



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

# The Betrayal

(Nerakhoon)

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Friday, July 6, 2018 7:30 – 9:30 PM

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

*The Betrayal* starts with a young Buddhist family in Laos. The father takes a position as leader of a company of CIA-trained guerillas tracking the movements of the North Vietnamese Army as it works its way down the Ho Chi Minh trail. After the war, the father is arrested, placed in a communist “re-education” camp and his family is left to fend for themselves. Escaping across the Mekong river, they enter a refugee camp in Thailand and from there move to America. In America, they end up in one of the worst slums in Brooklyn, where they are surrounded by filth, gang violence, drugs, and a youth-culture that disrespects immigrants and parents. When the half-brother of the film’s central character gets murdered in gang violence at the age of 16, his funeral is conducted by Buddhist monks. At the end of the film, the family leaves the slums and moves to a small house in a nice suburban community in New Jersey – in some ways a typical American immigrant success story. The film frequently references the family’s Buddhist past, as if to say, does American society – despite its wealth and power – really represent an improvement over the life they left behind in Laos?

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Admission is free.

