Aged, Ren Ci Nursing Home

ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Recognising the need to start Dhamma education from young, Buddhist Fellowship has three programs to cater from pre-school to 25 years. The programs are led by BF Exco members and volunteers.

The groups include BF Junior, BF Junior Youth on Saturdays and BF Youth on Sundays.



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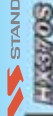
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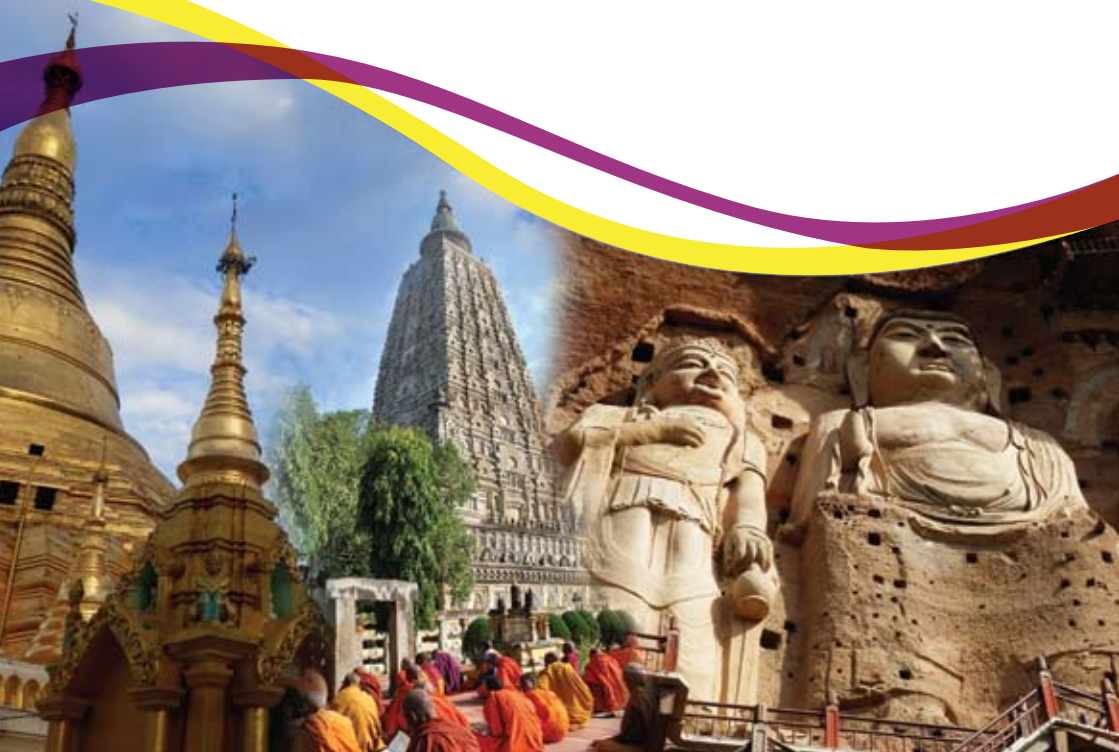
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观音蛋糕™在新加坡是被称为一种著名的欢庆佳礼和信徒理想的供品之一。其独特的品牌，它是荣获新加坡健康选择西式蛋糕店 Delcie's Desserts and Cakes 的创始人，Delcie Lam，所发明的。

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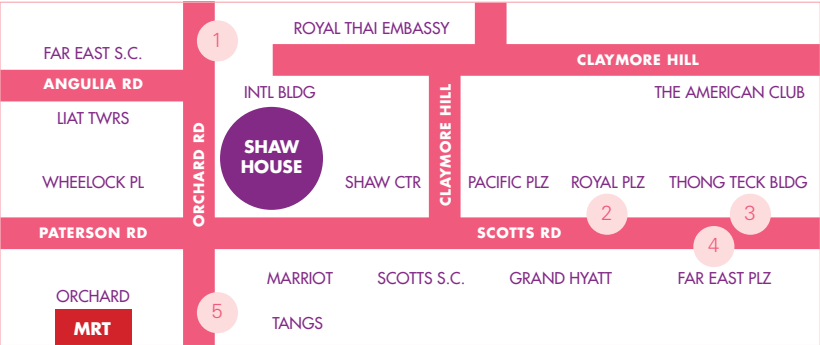
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was founded in 1934 at 26 Blair Road. In 1950, it was relocated to 17 Kim Yam Road and in 1958, the Lodge bought the adjacent unit 19 Kim Yam Road. Its objectives are to propagate the teachings of the Buddha to bring about universal enlightenment and deliverance of all beings by sharing the compassion of the Buddha. To date, the Lodge membership is 30,000 strong. Since its founding, the broad scope of the community services it performs span across several domains, including education, culture, medical and welfare services.

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