

We return to the Bay Area to celebrate our 10th anniversary season!

IBFF SHOWCASE 2013

FRI MARCH 1—SUN MARCH 3

AT CHRISTOPHER B. SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER IN MARIN

SAT MARCH 9—SUN MARCH 10

AT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO



**INTERNATIONAL
BUDDHIST
FILM FESTIVAL**



CHRISTOPHER B. SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER SCHEDULE

Buddhist Film Foundation and California Film Institute present nine premieres from seven countries—rare screenings, global diversity, and guest filmmakers and presenters.

WHEN THE IRON BIRD FLIES

Directed by Vicress Hitchcock

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7:00 PM

IN PERSON: Director Vicress Hitchcock and special guest Anam Thubten

WEST COAST PREMIERE In 1959 a great migration from Tibet was violently set in motion. The Dalai Lama was joined in exile by thousands of refugees, among them important Tibetan Buddhist teachers, opening a window on what had been a hidden realm. Interviews and rare archival footage offer an insider's view of Tibetan Buddhism made manifest beyond its original home.

USA / 2012 / ENGLISH / 96 MIN PLUS DISCUSSION / DOCUMENTARY

OLO, THE BOY FROM TIBET

Directed by Hisaya Iwasa

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1:30 PM

US PREMIERE Six-year-old Olo is sent from Tibet to India by his mother to get an education. Now a student at the famed Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala (founded by Jetsun Pema, sister of the Dalai Lama), he has to make his way in a world quite different from his own. Director Hisaya Iwasa takes a creative and intimate approach to this true story.

JAPAN / 2012 / JAPANESE AND TIBETAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 108 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

KARMA

Directed by Tsering Sherpa

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 4:00 PM

US PREMIERE In a Tibetan Buddhist nunnery a revered abbess dies. Prayers and rituals must be performed, but there's no money, so one of the nuns, Karma, must journey to find the man who may owe a debt. Filmed in the remote Himalayan region of Mustang, we follow Karma to Kathmandu, where she discovers that many things are not what she thought.

NEPAL / 2006 / TIBETAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 90 MIN / DRAMATIC FEATURE

DIGITAL DHARMA

Directed by Dafna Yachin

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 6:15 PM

IN PERSON: Director Dafna Yachin
Sponsored by Sharon and Jeff Roe

WEST COAST PREMIERE The late Gene Smith was amazing—a Mormon, a pacifist and a Buddhist who, against all odds, managed to organize the successful mission to rescue the written legacy of the Tibetan culture from destruction and loss. The film documents his epic efforts toward an ongoing project to preserve, digitize and translate 20,000 volumes of Tibetan literature, from medicine and history to poetry and Buddhist texts.

USA / 2012 / ENGLISH / 90 MIN PLUS DISCUSSION / DOCUMENTARY

MINDFULNESS AND MURDER

Directed by Tom Waller

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 8:45 PM

US PREMIERE Thai-English Director Tom Waller takes on one of the popular Father Ananda mysteries. Former cop Ananda is now a senior monk and is asked by the abbot to solve a murder inside his monastery because the police don't want to get involved. Not everything in the monastery is what it should be...

THAILAND / 2011 / THAI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 90 MIN / DRAMATIC FEATURE

THE GREAT PILGRIM

Directed by Jin Tiemu

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1:30 PM

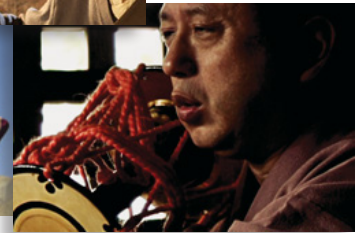
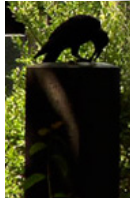
US PREMIERE One of the most celebrated journeys in history is that of Tang dynasty Chinese monk Xuanzang, who traveled to India and brought back essential Buddhist texts and teachings. This compelling film uses reenactments, stunning locations and animation to introduce a truly legendary figure (the inspiration for the many Journey to the West and Monkey stories and films).

CHINA / 2009 / MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 98 MIN / DOCUDRAMA

SHOWCASE TRAILERS

tinyurl.com/a4d52z7





THE MOURNING FOREST

Directed by Naomi Kawase

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 4:00 PM

BAY AREA PREMIERE Set in tea country near Kyoto, Japan, this Cannes Grand Prix award-winner is a masterful meditation on loss and love and happiness...on what it is to be alive. Intimately Directed by prolific artist/filmmaker Naomi Kawase with astonishing, vivid, nearly wordless performances. And the bright Buddhist priest doesn't get the last word. "There are no formal rules..."

JAPAN, FRANCE / 2007 / JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 97 MIN / DRAMATIC FEATURE

KANZEON

Directed by Tim Grabham and Neil Cantwell

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 6:15 PM

IN PERSON: Co-Director Neil Cantwell

WEST COAST PREMIERE A mysterious and engaging journey through sound, song, story, ritual, performance, nature, tradition and Japanese Buddhism... A fearless merging of medieval and modern, beautifully filmed on location in Japan, with a variety of cinematic techniques. Kanzeon is another way of saying Kannon (in Chinese: Kuanyin), the embodiment of compassion, and can also be written in Japanese as "to see sounds."

UK, JAPAN / 2011 / JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 86 MIN PLUS DISCUSSION / DOCUMENTARY

THANGKA

Directed by Hasi Chaolu

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 8:45 PM

US PREMIERE In this surprising and fresh feature from China, a Tibetan thangka painting master needs to identify his successor from among his students, his talented son, or the possible reincarnation of his own teacher. Tradition, family, talent and difference are all colorfully explored with compassion and humor. Beautifully filmed on location in Tibet.

CHINA / 2011 / MANDARIN AND TIBETAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 112 MIN / DRAMATIC FEATURE

Tickets may be purchased through the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center. Ticket prices for each program: \$12 general, \$10 seniors, \$8 for CFI members. Please note that Rafael passes and matinee prices are not applicable for these programs.



YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS SCHEDULE

Buddhist Film Foundation and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts present four films from or about Japan, with guest filmmakers both days.

KANZEON

Directed by Tim Grabham and Neil Cantwell

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2:00 PM

IN PERSON: Co-Director Neil Cantwell

BAY AREA PREMIERE Japanese man vocalizes while holding instrument tied with red cord. A mysterious and engaging journey through sound, song, story, ritual, performance, nature, tradition and Japanese Buddhism... A fearless merging of medieval and modern, beautifully filmed on location in Japan, with a variety of cinematic techniques. Kanzeon is another way of saying Kannon (in Chinese: Kuanyin), the embodiment of compassion, and can also be written in Japanese as "to see sounds."

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JAPAN, FRANCE / 2007 / JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 97 MIN / DRAMATIC FEATURE

Tickets may be purchased through Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Ticket prices per screening: \$10 regular, \$8 YBCA members, students, seniors, teachers. FREE for YBCA:You. Four-film pass: \$25 regular, \$20 YBCA members.



OLO, THE BOY FROM TIBET

Directed by Hisaya Iwasa

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2:00 PM

US PREMIERE Six-year-old Olo is sent from Tibet to India by his mother to get an education. Now a student at the famed Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala (founded by Jetsun Pema, sister of the Dalai Lama), he has to make his way in a world quite different from his own. Director Hisaya Iwasa takes a creative and intimate approach to this true story.

JAPAN / 2012 / JAPANESE AND TIBETAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 108 MIN / DOCUMENTARY

TOKYO WAKA

Directed by John Haptas and Kristine Samuelson

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 4:00 PM

IN PERSON: Directors John Haptas and Kristine Samuelson

A poem in images: stillness, patterns, urban motion; and words: a tofu seller, a homeless woman, a Buddhist priest... contemplating nature, the metabolism of the city, mortality. And 20,000 crows (waka), unruly avatars of the natural world, sardonically observe it all. This film explores the uneasy relationship between the people of Tokyo and its huge population of crows, and touches on nature, art, and culture in the most modern city in Japan.

JAPAN, USA / 2011 / ENGLISH AND JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / 63 MIN PLUS DISCUSSION / DOCUMENTARY

SHOWCASE TRAILERS
tinyurl.com/a4d52z7



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