



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Travelers and Magicians

A Film by Khyentse Norbu

Friday, March 11, 2011 7:30 – 9:30 PM

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

Travelers and Magicians is a story of Dondup, a young Bhutanese government official who feels trapped in his small mountain village. He learns from a friend that he can earn ten times as much money by picking fruit in America as he can in a responsible government job in Bhutan. Setting out on his journey to get an American visa, he misses his bus and starts hitch-hiking. He falls in with a Buddhist monk, an apple seller, an old man and his beautiful daughter. The pace of the journey is slow, leisurely, much like life in Bhutan itself. The Buddhist monk starts telling a story and within the story there is an extended dream sequence involving lust and murder. The story and the dream sequence are laden with metaphor which ultimately relate to Dondup himself and his aspirations.

The director, Khyentse Norbu is a high Lama in the Tibetan tradition, and a native of Bhutan. Like his earlier film, *The Cup*, *Travelers and Magicians* deals with the sharp conflicts between modern and traditional cultures, but remains a fun, light-hearted film. Spoken in Dzonghka with English subtitles. 108 Minutes.

Admission is free.

