THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
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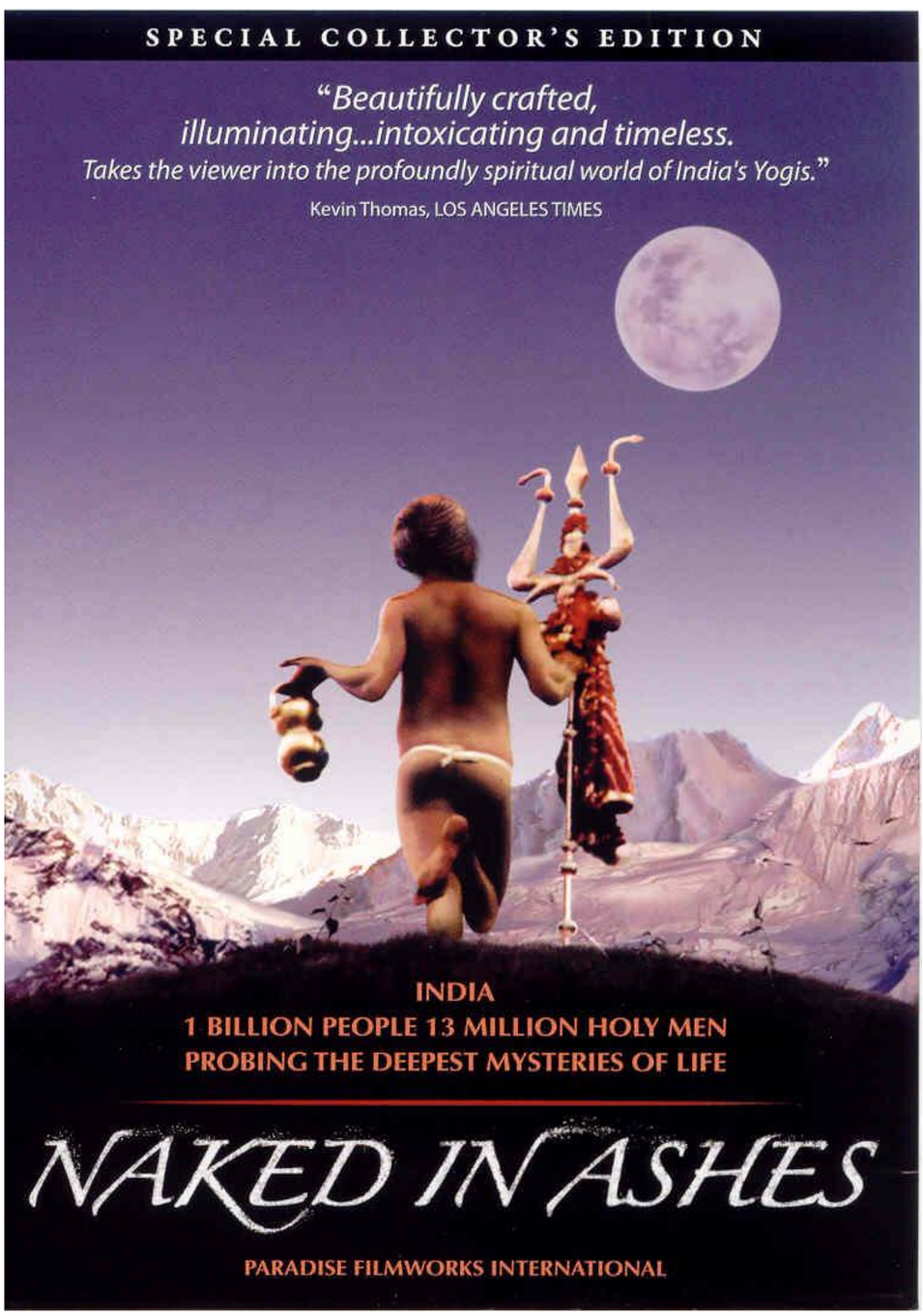
會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Naked in Ashes

Paradise Filmworks International
Friday, July 8, 2011 7:30 – 9:15 PM
113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

The 13 million yogis of India are a highly unusual group of individuals. In the classic stories of the Buddha's life, prior to his enlightenment he spent many years with a group of sadhus practicing various austerities. This film gives intimate portrayals of a small handful of these holy men. Their austerities include living naked but for a loin cloth and a covering of ashes when other members of society are dressed in winter clothing. Or keeping one arm raised straight up continuously for more than a decade, or walking barefoot through the snows in the Himalayas, or practicing meditation in the center of a circle of burning fires, or standing up continuously, without even once sitting or lying down, for years on end. Some of these sadhus became religious ascetics as young orphans, and others have crippling deformities. All are intensely devoted to their spiritual practices. The film includes shots from the 2001 Kumbh Mehla. *Naked in Ashes* © 2005 is being screened courtesy of Paradise Filmworks International, www.ParadiseFilmworks.com; The film is unrated, but includes explicit male nudity. 103 minutes.

Admission is free.