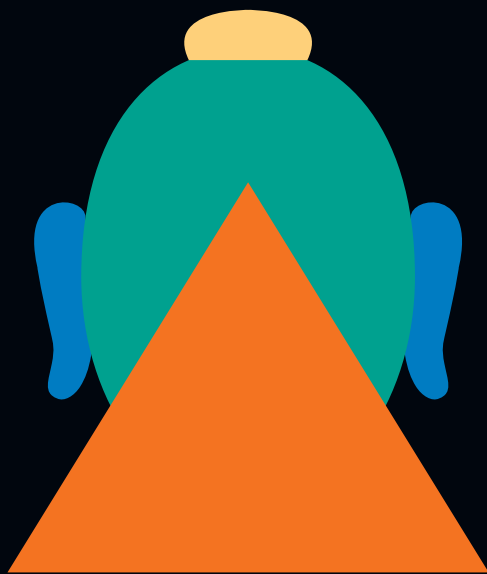


barbican

do something different



**IBFF 2009
LONDON**

**International
Buddhist Film Festival
7–17 May**



The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation presents:

The Many Faces of Buddhism

Visual Arts • Artist Talks • Dance • Film and more

25 April - 17 May 2009, London

The Many Faces of Buddhism is a series of art and cultural events drawn from and inspired by the Buddhist traditions. The events, to be presented in London from Saturday 25 April to Sunday 17 May, will include visual arts, artist talks, dance, films and more.

The purpose of this series is to instil and encourage a better understanding and appreciation of Buddhism, its basic messages of interdependence and compassion, and their numerous connections to all aspects of our lives.

The Many Faces of Buddhism is presented in London by **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation**, a Hong Kong based philanthropic organisation committed to foster and support broadly Chinese arts and culture. Working towards these goals with a global perspective, the Foundation supports art and Buddhist programmes both in its home base and internationally.



Head of the Buddha
Hadda, Afghanistan, Stucco with traces of paint
AD 400–500, photo courtesy of the V&A

Events at the V&A:

An International Forum on Buddhism and the Arts Today

Sat 25 Apr 2pm – 5.30pm

The forum aims to develop a shared and stronger understanding of the area in which contemporary art practice resonates with Buddhist thought. It includes contributions from international contemporary artists including Lin Hwai-min, choreographer and founder of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Taiwan; Meredith Monk, the American composer, singer, and choreographer; African-American artist Sanford Biggers; and South Korean artist Kimsooja. Jacquelynn Baas, independent scholar and Director Emeritus of the University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive will be moderating the forum.

Gallery of Buddhist Sculptures in Asia

Opens Wed 29 Apr

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Gallery, the first gallery for Buddhist sculpture in the UK will display highlights from the V&A's world-class collection of Buddhist sculpture ranging from monumental Chinese temple sculptures to small portable gilded Buddhas and will include rare pieces which will go on display in the Museum for the first time. The Gallery will tell the story of the life of the Buddha and the spread of Buddhism from India to the other regions of Asia.

A Day of Rare Buddhist Dances

Fri 1 May 11am – 9pm

Produced by Joseph Houseal, Executive Director of Core of Culture Dance Preservation based in Chicago, these performances will take place in the V&A's spectacular Raphael Gallery, and will be presented on two special stages: a recreation of a Noh stage and a Sri Lankan folk altar. Four different Buddhist dance traditions from India, Japan, Nepal and Sri Lanka will be presented in two cycles at 11am and 4.30pm. A Talk by Joseph Houseal on Buddhist Sacred Dance Traditions will be held on Wednesday 29 April 1.15pm–2pm at the V&A.

For more information, please log on:
www.rhfamilyfoundation.org/manyfaces

Welcome

International Buddhist Film Festival

World Cinema with a Buddhist Touch

Thu 7–Sun 17 May 2009

The world's leading resource for Buddhist cinema, the US based **IBFF** comes to the UK, and the **Barbican**, for the first time. Part of **The Many Faces of Buddhism** series, the lineup of programmes here at **IBFF 2009 LONDON** includes forty-six films from eighteen countries, with twenty-seven UK premieres and three discussion events. Themes of happiness, redemption, reconciliation, simplicity, forgiveness, generosity, community, creativity, humor and personal transformation are explored in many ways.

In honor of being in the UK, we're particularly delighted to be presenting a British Film Institute archive print of the 1925 classic *Prem Sanyas (The Light of Asia)* on Opening Night, with a live performance of an original musical score. We are also happy to have the distinguished British historian Dan Cruickshank joining director Emma Hindley for a discussion about their BBC documentary *The Lost World of Tibet*. And there's a special strand of films we call "Mind the Gap," and a contemporary version of *Hamlet*...

Other highlights include a showcase of films from pioneering Dutch broadcaster BOS, a programme about the last remaining independent Buddhist kingdom, Bhutan, , a rare pre-Korean War film from Korea, a special selection of the extraordinary animated films by Kihachiro Kawamoto, and works from Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Thailand, China, Japan, Burma, Tibet and Vietnam. The remarkable range of artists featured includes Bono, Jim Jarmusch, John Cleese, Doris Dörrie, Ewan MacGregor, Leonard Cohen, Philip Glass, Johnny Depp, Sogyal Rinpoche, Martin Scorsese, Meredith Monk, Iggy Pop, Thich Nhat Hanh, John Hurt, Jake Gyllenhaal, Woody Allen, Werner Herzog, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Khyentse Norbu, Andy Goldsworthy, Ethan Hawke, Neil Young, Forest Whitaker, the Dalai Lama, Bob Hoskins, Matthieu Ricard, RZA and Bernardo Bertolucci, among others.

We are very grateful to our co-presenter the **Barbican** and its wonderful team for hosting us here, and especially to **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation** for its enthusiastic support of **IBFF 2009 LONDON**. Founded in 2000, **IBFF** has presented festivals in Los Angeles, Washington DC, San Francisco, Singapore and Mexico City, with co-presentations in Amsterdam, Milan and Melbourne, and has become known for films that offer a sense of the great diversity of Buddhist cultures and experiences from around the world. Visit **www.ibff.org**.

Gaetano Kazuo Maida
Executive Director
International Buddhist Film Festival

Opening Night Gala

Thu 7 May 7.30pm

Prem Sanyas U*

The Light of Asia

UK premiere

With live musical accompaniment on the sitar, tabla, flute and violin

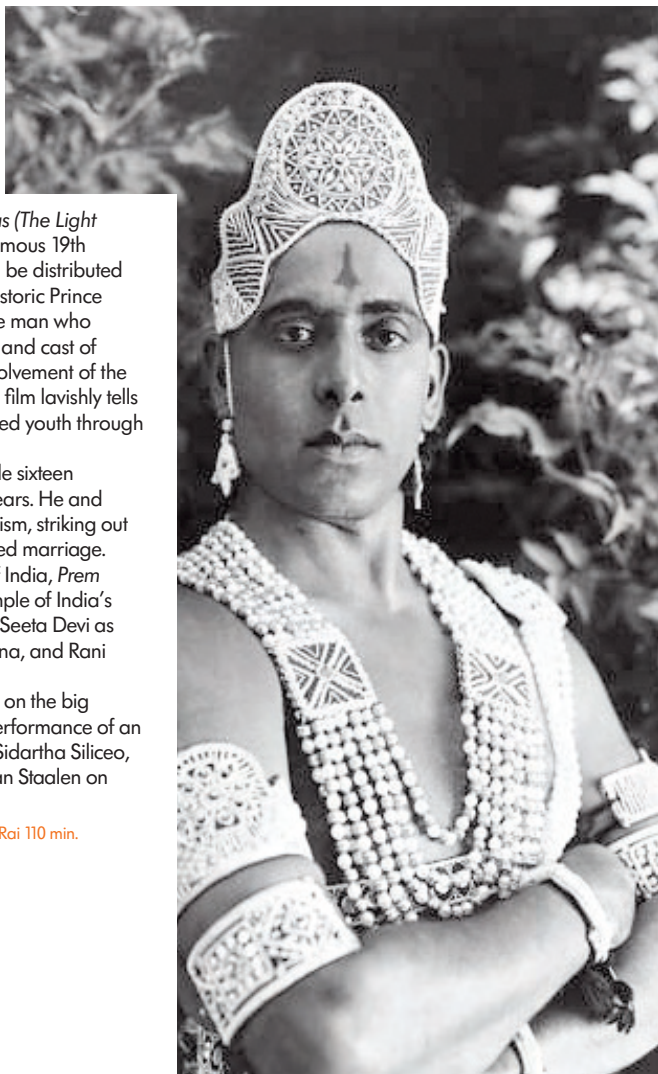
The 1925 silent masterpiece *Prem Sanyas* (*The Light of Asia*), based on Sir Edwin Arnold's famous 19th century book, was the first Indian film to be distributed internationally. It depicts the life of the historic Prince Siddhartha Gautama (Himansu Rai), the man who became the Buddha. With an opulence and cast of thousands only possible through the involvement of the then powerful Maharajah of Jaipur, this film lavishly tells the story of Siddhartha from his privileged youth through his search for enlightenment.

German director Franz Osten made sixteen movies for Bombay Talkies within four years. He and Rai peppered their films with social criticism, striking out at corruption, the caste system, and forced marriage. Restored by the National Film Archive of India, *Prem Sanyas* remains a rare and shining example of India's silent film legacy. With performances by Seeta Devi as Gopa, Sarada Ukil as King Suddhodhana, and Rani Bala as Queen Maya.

This exquisite film, not to be missed on the big screen, will be accompanied by a live performance of an original score by a group led by sitarist Sidartha Siliceo, with Julia Ohrmann on flute, Lenneke Van Staalen on violin, and Heiko Dijker on tabla.

India/Germany 1925 Dir. Franz Osten/Himansu Rai 110 min.

Prem Sanyas will screen again on Sun 10 May, 4.30pm



Prem Sanyas; image © British Film Institute

Mind the Gap

In Tibetan Buddhism there is the concept of the *bardo*, or interval, the intermediate state (“gap”) between one life and the next. The term can also refer to other transitional spaces, even the space between birth and death (i.e. “life”). Taking this concept as inspiration filmmakers have explored the possibilities as drama, sometimes referencing the psychological demons and obstacles presented in the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* and sometimes taking great poetic license. The resulting films are often labeled “thrillers” or elude categorisation; at IBFF 2009 LONDON we explore three of them:

Wed 13 May 8.30pm

Dead Man ¹⁸

Johnny Depp plays Bill Blake, a 19th century greenhorn from the East who heads west by train, a character shaped by director Jim Jarmusch’s conception of the 17th century poet and mystic William Blake. For Bill, the journey represents life. For Nobody (Gary Farmer), his Native American trickster guide, the journey is a continuing ceremony whose purpose is to deliver Bill back to the spirit world.

Highly stylistic and sparse, *Dead Man* has drawn much praise for its transitions through life, death, and the dreamlike world that dances in between. With an incredible ensemble cast including Robert Mitchum, John Hurt, Mili Avital, Iggy Pop, Crispin Glover, Billy Bob Thornton, and Gabriel Byrne. Transcendent soundtrack by Neil Young.

USA 1995 Jim Jarmusch 121 min.

Sat 16 May 9pm

Donnie Darko ¹⁵

Sleepwalking out of his house one night Donnie Darko (Jake Gyllenhaal) sees a giant, demonic-looking rabbit named Frank, who tells him the world will end in 28 days, 6 hours, 42 minutes, and 12 seconds. With Donnie we are carried along a path of discovery in which his compassion is awakened along with the recognition of his power to change tragic events.

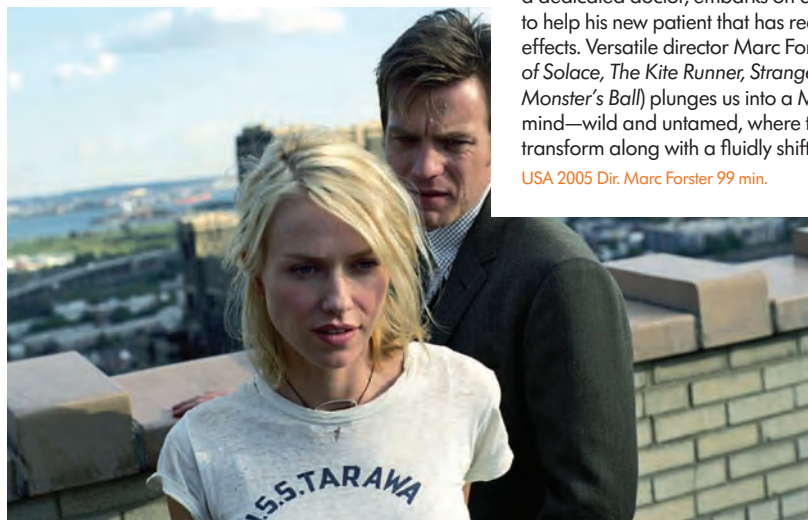
USA 2001 Dir. Richard Kelly 113 min.

Sat 9 May 8.45pm

Stay ¹⁵

In this psychological thriller, Henry Lethem (Ryan Gosling) announces to his psychiatrist that he plans to commit suicide in three days—on the eve of his twenty-first birthday. Sam Foster (Ewan MacGregor), a dedicated doctor, embarks on a desperate attempt to help his new patient that has reality-shattering effects. Versatile director Marc Forster (*Quantum of Solace*, *The Kite Runner*, *Stranger Than Fiction*, *Monster’s Ball*) plunges us into a Manhattan as mind—wild and untamed, where time and identity transform along with a fluidly shifting dreamscape.

USA 2005 Dir. Marc Forster 99 min.



Stay; image © New Regency Pictures

Showcase BOS

Since 2001, Amsterdam's pioneering Buddhist Broadcasting Foundation (BOS) has produced documentaries, broadcast them in the Netherlands, and distributed them to networks around the world. IBFF frequently presents works from BOS, and the eight titles with BOS involvement are marked 'BOS' in the full programme listed in the following pages. BOS founder and programme director Baberth VanLoo, director and producer of several of the films, will be attending and speaking at **Buddhist Broadcasting and the Media** on Saturday 9 May at 2pm.

Buddha's Lost Children

The Devotion of Matthieu Ricard

Inner Voice

Meredith Monk

Lucia Rijker

A Boxer, A Buddhist

Milarepa

Magician, Murderer, Saint

Sogyal Rinpoche

Ancient Wisdom for the Modern World

Walking with Kukai

Wheel of Time



Buddha's Lost Children; image © EMS Films



Lucia Rijker; image © Marie Wallace

Profiles

Portraits in Pictures

Buddhist ideas and practices are embraced by people from all over the world, and not always in obvious or traditional forms. What's become remarkable over the last few decades is the enormous range, the diversity of experience and expression evident among people who identify themselves as "buddhist" in some way.

Tue 12 May 6.15pm

The Devotion of Matthieu Ricard ^{U*}

UK premiere

BOS

Special guest appearance by Matthieu Ricard, author of Happiness. Matthieu Ricard will join the director for a Q&A following the screening.

Dubbed "the happiest man alive" by *Time Magazine*, Matthieu Ricard is a best-selling author, photographer, devoted student, neuroscience research subject and monk. This warm-hearted documentary follows Ricard from translating for the Dalai Lama, to a school in Nepal, to editing his photographs from a year of mountain retreat. Ricard has devoted his life to humanitarian causes and channels a million dollars a year in royalties and donations to charitable organisations.

Netherlands 2008 Dir. George Schouten/Babeth VanLoo 67 min.

Also screening on Sun 17 May, 2pm.

Tue 12 May 8.45pm

Glass ^{PG*}

A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts

For a year, filmmaker Scott Hicks (*Shine*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*) followed the prolific American composer Philip Glass across three continents—from his annual ride on the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster, to the world premiere of his new opera in Germany, and in performance with a didgeridoo virtuoso in Australia.

Allowed unprecedented access to Glass' working process, family life, spiritual teachers, and long-time collaborators, Hicks gives us a unique glimpse behind the curtain into the life of a surprisingly complex man. With appearances by Richard Serra, Woody Allen, Chuck Close, Martin Scorsese, Errol Morris, Ravi Shankar, Gelek Rinpoche.

Australia 2007 Dir. Scott Hicks 115 min.

Fri 8 May 6.15pm

Inner Voice ^{PG*}

Meredith Monk

UK premiere

BOS

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening

'America's coolest composer', singer, director, choreographer and pioneer of interdisciplinary performance Meredith Monk's impressive and groundbreaking career has spanned forty years. *Inner Voice* follows Monk during the process of making her latest critically acclaimed music theatre piece *Songs of Ascension*. Monk continues to transform her work by striving for a balance between discipline and freedom and an ever-present openness to change, this film navigates the personal territory of Monk's creative evolution.

USA/Netherlands 2009 Dir. Babeth VanLoo 82 min.

Tue 12 May 8.45pm

Leonard Cohen ^{PG}

I'm Your Man

Lunson's film offers an intimate look at the songs, poetry, and life of one of contemporary music's most influential troubadours. Cohen reveals his trademark wry humor and soulful intensity, using his own artwork, poetry, and photographs to reflect upon his creative process, his past, and the spiritual longing that has fueled him—including his years of seclusion at California's Mount Baldy Zen Centre where he was ordained as a Rinzaï Zen Buddhist monk in 1996. Including interviews and live performances with U2, Nick Cave, Rufus Wainwright, Teddy Thompson, Jarvis Cocker and others.

USA 2005 Dir. Liam Lunsch 105 min.



Peace Is Every Step: image © Simon Chaput

Sat 9 May 4pm

Lucia Rijkers ^{12*}

A Boxer, A Buddhist

UK premiere

BOS

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

Undeclared boxer and kickboxer Lucia Rijkers has been dubbed 'the Most Dangerous Woman in the World' — she played opposite Hilary Swank in the film *Million Dollar Baby*, she can speak four languages...and she's a Buddhist. Director George Schouten brings us into the turbulent period of choices following her big-screen success. Rijkers shares herself intimately, discussing the seeming dichotomy of her Buddhist path with the raw violence of boxing.

Netherlands 2005 Dir. George Schouten 73 min.
In English/Dutch with English subtitles

Thu 14 May 6.30pm

Peace Is Every Step ^{PG*}

Meditation in Action

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

This portrait of noted Vietnamese Zen teacher, author and activist Thich Nhat Hanh (nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) explores his efforts to heal the wounds of war among war and peace veterans and survivors. Filmed on location around the US and at his Plum Village center in France; includes rare archival footage from Vietnam produced by him in the 1960s for his School of Youth for Social Service. Narrated by Academy Award[®]-winner Ben Kingsley.

USA 1997 Dir. Gaetano Kazuo Maida 52 min.

Screening with The Anniversary, please see page 13.

Mon 11 May 8.45pm

Sogyal Rinpoche ^{U*}

Ancient Wisdom for the Modern World

UK premiere

BOS

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

Sogyal Rinpoche, author of the bestseller *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*, has become one of the most highly respected and best-known Tibetan Buddhist teachers in the West. The film draws a comprehensive portrait of this remarkable Buddhist master, and traces the impact of his teachings on people today. John Cleese relates his own encounters with Rinpoche with Buddhist humor and honesty.

Germany 2008 Dir. Boris Penth 88 min.

Fri 15 May 8.30pm

Words of My Perfect Teacher ^{PG*}

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

With music by Sting and an appearance by Bernardo Bertolucci, this is a revealing documentary about Bhutanese lama-cum-auteur Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche (Khyentse Norbu, director of *The Cup*). The inscrutable lama mischievously eludes the director (a student of his) as she trots the globe in pursuit, from the streets of London to the World Cup finals to the Kingdom of Bhutan. When he finally does choose to reveal himself, it proves worth the wait.

Canada 2003 Dir. Lesley Ann Patton 103 min.

Kihachiro Kawamoto

The Puppet Master PG*

Sat 9 May 6pm

Japanese animation beyond anime: The renowned Kihachiro Kawamoto is regarded as the master of Japanese puppet animation. From an early age, he was captivated by the art of doll and puppet making. During the 1950s, he began working alongside Japan's first stop motion animator, the legendary Tadahito Mochinaga, and in the 60s he studied under Czech animation legend Jiri Trnka. Famous for his beautiful, expressive puppets, Kawamoto integrates the traditional art forms of Noh, Bunraku doll theatre, and Kabuki into a unique aesthetic to exquisite effect.



The Book of the Dead

Buddhism has recently arrived from China and is all the rage amongst the Japanese nobility. Iratsume, a devoted young noblewoman, attracts the attention of the spirit of the executed Prince Otsu. She begins weaving a giant shroud to relieve his pain. A sumptuous study of obsession and deliverance brought to life through Kawamoto's meticulous puppet animation, this is a delicate masterpiece, in the eerie tradition of the Japanese ghost story.

Japan 2005 Dir. Kihachiro Kawamoto 70 min.

In Japanese with English subtitles

+Breaking of Branches is Forbidden (Hana-Ori)

In this delightful and poetic comedy, everyone can relate to an acolyte who is tempted by the enticing fragrances of worldly generosity. *Breaking of Branches is Forbidden* is a light-hearted contemplation of such universal themes as living a spiritual life amidst the temptations of the sensual world and suffering the consequences of one's actions. This film features examples of Kawamoto's experiments in *kirigami* (cutout animation).

Japan 1968 Dir. Kihachiro Kawamoto 14 min.

In Japanese with English subtitles

+ Dojoji Temple

A beautiful retelling of a popular Kabuki (classic Japanese drama) play, this short puppet animation tells the story of a young widow who falls passionately in love with a young monk's disciple making a pilgrimage to a famous temple.

Japan 1976 Dir. Kihachiro Kawamoto 19 min.

In Japanese with English subtitles

+ House of Flame (Kataku)

Adapted from a Noh play, *House of Flame* tells the story of a male traveler in search of a mystical landmark called "the Seeker's Mound." During his search, he encounters a maiden who relates a tragic lovers' tale, a moving parable about a village woman wooed by two suitors whom she loves equally. To avoid the anguish of choosing between them, she makes a decision from which there is no turning back. Although her intentions are pure, her choice reverberates with shocking consequences.

Japan 1979 Dir. Kihachiro Kawamoto 19 min.

In Japanese with English subtitles

Ellen Bruno

Untold Stories ^{15*}

Sat 16 May 3.30pm

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

Award-winning filmmaker Ellen Bruno's films on human rights in Asia (*Sacrifice*, *Satya*, *Sky Burial*) are remarkable for their deep empathy with their subjects and lyrical approach. Having served on a family reunification program in refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border, and as director of the Cambodian Women's Project, her background in humanitarian relief work informs the conviction of her filmmaking. Bruno completed a Master's Degree in Documentary Film at Stanford University in 1990. She was the recipient of a 1998 Guggenheim, a 1997 Rockefeller, a 1995 Shenkin (Yale), and 1992/1994/1997 Western States Regional Media Arts Fellowships.



Sacrifice; image © Ellen Bruno Films

Sacrifice

Child Prostitutes from Burma

UK premiere

Each year thousands of young girls are recruited from rural Burmese villages to work in the sex industry in neighboring Thailand. The trafficking of Burmese girls has soared as a direct result of political repression in Burma, which has left families in extreme poverty and vulnerable to exploitation. This unflinching film examines the social, cultural, and economic forces at work whilst valuing the young women's individual stories.

USA 1998 Dir. Ellen Bruno 50 min.

In English/Thai, Burmese with English subtitles

+ Satya

A Prayer for the Enemy

UK premiere

Since the Chinese occupation of Tibet, countless nuns have been imprisoned and tortured for taking a stand for the Tibetan people. *Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy* focuses on the testimonies of these nuns, revealing continued religious oppression and human rights abuses in occupied Tibet. *Satya* seeks to understand the basis and inspiration for their path of non-violence, and the spiritual principles that influence their understanding of the enemy.

USA 1993 Dir. Ellen Bruno 28 min.

In English/Tibetan with English subtitles

+ Sky Burial

Tibetan Burial Ritual

UK premiere

In Buddhism the sky is where the sacred world lies and to merge with it after death is a holy event. *Sky Burial* follows the ritual of "jha-tor" at the Drigung Monastery where the bodies of the dead are offered to vultures. Bruno was privileged to have access to this powerful final act in the Tibetan circle of life, seen in Buddhism as a dance of interdependence.

USA 2005 Dir. Ellen Bruno 12 min.

In Tibetan with English subtitles



Special Events

Sat 16 May 2pm

Perspectives on *The Lost World of Tibet*

Discussion with **Dan Cruickshank** and
producer/director, **Emma Hindley**

In this BBC documentary **Dan Cruickshank** presents a picture of Tibet prior to the time Chinese deployed troops there in 1951, through rarely seen, archive color footage from the 30s–50s. The compelling film includes interviews with the Dalai Lama in exile and footage of him from the age of 5 until he fled to India in 1959. This insightful look at the Dalai Lama's life in Tibet and the country's relationship with China also features extraordinary footage of Buddhist dances, festivals and the incredible architecture of Tibetan monasteries. Within this special event, **Dan Cruickshank** will reflect on the role of historical film as a tool for interpreting a society, especially one that was not known to those outside Tibet.

Sat 9 May 2pm

Buddhist Broadcasting and Media

With BOS founder and program director **Babeth VanLoo**

Since 2001, there has been one independent television and radio broadcaster in the world exclusively devoted to Buddhist content: BOS in Amsterdam, part of the Public Broadcasting System there. BOS founder and program director **Babeth VanLoo**, who also directed, co-directed, or produced several of the films being presented at IBFF 2009 LONDON, will show clips and discuss: Buddhist content and public television; obligations, responsibilities and opportunities; role of government funding; audience response/support; multiculturalism and the mainstream.

Mon 11 May 6.15pm

Happiness, Buddhism and Change in Bhutan

With **Siok Sian Pek-Dorji**, Executive Director, Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy and **Dr. Karma Phuntsho**, teaching and researching Buddhism and Bhutanese culture in the UK and in Bhutan

Set in the Eastern region of the Himalayan mountains and for many years one of the most isolated countries in the world, Bhutan has been undergoing transition towards parliamentary democracy and participation in the modern world under the guiding principle of 'Gross National Happiness'. With the government taking thoughtful measures to preserve the traditional culture and identity of the nation this discussion will focus on the role of Buddhism. Excerpts from the film, *Bhutan: Taking the Middle Road to Happiness*, a production of the Bhutan Foundation will also be screened.

Journeys Within

Through the full IBFF programme of features, documentaries and shorts, we join remarkable people and travel to some of the world's most beautiful and remote locations. The journeys take us deep within as well, on adventures of the mind and heart...

Sun 10 May 2pm

Amongst White Clouds ^{U*}

Buddhist Hermit Masters of China's Zhongnan Mountains

UK premiere

An unforgettable and intimate insider's look into the traditions of China's Buddhist hermit monks living in the retreats scattered throughout China's Zhongnan Mountains, home to ascetics for five thousand years. It was widely thought that the tradition had been all but wiped out, but the film emphatically and beautifully shows us otherwise.

One of only a few foreigners to have lived and studied with these elusive practitioners, director Burger is able, with humor and compassion, to present their tradition, their wisdom, and the hardship and joy of their everyday lives among the clouds.

China 2005 Dir. Edward A. Burger 86 min.
In English/Chinese with English subtitles



Amongst White Clouds; image © Cosmos Pictures, Inc. Canada

Mon 11 May 8.30pm

Angulimala ^{15*}

UK premiere

Visually stunning, this fantasy-adventure is based on a story from the earliest Buddhist texts. A young man falls into a powerful delusion in which he believes he must kill 1,000 people to gain spiritual attainment. He plunges into a spiraling hell realm, becoming a mass murderer and taking the bandit name Angulimala ("finger rosary").

Angulimala explores the limitless power of compassion and the opportunity to purify all negative actions, no matter how heinous, through practice.

Thailand 2003 Dir. Sutape Tunnirut 105 min.
In Thai with English subtitles



Angulimala; image © Film Bangkok

Thu 14 May 6.30pm

The Anniversary ^{12*}

UK premiere

A simple Buddhist rite of remembrance frames this short dramatic work from talented young Vietnamese-American filmmaker Ham Tran. Beautifully filmed by *Before Night Falls* cinematographer Guillermo Rosas, the film skillfully cuts between cruel child's play and the brutality of real warfare. The story offers a surprising view of human suffering even under war conditions, and Buddhism is presented not as an escape but as mindful reflection on this suffering. With a glimpse of the devastation in Vietnam and its aftermath, *The Anniversary* invites parallels between the violent situations there and the current state of global affairs.

USA 2003 Dir. Ham Tran 28 min.
In Vietnamese with English subtitles

Screening with Peace Is Every Step, please see page 8.

Sun 10 May 4.30pm

Beyond the Mountain ^{15*}

UK premiere

A striking story set in an idyllic Buddhist hermitage and a nearby convent nestled deep in the Korean mountains. On an errand to another temple, a young Buddhist monk becomes entranced with a beautiful nun he spies from a distance. Serenity is threatened by passions within and tensions from outside. As their attachment grows, both must find their way back to the spiritual vows that are the foundation of their lives...now shaken by the lure of the world.

Korea 1991 Dir. Chung Ji-young 108 min.
In Korean with English subtitles



The Anniversary; image © Old Photo Films



Beyond the Mountain. Courtesy Korean Film Archive

Wed 13 May 8.45pm

Buddha's Lost Children ^{PG*}

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

BOS

A rare look at life in the border regions of Burma and Thailand, the Golden Triangle infamous for its drug lords and violence. A nomadic, horseback-riding Buddhist monk, Phra Kru Ba devotes his life to helping the isolated communities and rescuing orphan children. Stunning cinematography, intimate filmmaking, and a compelling story make this film an extraordinary experience. *Buddha's Lost Children* gives the term "grassroots Buddhism" new meaning, and in the end it's the children's journey we share.

Netherlands/Thailand 2006 Dir. Mark Verkerk 97 min.
In Thai with English subtitles



Buddha's Lost Children; image © EIMS Films

Sun 10 May 6pm

Buddha's Painter ^{U*}

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

After seventy years of darkness, the phoenix of Mongolian Buddhist art is again on the rise in the form of Master Artist Purevbat and his disciples. The images are used as a support for meditators visualizing the deities in the temples, monasteries, and in mountain retreats. *Buddha's Painter* gives us a finely realized portrait of this master *thangka* painter and social visionary who spearheads a revival of traditional Buddhist painting in Mongolia.

Germany/Mongolia 2004 Dir. Thomas Gonschior 56 min.
In Mongolian with English subtitles



Buddha's Painter; image © Thomas Gonschior Productions

Sat 16 May 4.15pm

The Cup ^{PG}

Buddhism is their philosophy, but soccer is their religion. A sweet, engaging comedy about a group of mischievous, soccer-obsessed young monks determined to watch the World Cup on television. Featuring wonderful comic turns by a cast of actual monks, this film examines the tenets of Buddhism through gentle humor. This brilliantly funny global film festival hit radiates warmth and began the successful filmmaking career of Khyentse Norbu, a Tibetan Buddhist lama.

India 1999 Dir. Khyentse Norbu 94 min.
In Tibetan with English subtitles



The Cup; image © Fine Line Features

Screening with Inside The Cup, please see page 18.

Mon 11 May 6.30pm

The Dhamma Brothers PG*

UK premiere

East meets West in the Deep South. Donaldson Correctional Facility Alabama holds 1500 of the state's most dangerous criminals. Donaldson became the first maximum-security prison in North America, to hold an extended Buddhist Vipassana retreat, an emotionally and physically demanding course of silent meditation lasting ten days. Telling a dramatic tale of human potential and transformation this thought-provoking documentary follows thirty-six prison inmates undergoing great change.

USA 2007 Dir. Jenny Phillips/Anne Marie Stein/
Andrew Kukura 76 min.



The Dhamma Brothers; image © Freedom Behind Bars

Thu 14 May 6.15pm

Dreaming Lhasa PG*

Karma is a young Tibetan filmmaker from New York, and Dhondup is an ex-monk with an intriguing mystery. Their efforts to solve it together take them through the frontlines of the Tibetan exile communities in India, forcing both to examine their sense of identity and purpose. An eyeopening drama that peels away many of the clichés about contemporary Tibetans that have clung to them in the West.

India 2005 Dir. Ritu Sarin/Tenzing Sonam 90 min.
In English/Tibetan with English subtitles



Dreaming Lhasa; image © White Crane Films

Sat 16 May 1pm

Enlightenment Guaranteed 15*

This delightfully quirky film follows two middle-aged German professionals fleeing troubles at home (or from within) and seeking the solace of Zen Buddhism in Japan. Through their misadventures we explore themes of cultural differences, sibling rivalry, sterile modernity, spiritual aspirations and limitations. Most affecting is the timeless story of leaving one's ordinary life behind to reclaim a sense of meaning, purpose, and authenticity.

Germany 1999 Dir. Doris Dörrie 105 min.
In German with English subtitles



Enlightenment Guaranteed; image © Megahertz GmbH

Fri 8 May 8.30pm

Ghost Dog¹⁵ *The Way of the Samurai*

Jim Jarmusch (*Dead Man*, *Down by Law*, *Stranger Than Paradise*) gives us a mesmerizing tale of the underworld, bringing together the Mafia, an obsessive pop culture psyche, and an ancient warrior code as expressed in the 18th century *Hagakure—The Book of the Samurai*, compiled by a Japanese samurai-turned-Zen monk. Forest Whitaker is hit man Ghost Dog—subtle, elegant and precise in applying the discipline of this code to his own conduct as a modern warrior whose every action has consequence.

USA 1999 Dir. Jim Jarmusch 116 min.



Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai, image © Artisan Entertainment

Wed 13 May 6.30pm

A Guest of Life^{U*}

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

In 1819, Alexander Csoma de Körös, set out on foot from his home in Transylvania to discover “the original Hungarians.” Believing that the cultural wellspring of his mother tongue was in the East, he embarked upon an epic journey finally arriving in Tibet. Narrated by Academy Award®-nominated actress Susannah York, Tibor Szemzo’s mesmerizing and meditative film combines animation evoking European traveling theatre traditions with experimental film techniques to evoke the timeless path of the seeker.

Hungary 2006 Dir. Tibor Szemzo 79 min.



A Guest of Life, image © Mediawave 2000 Kft.

Thu 14 May 8.45pm

Hamlet¹²

A thoroughly contemporary adaptation in which the corporate kingdom of New York City stands in for Denmark. Ethan Hawke is a trust-fund Prince Hamlet, Sam Shepard plays his father, CEO of the family corporation and Julia Stiles is Ophelia. From the vantage point of our current global economic tragedy, Almereyda’s *Hamlet* has a deeper resonance. Shakespeare’s timeless words mingle with Buddhist philosophy as Vietnamese Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, in a film-within-a-film cameo, illuminates his term “interbeing” as Hamlet contemplates existence in the aisles of a video store.

USA 2000 Dir. Michael Almereyda 113 min.



Hamlet, image © Miramax

Sat 16 May 6pm

Himalaya, Path to the Sky ^{U*}

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

Kenrap is eight years old. When he was five, Kenrap remembered he was the reincarnation of a recently deceased monk and decided to return to the monastery where he belonged. He makes the journey back home on perilous ancient footpaths along glacial streams and amongst the majestic peaks of the Himalyan Zaskar Mountains. An unforgettable story of a boy and his fellow monks with whom we share moments of intimacy and delightful mischief.

France 2008 Dir. Marianne Chaud 65 min.

In Tibetan with English subtitles

Screening with Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche, please see page 18.



Himalaya, Path to the Sky; image © ZED

Sun 10 May 7pm

Hometown of the Heart ^{U*}

One of only two Korean films made before the Korean War to have survived, this film immerses us in the life of a small monastery, revealing the interconnection of family and the Buddhist monastic traditions in Korea. Eschewing new-school sentimentality to quietly express a boy's longing for maternal love, the film unfolds the everyday lives of three generations of monks against the backdrop of a quiet temple in the mountains.

Korea 1949 Dir. Yoon Yong-kyu 74 min.

In Korean with English subtitles



Hometown of the Heart; Courtesy Korean Film Archive

Sun 10 May 8.30pm

In Search of Kundun with Martin Scorsese ^{PG*}

UK premiere

In 1997, Martin Scorsese made *Kundun*, the first feature on the life of the 14th Dalai Lama. This documentary is an emotion-filled encounter of Scorsese and his Italian and American team with the Tibetans who portrayed the key figures in the tumultuous recent history of Tibet. This film features rare archival footage from Tibet and Mongolia, along with compelling interviews with Scorsese, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, screenwriter Melissa Mathison, and the Tibetans in the cast, who lived this calamitous history.

France 1998 Dir. Michael H. Wilson 85 min.



In Search of Kundun with Martin Scorsese; image © Mario Tursi

Sat 16 May 4.15pm

Inside The Cup ^{PG*}

Khyentse Norbu is a renowned Tibetan Buddhist teacher. He also makes movies. His first two films, *The Cup* and *Travellers and Magicians*, were critical and box office successes. *Inside The Cup* explores the making of his first feature, about soccer-obsessed Tibetan monks, and offers a provocative case for a Buddhist philosophy of "life as cinema." (Adapted from *Life As Cinema*, by Anika Tokarchuk.)

USA/Canada 2007 Dir. Isaiah Seret 22 min.

Screening with *The Cup*, please see page 14.

Sun 10 May 8.45pm

Milarepa ^{12*}

Magician, Murderer, Saint

UK premiere

BOS

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

The vividly told and captivating story of Milarepa, the man who would become Tibet's greatest yogi and saint. In the dramatic setting of 11th century Tibet, a young Milarepa falls into a world of betrayal and hardships. The greed of others upturns his privileged life, dropping him into a void of despair, humiliation, pain and anger, and he sets out to exact revenge. Filmed on the breathtakingly scenic Indo-Tibetan border.

Bhutan 2006 Dir. Neten Chokling 90 min.

In Tibetan with English subtitles

Sat 16 May 6pm

Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche ^{U*}

Choenzey is a forty-seven-year-old monk. His spiritual master, Khensur Rinpoche has been dead for four years. According to signs given prior to death, he will soon be reincarnated. It is Choenzey's responsibility, as his closest disciple, to find the reincarnation and to look after him. This beautiful film follows Choenzey's search and his eventual identification and tender relationship with the four-year-old boy believed to be the reincarnation. Narrated by Ian Holm.

India 1991 Dir. Ritu Sarin/Tenzing Sonam 50 min.

In English/Tibetan with English subtitles

Screening with *Himalaya, Path to the Sky*, please see page 17.



Inside The Cup, image © Fine Line Features



Milarepa: Magician, Murderer, Saint © Shining Moon Productions



Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche; Image © White Crane Films

Tue 12 May 6.30pm

Rivers and Tides ^{U*}

Andy Goldsworthy Working With Time

A poetic and contemplative portrait of Scottish sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, whose long-winding rock walls, ice sculptures, and other intricate, druidic masterpieces are made entirely of materials found in the wild and set in forests and on shorelines. The emphatically impermanent art of Andy Goldsworthy is filmed with care and total congruence by Thomas Reidelsheimer and matched in sound by composer Fred Frith.

Germany 2001 Dir. Thomas Riedelsheimer 90 min.



Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working With Time; image © Andy Goldsworthy

Fri 8 May 8.45pm

Shower (Xizao) ¹²

Set in modern Beijing, this is a tale of a prodigal son, Da Ming (Quanxin Pu), who returns to the place of his youth and his father's old age—an antique bathhouse that draws the neighborhood men to bathe, gossip, pit cricket fights, quarrel and sing. Amidst the camaraderie, water is the source of healing as Da Ming softens and reconnects with his family. This is a deceptively simple film, revealing a transitional China, and a Vajrayana Buddhist spirit that survived the destructive forces of the Cultural Revolution.

China 1999 Dir. Zhang Yang 95 min.

In Mandarin with English subtitles



Shower (Xizao); image © Sony Classics

Fri 15 May 6.15pm

The Silent Holy Stones ^{PG*}

UK premiere

Tibetan director Wanma-caidan's dramatic feature debut, is a Chinese production made on location in a Tibetan village. The film follows a young lama assigned for Tibetan New Year to attend to the seven-year-old Living Buddha of a mountain monastery. There are echoes here of *The Cup* (Khyentse Norbu, 1999), as the young lamas try to balance their strict training with explorations of the outside world through the novelty of television. *The Silent Holy Stones* has the immediacy of a documentary, and writer/director Wanma-caidan succeeds in offering an insider's view of everyday life in his hometown.

Tibet/China 2005 Dir. Wanma-caidan (Tibetan: Pema Tseten) 102 min.

In Tibetan with English subtitles



The Silent Holy Stones; image © Wanma-caidan

Sun 17 May 6pm

Un Buda (A Buddha) ^{12*}

UK premiere

Director expected to attend for Q&A following the screening.

With a backdrop of the government abuses in Argentina during its "Dirty War" of the late 70s and early 80s, the film follows two brothers orphaned as children when their parents were taken by the military. Tomas is now a drifting and withdrawn young man who experiments with ascetic practices. His older brother Rafael, is a university philosophy professor, detached and alone. A stay at a Zen retreat centre in rural Argentina, however, precipitates changes.

Argentina 2005 Dir. Diego Rafecas 115 min.
In Spanish with English subtitles

Thu 14 May 8.15pm

Uppalavanna ^{15*}

UK premiere

In the remote Sri Lankan countryside, a nun, Uppalavanna follows her conscience while disobeying civil and monastic authority to give sanctuary to a wounded murderer. An insightful drama which reminds that even spiritual life does not provide escape from the tremors of social upheaval in this civil war-torn Buddhist country. The challenges of meeting anger, heartache, desire, and revenge with the Buddhist principles of compassion and forgiveness are confronted with raw emotion and clarity.

Sri Lanka 2007 Dir. Sunil Ariyaratne 130 min.
In Sinhala with English subtitles

Sun 10 May 6pm

Walking with Kukai ^{U*}

UK premiere

BOS

In 805, Kukai, Japanese monk and scholar had a dream that took him to China where he received initiation. He returned to Japan to found the Shingon (True Word) school of Buddhism. A centuries-old 1100-kilometer path on Shikoku Island is traversed to this day by over a hundred thousand pilgrims yearly who follow in Kukai's footsteps. This intimate and touching short casually joins this journey with some of them.

Japan/Netherlands 2009 Dir. Patrick van Boeckel 30 min.
In English/Japanese with English subtitles

Screening with Buddha's Painter, please see page 14.



Un Buda (A Buddha); image © Zazen Producciones



Uppalavanna; image © Sumathi Films (Private) Ltd



Walking with Kukai; image © Patrick van Boeckel

Screening with selected features

What About Me? ^{PG*}

A meditation retreat cleverly disguised as a music video. Gently awoken, as the images, music, and lyrics penetrate the self-absorption and repetitiveness that can too easily creep into our daily lives. Both the director and the performer are recognized Tibetan incarnate lamas.

Fri 8 May 6.30pm

Wheel of Time ^{PG*}

BOS

Master filmmaker Werner Herzog devotes his eccentric passion and vast cinematic skill to a discovery of Tibetan Buddhism. Herzog seeks and finds the Dalai Lama at the special Kalachakra assembly of half a million pilgrims at the place of Buddha's enlightenment, and chronicles a pilgrimage to sacred Mt. Kailash. Striking visuals and Herzog's resonant voiceover are transporting in this beautiful exploration of the artistry of one of Tibetan Buddhism's most significant rituals.

Germany 2003 Dir. Werner Herzog 80 min.
In Tibetan/English with English subtitles



What About Me?, image © Centre Productions



Wheel of Time, image © Werner Herzog Film



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culture **shock**

Programme

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Booking Info

Visit www.barbican.org.uk/buddhistfilm
or call the box office on 0845 120 4684

* Barbican local classification

Tickets

All screenings (excluding screenings of Prem Sanyas and the Perspectives on *The Lost World of Tibet* event) standard prices £750 online (£9.50 full price), Barbican Members £6.50 online (£7.50 full price), Concessions £750, Under 15 £14.50

Screenings of Prem Sanyas and Perspectives on *The Lost World of Tibet* £11.50 online (£13.50 full price), members £10.50 (£11.50 full price)

AMB disabled discount is limited to 10 for ALL performances (except Access screenings)

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