



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org

會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Fearless Mountain

Directed by Tony Anthony

© 2009 Fearless Mountain Film

Buddha Wild

Directed by Anna Wilding

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Friday, April 9, 2010 7:30 PM

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Fearless Mountain and *Buddha Wild* are a pair of documentary films dealing with the transmission of Theravadin Buddhism to the West. *Fearless Mountain* is a 64-minute documentary exploring the world of the forest-dwelling monks of Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery in Redwood Valley, California. Abhayagiri means “Fearless Mountain” in Pali, and this film features candid interviews with the monks and other practitioners, and their daily routine. They live entirely on alms donated by members of the local community. We have a chance to see them in paddimmokka, or confession. Also featured is an ancient Thai ceremony in which a young boy – the son of immigrant Thai parents – formally joins the order. This is a film about American Buddhists who have taken vows as Theravadin monks, following in the Thai forest monastic tradition of Ajhan Chah. This film is being screened courtesy of Fearless Mountain Film.

Buddha Wild is a 60-minute documentary about Thai and Sri Lankan Buddhist monks in a missionary monastery in Christchurch, New Zealand. “Wild” means at one with nature. The film explores Theravadin religious beliefs and practices with primary focus on a community of celibate monks. The monks give candid accounts of their lives, their profession and Buddhist beliefs in a manner which is unpretentious and at times humorous. The “Monk in a Hut” refers to a sequence when the narrator, Anna Wilding, who is obviously liked by these monks, gets an invitation from one of them to visit his hut. The monks are primarily servicing the Thai and Sri Lankan expatriate community in New Zealand.

Admission is free.

