



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

Souls of Zen

A Film by Tim Graf and Jakob Montrasio

© 2013 m&r Kreativ GmbH

Friday, May 16, 2014 7:30 – 9:00 PM

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

The tsunami of 2011 and its aftermath, including the lethal radioactivity released by the Fukushima nuclear reactor, created a massive humanitarian crisis in Japan. Prior to the time the tsunami hit, Tim Graf from the Institut Für Religions-Wissenschaft of the University of Heidelberg and Jakob Montrasio, an experienced cinematographer, traveled to Japan to film a documentary in support of Graf's research into Zen Buddhism. They had started working on their film just before the tsunami struck. The resulting documentary provides a unique window into the practice of Zen Buddhism and the way in which Zen priests and monks handled the crisis. They opened up their temples to support homeless survivors, played a pivotal role in mourning the dead and caring for the bereaved, and helped to rebuild shattered communities. The film provides shocking and disturbing images of the tsunami and its aftermath, and gives direct insights into Zen Buddhist beliefs and practices regarding death and dying. Spoken in English and Japanese with English subtitles. 93 Minutes.

Admission is free.

