

Thus I Have Heard  
The Teachings of the Compassionate Wise  
**Now have you seen  
T.H.I.S.?**



## Message from the team

Dharma In Action (DIA) is proud to present Thus Have I Seen (T.H.I.S.) Buddhist Film Festival 2009, a weeklong festival of acclaimed films covering a wide spectrum of Buddhist cultures and values.

T.H.I.S. Buddhist Film Festival 2009 represents the commitment and enthusiasm of a twenty-odd strong committee of volunteers. We chose the selected films from an astonishing array of films and documentaries from all over the world.

Our education has been enhanced with newfound knowledge of many fine films that will likely never reach the general public due to competition from Hollywood, Bollywood and Hong Kong blockbusters. It is our hope that through the selected films, the general public is introduced to the immense diversity of a 2,500 year-old religion that has grown from being a missionary order in ancient India to become a global religion today with over 350 million followers.

Through the films, it will also be worthwhile for all of us to take a breather from our hectic lifestyles and ponder over the meaning of life even as the protagonists in the films sought their own meaning in life.

13  
TO September 2009  
19

THUS HAVE I SEEN  
**t.h.i.s.**  
**Buddhist Film  
Festival 2009**

**Lido Cineplex**

**Tickets available through SISTIC from 7 July 2009!**

For more information, visit  
**[www.thisfilmfest.com](http://www.thisfilmfest.com)**

Presented by

**dharma in action**



## 一轮明月 Yi Lun Ming Yue (PRC) 120 mins



**Screening info:** 13th September, Sunday, 4.30pm, Lido 1

**Synopsis:** "Awakened Ones enlighten. Enlightening to the truth, one hence can put aside one's life and all, striving bravely to save one's country. Hence to save one's country, one must practice towards enlightenment." Master artist Li Shutong left his comfortable life to become the great Venerable Master Hong Yi. Be inspired by his cultural and spiritual contributions to a tumultuous era of Chinese history.

## Mekhong Full Moon Party 119mins



**Screening info:** 13th September, Sunday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** After sunset on the full moon day of the eleventh month, along the Mekhong River in Northeast Thailand, mysterious balls of fire rise up from the great river and disappear into the sky. Supernatural, or a hoax? An old friendship between a young man and his temple abbot mirrors the relationship between modernity and religion.

# Screening Schedule

			Opening Film
Sun	13-Sep	4.30pm	一轮明月 Yi Lun Ming Yue (PRC)
Sun	13-Sep	7pm	Mekhong Full Moon Party (Thailand)
Mon	14-Sep	7pm	The Dhamma Brothers (USA)
Tue	15-Sep	7pm	Act Normal (Iceland)
Wed	16-Sep	7pm	Zen Buddhism - InSearch of Self (Korea) Bhutan - Taking the Middle Path to Happiness (USA)
Thu	17-Sep	7pm	Sankara (Sri Lanka)
Fri	18-Sep	7pm	Unmistaken Child (Israel)
Sat	19-Sep	1.30pm	Arukihenro - Walking Pilgrims (Japan/Switzerland)
Sat	19-Sep	4.30pm	Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame (Iran/France)

All screenings will be held at Lido Cineplex  
All tickets at \$10 each except  
一轮明月 Yi Lun Ming Yue at \$15 each  
For ticket sales, please visit [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com)  
For further updates, please visit  
[www.thisfilmfest.com](http://www.thisfilmfest.com)



### The Dhamma Brothers 76mins



**Screening info:** 14th September, Monday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** In a prison in the state of Alabama are some of the most dangerous criminals yearning for emotional and social change. Their opportunity came in the form of a Vipassana meditation retreat that was introduced in hope of offering inner peace and genuine rehabilitation for these men, but this program was stopped when the locals complained.

### Act Normal 92mins



**Screening info:** 15th September, Tuesday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** A British boy's plan to seek guidance in Thailand on Buddhism and stay for three months led to sixteen years of monkhood. Upon an invitation to Iceland, he came across a community of Buddhist immigrants, and applied to stay and serve their religious needs. The life of this pioneer monk later took an unexpected twist; he renounced his life of celibacy to try out a life of a 'normal', married person.

### Zen Buddhism – In Search of Self 62mins



**Screening info:** 16th September, Wednesday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** Following a tradition dating back over a thousand years, two dozen Buddhist nuns gather for a ninety day period of meditation, fasting and contemplation deep in the mountains of South Korea. In this first ever documentary on the Winter Zen retreat, witness not only the nuns' strict meditation practice, but also their daily lives in which we see not only a deep spiritual discipline, but also an almost childlike joy and simplicity.

### Bhutan – Taking the Middle Path to Happiness 65mins



**Screening info:** 16th September, Wednesday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** Imagine a country where happiness is the guiding principle of government; a people who see all life as sacred and the source of their happiness; a place with an abundance of clean and renewable energy; a nation committed to preserving its culture. Can such a place really exist? Can such ideals be realized?



### Sankara 87mins



**Screening info:** 17th September, Thursday, 7pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** A young Sinhalese monk-artist is tempted by his attractions to a young girl. How will he escape the clutches of his other self? Are his mental constructions (sankara) grasping on to him, or is it the other way round?

### Arukihenro – Walking Pilgrims 73mins



**Screening info:** 19th September, Saturday, 1.30pm, Lido 2

**Synopsis:** A journey of almost a thousand miles is still undertaken by foot when it can easily be done on wheels. This documentary follows in the path of devotees who still care to undertake a 1,400km pilgrimage in the footsteps of the founder of Japanese Shingon sect of Buddhism, Kobo Daishi, who is said to have attained enlightenment on his ascetic wanderings 1,200 years ago.

### Unmistaken Child 102mins



**Screening info:** 18th September, Friday, 7pm, Lido 1

**Synopsis:** Devoted disciple Tenzin Zopa was bereft and lonely when his teacher and master of twenty-one years, the great Tibetan master Geshe Lama Konchog, passed away. A grieving servant, he must transform himself into a master in order to look for his teacher's rebirth.

### Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame 81mins



**Screening info:** 19th September, Saturday, 4.30pm, Lido 1

**Synopsis:** In the village of Bamiyan in Afghanistan where the Taliban destroyed the two giant Buddha statues in 2001, there lives a little girl who envies her neighbour, a boy next door who goes to school. With a heart of a lion and an entrepreneurial spirit, she sets out to earn herself the proper stationery and a place in school.