



CALGARY BUDDHIST FILM SERIES - 2007

The Calgary Buddhist Temple is pleased to present the second Calgary Buddhist Film Series on November 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2007 in the John Dutton Theatre at the Calgary Central Library.

This Film Series is presented by the Calgary Buddhist Temple (Jodo Shinshu) and the Calgary Public Library.

It intends to provide a meaningful learning experience in Buddhist teachings (Dharma) as illuminated through contemporary films. Accordingly, each film will be followed by a Dharma discussion led by a Temple Sensei.

As well, the Library will display a selection of Buddhist literature.

This Series has been made possible through the generous support of volunteers at the Temple and the Library.

Volunteers will be present at the screenings to respond to any inquiries.

Light refreshments will be available for sale.

All are welcome; admission is free. (Please note film ratings.)

NOVEMBER 1, THURSDAY EVENING

6:30 – 9:00 PM = THE BURMESE HARP (BIRUMA NO TATEGOTO)

(1967) Japanese with English sub-titles, directed by Kon Ichikawa.
Dharma talk by Dr. Kyoto S. Ikuta, Sensei

The Burmese Harp is considered a Japanese “classic”, directed by one of the great masters of Japan. It is an epic of war and anti-war set in the Burmese jungle in 1945.

Themes of Compassion, Selflessness, and Truth.

Starring – Shoji Yasui as Private Mizushima

Running time – 116 min.

Rated – PG -13 (war scenes)

NOVEMBER 2, FRIDAY EVENING

6:30 to 9:00 PM = ENLIGHTENMENT GUARANTEED (ERLEUCHTUNG GARANTIERT)

(2000) English sub-titles for German and Japanese, directed by Doris Dorrie.

Dharma talk by Fredrich Ulrich, Sensei, visiting from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Two very different brothers set off to become “enlightened” leaving Germany for a Zen monastery in Japan. They discover Buddha’s First Noble Truth: To live is to suffer. This comedy/drama provides

insight into Buddhist philosophy, as the Abbott explains:
Enlightenment is often not the achievement of something but rather
the absence of something.

Themes of Loving-kindness, Compassion and Shinjin,

Starring - Uwe Ochsenknecht as Uwe and Gustav-Peter Wohler as Gustav.

Running time - 109 min.

Rated -PG

NOVEMBER 3, EARLY SATURDAY AFTERNOON

12:30 to 3:00 PM = THE GOLDEN CHILD

(1986) directed by Michael Ritchie.

Dharma talk by Dr. A.W. Barber, Sensei.

The film critic, Roger Ebert (Chicago Sun-Times) says just to lighten
up and enjoy this delightful film that is full of “clichés from every
Oriental swashbuckler in history”.

Themes of Impermanence, Joyfulness, Equanimity.

Starring - Eddie Murphy as “The Chosen One”

Running time - 94 min.

Rated PG -13

NOVEMBER 3, LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

4:00 to 7:00 PM = SAMSARA,

(2005) directed by Pan Nalin.

Dharma talk by Sensei James Martin.

“What is more important: satisfying one thousand desires or conquering just one...?”

This is a love story set in Ladakh, Himalayas as a monk leaves his monastery to discover the “human condition” – samsara.

Themes of Compassion, Interdependency, Interconnectedness, Samsara.

Starring - Shawn Ku as Tashi and Christy Chung as Pema

Running time - 138 min.

Rated R (sexual content)

NOVEMBER 3, SATURDAY EVENING

8:00 to 11:00 PM = LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

(2006) directed by Clint Eastwood.

Dharma talk by Dr. A. W. Barber.

“The several hundreds of unearthed {letters}...inspired the film, have the wonderful healing effect that a universal peace treaty would have. Reminding us of what is truly precious in life, they show us the heartfelt hopes and fears of otherwise voiceless soldiers...common yearning for harmony instead of hate.” Shen Sh’ian, The Buddhist Channel

Themes of Non-Duality, Interconnectedness, Equanimity, and Gratitude.

Starring - Ken Watanabe as General Kuribayashi.

Running time - 141 min.

Rated R (for graphic war violence)

NOVEMBER 4, SUNDAY AFTERNOON

1:00 to 3:30 PM = A ZEN LIFE -D.T. SUZUKI

(2005) directed and produced by Michael Goldberg.

A panel discussion by the Senseis will follow the film.

This is the Calgary Premiere screening of this documentary project of the life of Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki who is credited with helping Westerners understand Buddhism - such Westerners included Carl Jung, Thomas Merton, Martin Heidegger, Robert Aitken, John Cage, to name a few.

The panel of Senseis will discuss his life and answer questions related to the different sects of Buddhism, in particular Zen and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Running time - 77 min.

Rated n/a

4:00 to 6:30 PM = STRANGER THAN FICTION

(2006) directed by Marc Forster.

Dharma talk by Sensei James Martin.

“Who is writing your life?” is the theme of this thought-provoking film employing comedy, fantasy, and romance. This film has been called a “meditation on life, art and romance”.

Themes of Interconnectedness, Interdependency, Karma, Gratitude.

Starring - Dustin Hoffman, Will Ferrell, Emma Thompson, Queen Latifah, Maggie Gyllenhaal.

Running time - 113 min.

Rated PG-13

Gassho

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