



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

# Samsara

© 2001 Pandora Film Production GmbH and Directed by Nalin Pan

Friday, November 11, 2011 7:30 – 9:30 PM

113 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10016

This is the story of a young monk brought up in a monastery from early childhood who completes an arduous three-year meditation and is promoted to the rank of teacher. Not being free from the realm of desire he falls in love with a local village girl, abandons his position as a monk and gets married. What happens after that is horrendous – all of his years of meditational discipline and austerity appear to help him very little in the real world of ordinary life. The historical Buddha abandoned his wife and set off in search of enlightenment, but this film explores the other side of that separation. It asks penetrating questions about what sort of responsibilities the former monk has toward his beautiful young wife and toward their son. Shot in the Himalayan foothills near Ladakh, India, this film was released in more than sixty countries, and won more than thirty international awards. It is short on dialogue and long on emotional intensity. It is an eloquent discussion of sex and spirituality, and the dramatic conflicts which can develop between secular and religious life.

Spoken in Tibetan with English subtitles

Admission is free.

