

DIRECT PICTURES

# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™

*The Acclaimed Yatra Trilogy Films*



*“... I wish this film every success.”*

THE DALAI LAMA

ON VAJRA SKY OVER TIBET

# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™

## Dharma River • Prajna Earth • Vajra Sky Over Tibet

LAOS • THAILAND • BURMA • BALI • CAMBODIA • JAVA • TIBET



*"John Bush's trilogy fills us with wonder at the spiritual culture - past and present - from this vibrant region. Viewers will be awed by this luminous world - so rarely captured on film."*

*BO SMITH, HEAD OF FILM  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON*

*"Images of the landscape, temples, and art dazzle with their gemlike luminosity and vaulting immensity."*

*PETER KEOUGH  
BOSTON PHOENIX*



*"Bush's stunning camera work adroitly captures the majestic landscapes and icons of Buddhism: its murals and artworks, monks and nuns... A tonic for Buddhists, no doubt, it offers many pleasures to atheists as well."*

*JOHN PATTERSON  
VILLAGE VOICE*



# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM

## Dharma River

*Thailand, Laos & Burma*

*"Dharma River is an exquisitely beautiful journey through Laos, Thailand and Burma, exploring the important themes and landscapes of Buddhism at the source. Moving down rivers, through villages, and to important Buddhist pilgrimage sights... the visuals and narration create a mood of timeless peace. The musical score is perfect and hypnotic."*

*INQUIRING MIND*

"This pilgrimage to legendary Buddhist temples, shrines, and other sacred sites in Laos, Thailand, and Burma captures the architectural beauty and spiritual serenity of these ancient religious marvels... Filmmaker and narrator John Bush's commentaries about Buddha's life and teachings deepen an appreciation of local art, ceremonies, symbolism, and architectural images. DVD options include a narrated and non-narrated version and choice of specific locales. This first in a series of journeys to sacred places pleases both the mind and eye." - BOOKLIST

# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™

## Dharma River



LAOS • THAILAND • BURMA

*Dharma is the Sanskrit word for Universal Law. Essential to Buddhist understanding, dharma is the natural order, a living truth and a force for awakening.*

**DHARMA RIVER** is a lyrical documentary that surveys South East Asia's great spiritual and cultural treasures within an exquisite sensory journey. Visiting the legendary lost civilizations and living wisdom traditions of Laos, Thailand, and Burma, **DHARMA RIVER** powerfully conveys their continuing relevance for contemporary audiences.

Ancient temples, mystical landscapes, and wondrous shrines - many of them UNESCO world heritage sites - provide a rich visual tapestry. Combined with a score of rare classical South East Asian music, this visual voyage masterfully illuminates the areas' artistic and devotional traditions.

From the canals of Bangkok to the mountains of Laos, from the golden pagodas of Burma to the Mekong River, the film gives a unique experience of sacred space. Along the way, **DHARMA RIVER**'s beautiful imagery, haunting score, and nuanced narration transport the viewer to the mystic East on a journey into timelessness..

***"DHARMA RIVER delights: a flaming stream of fascinating imagery - lyrically poetic and visually stunning. Don't miss this dazzling glimpse of a sacred world."***

*DANIEL GOLEMAN, Author of Emotional Intelligence*





JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM.  
**Prajna Earth**  
*Bali, Cambodia & Java*

NARRATED BY SHARON STONE

*"A film I will come back to time and again. Like the spiritual wonders it so beautifully brings alive, PRAJNA EARTH takes us on a journey into our own potential. It is a pleasure at every level."*

*MARK EPSTEIN MD, Author of 'Open to Desire'*

*"This second title in the Journey Into Buddhism series travels to Cambodia, Bali, and Java to explore Buddhist and Hindu sacred sites. In Cambodia, cameras pan the intricately carved walls of the ancient temples of Angkor, Orange-robed monks and white-clad nuns visit the temple and engage in moving religious services, while native dancers celebrate the holy site. In Bali, film crews go to a Hindu cave temple, while in Java, film makers study the mammoth Borabudur Buddhist Temple. Beautifully shot footage, Sharon Stone's melodious narration, and background chanting imbue this soothing, meditative program." - BOOKLIST*

# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™

## Prajna Earth



BALI • CAMBODIA • JAVA

*Prajna (prahj-nah, as in Taj) is the Sanskrit word for radiant wisdom. Essential to Buddhist and Hindu understanding, prajna is the indwelling wisdom within every being suffused with compassion.*

Filmed entirely on location in SE Asia by director John Bush, this second film of this trilogy is a stunning cinematic journey to the legendary temples of Angkor in Cambodia, the spiritual sites of Bali and finally the marvel of Buddhist Borobudur in Java. PRAJNA EARTH is a pilgrimage to sacred intersections where Buddhism meets its sources - the Hindu wisdom traditions and the animist worship of nature.

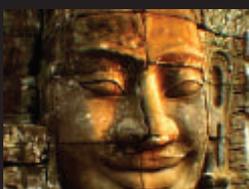
Monks & nuns travel on foot for days to reach a full moon gathering near Angkor Wat - the largest temple in the world. Discover the mystery of Angkor's vanished civilization and explore magnificent temples returning to the overgrown jungle. The dance of the Devatas celebrates the rebirth of this classic art form within the cultural healing of war-torn Cambodia.

As the journey moves to Bali - gamelan music, Ramayana dance and lively street processions are featured in the hill town of Ubud. High in the misty mountains within a volcanic crater lies a timeless lake holding a Devi temple. Colorful festivals, gilded temples, cave shrines, rice terraces, lotus ponds and holy springs are all part of this visit to a sacred world.

In Java, a night of animist trance dance and spirit possession is followed by a golden dawn and ascent up the startling seven level stupa of Borobudur. Made from over a million blocks of volcanic rock, this man-made mountain is covered with extraordinary bas reliefs of Buddhist teachings. Built in the 9th century as a vast device for enlightenment, Borobudur is one of the world's great wonders.

*"PRAJNA EARTH is a serene cinematic pilgrimage pervaded by a quiet energy which allows you to be both steeped in the richness of the landscape and to absorb the significance of the symbolism."*

*TIM McHENRY, Director Of Programming, Rubin Museum of Art, New York*





## JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM. Vajra Sky Over Tibet

NARRATED BY TENZIN L CHOEGYAL, DADON and JOHN BUSH

*"An illuminating meditation... on that deepest of Buddhist philosophical concerns - impermanence. Study of a threatened culture and people is beautifully shot inside Tibet's most sacred sites and arrives with the blessing of the Dalai Lama."*

VARIETY

"Tibetan civilisation has a long history, in the course of which it has assimilated many influences. It forms a distinct part of the world's precious common heritage. Humanity would be the poorer if it were to be lost.

John Bush, who has taken a long interest in our traditions, has created this full length documentary of pilgrimage to Central Tibet, bearing witness to the enduring faith there. I am grateful to him for his dedication to this project to raise awareness of the Vajrayana Buddhist tradition of Tibet as well as the current restraints on religious freedom there. I wish this film every success." - THE DALAI LAMA

# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™ Vajra Sky Over Tibet



***"I wish this film every success." THE DALAI LAMA***

*Vajra (vahj-rah, as in Taj) is a sanskrit word - the thunderbolt of awakening that cuts through delusion. It is the indestructible power of truth at the heart of Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet.*

Filmed entirely on location in Central Tibet, VAJRA SKY is a cinematic pilgrimage offering a direct experience of some of the most revered temples, monasteries, and festivals still surviving. This colorful journey unfolds within the magnificent Himalayan terrain. A feature length documentary, VAJRA SKY bears witness to the profound devotion, spiritual power and enduring faith within today's endangered Tibetan Buddhist community and the imminent threat to its very survival.

The vastness of the Tibetan sky reflecting snow mountains, rushing rivers, and turquoise lakes, leads the journey westward to the holy sites of Shigatse and Gyantse. One discovers an abundance of revered paintings and sculpture within its original context. Returning to Lhasa, pilgrims circumambulate in front of the legendary Jokhang Temple. Luminous faces of faith glow in the flicker of butter lamp offerings within its many shrines including that of the most revered image in Tibet – The Jowo Buddha.

The empty windows and doors of the traditional homes of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, the Potala and Norbulinka, signal his painful absence. Yet the exuberant blossoms of the Summer Palace hold the promise of natural cycles of return. During the colorful Drepung Monastery festival, a giant scroll painting of the Buddha covers a mountain as spiritually famished Chinese join with the multitude of Tibetan pilgrims.

***"The year's best documentary, among the finest films ever made about religion...a work of power and glory." FILM THREAT***





**VAJRA SKY OVER TIBET**  
FILMMAKER  
**JOHN BUSH**

### THEATRICAL ENGAGEMENTS

BOSTON, MA • Kendall Square  
LOS ANGELES, CA • Westside Pavillion  
PASADENA, CA • Laemmle's One Colorado  
BUFFALO, NY • Market Arcade Film and Art Centre  
NEW YORK, NY • Cinema Village  
DENVER, CO • Chez Artiste  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA • Opera Plaza Cinema  
BERKELEY, CA • Shattuck Cinemas  
SAN RAFAEL, CA • Smith Rafael Film Center  
SEATTLE, WA • Metro Cinemas  
SANTA FE, NM • Center for Contemporary Arts  
PALM DESERT, CA • Cinemas Palme D'Or  
CHICAGO, IL • Gene Siskel Film Center  
EDMONTON, AB, Canada • Metro Cinema Society  
HILO, HI • Palace Theatre  
AUSTIN, TX • Dobie Theater  
SASKATOON, SK, Canada • Broadway Theater  
RALEIGH, NC • Rialto Colony Theater  
MADISON, WI • Orpheum Theater

### FESTIVALS

Munich International Film Festival, Munich, Germany  
Bangkok International Film Festival, Bangkok, Thailand  
Asiatica Film Mediale, Rome, Italy  
Cork International Film Festival, Cork, Ireland  
Tibet Film Festival, Victoria, Australia  
Spirits Film Festival, Tel Aviv, Israel  
UICA Tibet Film Festival, Grand Rapids, MI  
Maui Film Festival, Maui, HI  
Biokustannus, Helsinki, Finland  
Santa Cruz Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA  
Mendocino Film Festival, Mendocino, CA  
Vilnius Documentary Festival, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Buddhist Film Festival, Ontario, Canada  
Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival, Sun Valley, ID  
IFP Market New York, NY

### OTHER SCREENINGS

Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, CA  
Museum of Fine Art, Boston, MA  
Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Portland Art Museum, NW Film Center, Portland, OR  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, CA  
Museum of Asian Civilizations, Singapore  
Anchorage Museum of Art and History, Anchorage, AK  
Wesleyan University, Middlebury, CT  
Dawson College, Montreal, Canada  
University of Vienna, Austria  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick, Ireland  
Courthouse Art Centre, Tinahely, Ireland  
Pickford Cinema, Bellingham, WA  
Nevada Theatre, Nevada City, NV  
Red Vic Movie House, San Francisco, CA  
Waterloo Riverview Dharma Centre, ON, Canada  
The Buddhist Centre, Cairns, Australia  
Ananda Center, Mountain View, CA  
Ewam Center of Tibetan Buddhism, Missoula, MT  
Northern British Columbia Buddhist Society, BC, Canada  
Insight Meditation Society, NY  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Visit, University at Buffalo, NY  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Lecture, Rutgers University, NJ  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Teachings, Tucson, AZ  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Visit, Ketchum, ID

# Vajra Sky Over Tibet

## QUOTES FROM REVIEWS

***"Astonishingly lovely... As the images unfold and the facts accrete like sand in a mandala, 'Vajra Sky Over Tibet' builds an atmosphere of serene outrage."***

*TY BURR, THE BOSTON GLOBE*

***"While the vision of a culture threatened with extinction is harrowing, 'Vajra Sky Over Tibet' is actually a life-affirming celebration."***

*PHIL HALL, FILM THREAT*

***"An extraordinary and enthralling documentary about the richness of Tibetan Buddhism and the current threats to its continued existence in its homeland."***

*FREDERIC AND MARY ANN BRUSSAT, SPIRITUALITY & PRACTICE*

***"A well-photographed inside look at a fascinating culture and its people."***

*CORINA CHOCANO, LOS ANGELES TIMES*

***"Provides gorgeous sights and the ethereal soundtrack is quite beautiful."***

*NEW YORK MAGAZINE (CRITIC'S PICK)*

***"John Bush's gorgeous documentary about modern Tibet is something to see."***

*JOHN HARTL, SEATTLE TIMES*

***"This compelling documentary is an introduction to the culture and practice of Vajrayana Buddhism and a protest against China's repressive treatment of Tibet."***

*WALTER ADDIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

***"Bush has accomplished his primary and extraordinary feat: documenting a culture that threatens to disappear. It's a loving effort and an important addition to the body of films about this extraordinary, sacred region of the world."***

*THEODORE BALE, EDGE BOSTON*



# JOURNEY INTO BUDDHISM™

## *The Acclaimed Yatra Trilogy Films*

Director/Producer/Cinematographer JOHN BUSH  
Editor/Associate Producer DÓNAL Ó'CÉILLEACHAIR  
Consultant/Associate Producer NADINE HELSTROFFER  
Associate Editor/Associate Producer V. OWEN BUSH  
Original Harmonic Chant Score DAVID HYKES

*"This trilogy uses music on an even deeper more organic level... there is amazing music and of course the films are just terrific visually as well... more like a visual meditation."*

JOHN SCHAEFFER  
WNYC, NEW YORK PUBLIC RADIO

The soundtracks of these films are a remarkable combination of live recordings made during the shoot, and recordings of ancient and contemporary music by the legendary musicians and singers from each country. This richness is complemented by original theme music and a unique Harmonic Chant score by acclaimed singer and composer David Hykes.