



# Spiritual Cinema

## Yangsi

Directed by Mark Elliott.

**T**HE TIBETAN WORD *yangsi* means rebirth. Buddhism sees every living being as a yangsi, but an *Incarnation* is reborn for a special purpose—to help and serve all sentient beings. At age four Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche was discovered to be the reincarnation of the great and deeply revered Buddhist master, Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. As Yangsi says, “Reincarnation is just the beginning.”

We follow the young boy from his family home to Boudhanath in Nepal. Rabjam Rinpoche, his main attendant and teacher, himself came to Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche as a young child. With wisdom and understanding, he provides his charge with both traditional and modern training: study, memorization, deportment, ritual—and shooting hoops with his playmates.

At a ceremony celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche’s birth, Yangsi’s life changes. Now seventeen, he feels he is receiving his prior incarnation’s direct guidance and inspiration. In the following years he travels to his predecessor’s centers in the USA, Europe and Asia where he gives his first public teachings.

By the film’s end, Yangsi knows: “The torch has been passed to me.” The reality he faces is one of more and more people suffering, feeling lost amid an epidemic of depression. Thus the core message of this outstanding film: it is the plight of sentient beings that brings the great teachers, the great Gurus, to take birth and rebirth among us.

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82 min. © 2012 by Crestone Films, Inc. A Trailer, Digital Download and DVD are available at [www.crestonefilms.com](http://www.crestonefilms.com).

## Death Makes Life Possible

Directed by Mark Krigbaum and Marilyn Schlitz,  
Produced by Angela Murphy.

**M**ARILYN SCHLITZ, PH.D., a cultural anthropologist, embarks upon a journey to answer some universal questions: what is death and what lies beyond it? Joined by Deepak Chopra, MD, their kindness and wisdom illuminate what is often a dark or avoided subject in our society. Marilyn travels to speak with more than two dozen doctors, scientists, mental health experts, teachers, religious leaders, near-death experiencers, and many others. The first is Lee Lipsenthal, MD, who is dying in a state of gratitude for a great life, along with graceful acceptance of his next journey. Even his funeral, which we visit later in the film, is inspiring.

There are others whose names we may recognize: medical doctor Dean Ornish, psychologist Dean Radin, author Luisah Teish, teacher Michael Bernard Beckwith, Navajo artist and teacher Tony Redhouse, lightning-strike survivor Dannon Brinkley, and former astronaut Edgar Mitchell. They, along with many others—from respected professionals to kids on a playground bench—relate their expertise, personal experiences or ideas with generosity and sincerity.

Especially compelling are the contributions of Deepak Chopra, who shares wisdom on grieving; the key to the conquest of death: finding out who you really are; the understanding that death is an illusion; and exquisite poetry that moves us right into the heart of the matter.

*Death Makes Life Possible* skillfully and gently raises the curtain on what we think of as the last act in our play of life. A landmark production, not to be missed.

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63 min. © 2013 Petaluma Pictures, Co-produced by the Institute of Noetic Sciences and The Chopra Foundation, [marilynschlitz.com](http://marilynschlitz.com).