



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

The Oracle Reflections on Self; Sleepwalking Mongolia

A Pair of Films by David Cherniack

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Friday, June 7, 2019 7:30 – 10:00 PM

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The Oracle: Reflections on Self is a documentary about the Tibetan Oracle. While the official Tibetan Oracle provides advice from important Buddhist deities to the Dalai Lama, many small Tibetan villages have their own oracles, providing advice from local gods or spirits. The Oracle is a Buddhist adaptation of traditional shamanistic practices associated with the Bon religion of Tibet. So widespread was Tibetan belief in the Oracle as a source of advice to the Tibetan government that it may have delayed the formation of a Tibetan parliament. 52 Minutes.

Sleepwalking Mongolia is a documentary about the Kalachakra initiation ceremony performed by the Dalai Lama in Mongolia. Buddhist teaching, politics, history, group dynamics and competition with Evangelical Christians are presented in detail. Mongolia at the start of the 20th century was a highly stratified agrarian society with serfs owned by the aristocracy and by the monasteries. With the fall of the Qing dynasty in 1911, Mongolian independence from China was declared the Bogd Khan, the highest Buddhist prelate in the nation. However, real Mongolian independence from China was only guaranteed by Stalin and the Mongolian communists, who unleashed a fierce anti-Buddhist persecution. This film focuses on efforts on the part of Mongolian Buddhists to rebuild their tradition. 96 Minutes.

These films are being screened courtesy of UFOTV, <http://www.ufotv.com>.

Admission is free.

