

Melbourne Buddhist

Film Festival 2010

Wed 13–Sun 17 October

www.melbournebff.com

Cinema Nova, Carlton



MBFF 2010

Welcome

The third Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival will run from Wednesday 13 October to Sunday 17 October at Cinema Nova in Lygon Street, Carlton.

The Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival is an annual not-for-profit event presented by the Buddhist Council of Victoria. It aims to provide Australian audiences with screenings of drama and documentary films relevant to all aspects of Buddhism. All proceeds go to the Council's education program, which provides a free Buddhist program in Victorian schools.

This year, we are delighted to offer a rich array of films from Latin America to Tibet. At selected screenings, speakers will introduce the film, giving insights to the content of the screenings.

On behalf of the Buddhist Council of Victoria

MBFF2010 Organising Committee

Screening

Cinema Nova 380 Lygon Street, Carlton



Tickets

Book at the box office or online at

www.cinemanova.com.au

Single \$15.50 / \$12 (concession)

Ratings

Please check film ratings before purchasing tickets for under-18s

Presented by:



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Keynote Speakers

Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim trained for 20 years in South Korea monasteries and is now 30 years as a Buddhist monastic. As the spiritual teacher of the Seon Centre in Kinglake, Ven Chi Kwang is a sought after speaker. She is also active in the interfaith communities and aspires to further our awareness on climate change from a Buddhist perspective.

Diane Cook is an editor and writer with more than 20 years' experience in the film industry. This is her second year of involvement in the Organising Committee of the Melbourne Buddhist Film Festival. She has been a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism for over four years.

Diana Cousens completed a PhD on the temple of Triloknath in Lahul at Monash University in 2008. She is a former Vice Chair of the Buddhist Council of Victoria and committee member of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils. She is active in an ongoing engagement in Buddhist palliative care and interfaith dialogue. For ten years she was the Director of the Melbourne Sakya Centre, in the Tibetan Buddhist Sakya tradition.

Siladasa (Dr Mark Newton) is an ordained member of the Thiratna Buddhist Order and former Chairman of the Melbourne Buddhist Centre in Brunswick. A practising Buddhist for more than 20 years, he has extensive experience in leading retreats, teaching meditation and Buddhist doctrine and history.

Michael Wells came to Buddhism in 1974 while wandering in Thailand. He studied with Buddhist teachers in Burma and Australia in the late 1970s and 80s. Michael has worked in social welfare for many years including with alcohol and drug dependent people. He is involved with the Buddhist Council of Victoria's Prison Chaplaincy Programme, which makes available the Buddha's teachings to inmates of Victorian prisons. He is a past-President of the Buddhist Society of Victoria.

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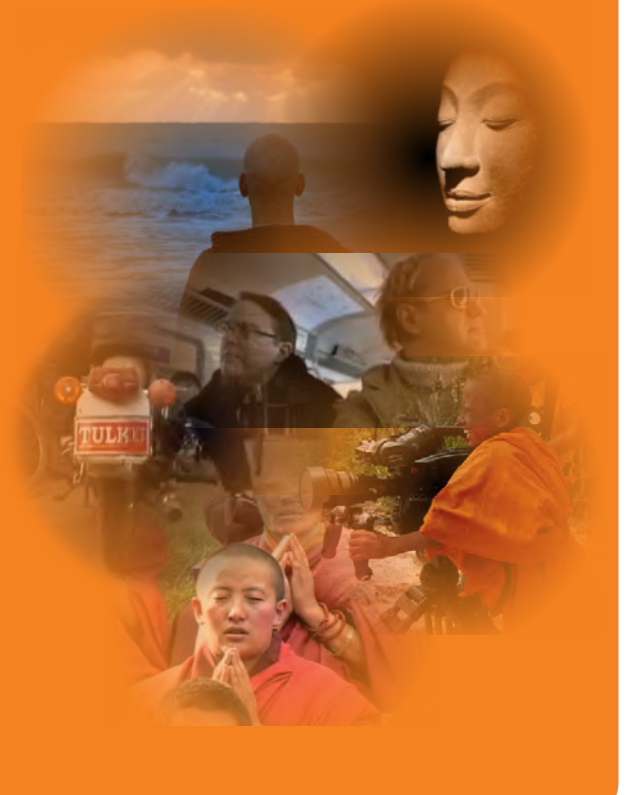
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Wednesday 13 Oct @ 7pm
and Saturday 16 Oct @ 2 pm

Un Buda

Director: Diego Rafecas

Language: Spanish
with English subtitles

Time: 115 mins

Country: Argentina

Year: 2005

A journey of discovery,
with love.

Brilliant feature film debut of director **Diego Rafecas**, a Zen teacher in Argentina. Two brothers are orphaned as children when their parents are taken by the military during the 'Dirty Wars' of the 1970s in Argentina. Tomas (**Agustin Markert**) is now a drifting and withdrawn young man, experimenting with ascetic practices, he has an instinctive compassion for others. His older brother Rafael, played by Rafecas, is a philosophy professor, detached and alone. Their struggles with each other and the world around them in Buenos Aires take a dramatic turn when they find themselves at a rural Zen centre. *Un Buda* expands our sense of Buddhism in the world today.

Keynote speaker: **Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim** (Wed only)



Thurs 14 Oct @ 7pm and
Saturday 16 Oct @ 12 noon

The Buddha

Director: David Grubin

Language: English

Time: 120 mins

Country: US **Year:** 2010

This Emmy-nominated PBS documentary by award-winning filmmaker **David Grubin** tells the story of the Buddha's life: a journey especially relevant to our own bewildering times of violent change and spiritual confusion. Narrated by **Richard Gere**, it features the work of some of the world's greatest artists and sculptors across two millennia who have depicted the Buddha's life in art rich in beauty and complexity. Hear insights into the ancient narrative by contemporary Buddhists, including Pulitzer Prize winning poet **WS Merwin** and His Holiness the **Dalai Lama**. Join the conversation and learn more about meditation, the history of Buddhism, and how to incorporate the Buddha's teachings on compassion and mindfulness into daily life.



Friday 15 Oct @ 7pm

Tulku

Director: Gesar Mukpo

Language: English

Time: 76 mins

Country: Canada **Year:** 2009

A tulku is a present-day reincarnation of a Buddhist master. What does it mean to carry on this ancient tradition designed for an old world when you're living in a completely new one? **Gesar Mukpo** was three when he became one of the first people born in the West to be recognised as one. Now, he builds a career as a filmmaker, has marriage trouble, adores his daughter, and struggles to pay his bills.

Journey through Canada, the United States, India and Nepal to encounter four other young Tulkus: **Ashoka, Dylan, Wyatt** and **Reuben**.

The documentary also features interviews with leading Tibetan Buddhist teacher and film maker, **Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche** and **His Holiness the 17th Karmapa**.

Keynote speaker: **Diane Cook**



Friday 15 Oct @ 9pm

Blessings

Director: Victress Hitchcock

Language: English

Time: 104 mins

Country: US **Year:** 2009

Witness the unique world of **Nangchen Nuns** studying in remote Chinese province Nangchen under **Tsoknyi Rinpoche's** guidance. Accompanying **Tsoknyi Rinpoche**, Western women attempt to make their own link with the often strange, but hauntingly familiar, world of Tibetan Buddhism.

Compelling interviews with **Compelling interviews with Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo** and **Tsultrim Allione** place the practice of nuns in the context of the largely male-dominated history of Buddhism in Tibet. The movie shows the reconstruction of nunneries and lives of the growing numbers of nuns who have come together and are now living and practising together in nunneries, large and small, across Nangchen. See the Western women who have come to offer their help and instead find their lives immeasurably enriched by the wisdom, simplicity and good humour of the Nangchen nuns.

Keynote speaker:
Diana Cousens



Saturday 16 Oct @ 5pm

Enlightenment Guaranteed

Director: Doris Dörrie

Language: German
with English subtitles

Time: 109 mins

Country: Germany

Year: 2000

Noted German filmmaker **Doris Dörrie** directs this understated comedy about two middle-aged brothers who go to study at a Zen monastery in Japan.

The two brothers could not be more different: Uwe (**Uwe Ochsenknecht**) is a bored husband and kitchenware salesman, while Gustav (**Gustav Peter Wohler**) is a flighty feng shui consultant and eastern religions devotee.

Gustav leaves for the land of the rising sun with Uwe, whose wife just dumped him, tagging along. The first night in Tokyo is disastrous, preparing them for the rigour of monastic life, including 4.30 am wake up calls, elaborate dining rituals, long periods of silent meditation, and a punishing cleaning routine.

As the days wear on, Gustav buckles under the strain while Uwe adapts easily to a monk's life. The experience eventually brings the night-and-day brothers closer together.

Keynote speaker: **Siladasa (Dr Mark Newton)**



Sunday 17 Oct @ 2pm

Buddha's Lost Children Revisited

Director: Mark Verkerk

Language: Thai with
English subtitles

Time: 83 mins

Country: Thailand

Year: 2009

Sequel to the successful 2006 documentary *Buddha's Lost Children*, Director **Mark Verkerk** returns to the hills of Thailand's Golden Triangle to the hidden *Golden Horse Temple*.

See how **Suk, Pan Saen** and little, cheerful **Boontam** are doing. 'Tiger monk' **Khru Bah**, along with **Sister Mae Ead** and the young novices, continue to devote their large spirit and limited means to social-cultural issues among the mountain people, such as drug abuse, prostitution and a lack of education. He always meets with a lot of resistance; there has even been an attempt to poison him. Meet Khru Bah's daughter, teacher of the poor with infinite patience, having surrendered a life in civilization for temple work.

Keynote speaker:
Michael Wells

