

List of Documentaries on Contemporary Southeast Asian Buddhism

TLC compilation of recommendations by Michael Jerryson (September 2012)

- *Blue Collar and Buddha* (1987, USA/Laos): 57 minutes. A film about Buddhism among Lao refugees in rural Illinois; it opens with the attempted bombing of the wat and portrays the tension between the Lao Buddhists and the surrounding White population.
- *The Buddha Comes to Sussex* (1979, England, Thailand): 35 minutes. Chronicles Achaan Chah's visit to London. An example of reverse colonialism! Full access at <http://www.watnongpahpong.org/videobcs.php>
- *Buddha's Lost Children* (2006, Thailand): 97 minutes
- *Burmese Harp* (1967, Burma): 116 minutes.
- *Friends in High Places* (2001, Burma): 56 minutes.
- *Deacon of Death* (2004, Cambodia): 65 minutes.
- *Dharma River: Journey of a Thousand Buddhas* (2005, Laos, Thailand, Burma): 80 minutes
- "Exploitation of Women in Buddhism" from *What Harm Is It to Be a Woman?* (2005?, Thailand): 33 minutes. It centers on work being done by religious female leaders in Thailand to redefine their place in Buddhism.
- *Footprint of the Buddha* (1978, Sri Lanka): 54 minutes
- *Journey into Thailand: The Middle Path* (1986, Thailand): 29 minutes.
- *The Life and Work of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu* (1987, Thailand): 25 minutes.
- *The Mindful Way* (1970, Thailand): 25 minutes. A documentary about Achaan Chah and Wat Nong Pah Pong. Full access at <http://www.watnongpahpong.org/videomfw.php>.
- *Prajna Earth: Journey into Sacred Nature* (2004, Bali, Cambodia, Java): 80 minutes
- *Samsara: Death and Rebirth in Cambodia* (1989, Cambodia): 16 minutes. This uses passages from the *Dhammapada* juxtaposed with the depiction of efforts to reestablish society in post-Pol Pot Cambodia.
- *Today is Better than Two Tomorrows* (2009, Laos): 75 minutes.
- *Vejen* (1971, SEA, Burma): 22 minutes. this is an old film with a title in Danish meaning 'the Way'

Films that provide contemporary contexts for Southeast Asian Buddhism

- *Mekhong Full Moon Party* (2002, Thailand): 119 minutes. A wonderful Thai commercial film that explores the tensions between modernity and "tradition," countryside and city, reason and myth, science and religion. Full access at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-u69_hSQA.
- *Nang Nak* (1999, Thailand): 101 minutes. One of the more recent depiction of the famous myth of a devoted ghost wife and an unsuspecting husband.

Article on Southeast Asian Buddhist Films

- Justin McDaniel, "The Emotional Lives of Buddhist Monks in Modern Thai Film," *Journal of Religion and Film* 14.2 (2010):