

«A BEAUTIFULLY MEANDERING INQUIRY.
ELUSIVE, POETIC AND PROFOUND.»

SEAN FARNEL

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*A film about
the destruction of the
famous Buddha statues
in Afghanistan... An essay
about terrorism and tolerance,
ignorance and identity,
fanaticism and faith.*

THE GIANT BUDDHAS

A FILM BY CHRISTIAN FREI

WITH NELOFER PAZIRA • XUANZANG • SAYYED MIRZA HUSSAIN • TAYSIR ALONY • ZÉMARYALAÏ TARZI

CHRISTIAN FREI FILMPRODUCTIONS GMBH IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH SWISS NATIONAL TELEVISION, ZDF/ARTE AND SUISSIMAGE AND IN ASSOCIATION
WITH BERNARD WEBER AND PETER SPOERRI PS-FILM GMBH PRESENT «THE GIANT BUDDHAS» • CINEMATOGRAPHY PETER INDERGAND SCS
ASSISTANT EDITOR DENISE ZABALAGA • SOUND DESIGN FLORIAN EIDENBENZ • MUSIC BY PHILIP GLASS • JAN GARBAREK • STEVE KUHN • ARVO PÄRT
NARRATORS STEFAN KURT (GERMAN) • PETER METTLER (ENGLISH) • VISUAL EFFECTS PATRICK LINDENMAIER • PAUL AVONDET
WORLD SALES FILMS TRANSIT INTERNATIONAL INC. • PRODUCED, DIRECTED AND EDITED BY CHRISTIAN FREI



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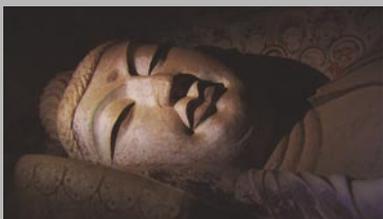
World Premiere Official Selection
Locarno International Film Festival 2005

International Premiere Official Selection
Toronto International Film Festival 2005

«A BEAUTIFULLY MEANDERING JOURNEY. ELUSIVE, POETIC AND PROFOUND.»

SEAN FARNEL
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*The destruction
of the famous Buddha statues
in Afghanistan... A new
film by Oscar® nominated
director Christian Frei and
Emmy® Award nominated
cinematographer Peter Indergand.*



THE GIANT BUDDHAS

A FILM BY CHRISTIAN FREI

Six months before the Twin Towers attacks in New York, two huge Buddha statues were blown up in the remote area of Bamiyantal in Afghanistan. This dramatic event surrounding ancient stone colossi – unique proof of a high culture that bloomed until the 13th century along the Silk Road – is the starting point for a cinematic essay on fanaticism and faith, terror and tolerance, ignorance and identity. Oscar nominated director Christian Frei's thought-provoking film journeys along a perimeter that both divides and unites people and cultures.

«EINE WUNDERSCHÖN MÄANDERENDE
FILMREISE. FACETTENREICH,
POETISCH UND TIEF.»

Sechs Monate vor dem Angriff auf die Twin Towers in New York wurden im abgelegenen Bamiyantal in Afghanistan zwei riesige Buddha-Statuen in die Luft gesprengt. Das Drama um die alten Steinkolosse – einzigartige Zeugnisse einer Hochkultur, die bis zum 13. Jh. entlang der Seidenstrasse blühte –

ist Ausgangspunkt eines filmischen Essays über Fanatismus und Vielfalt, Terror und Toleranz, Ignoranz und Identität. Der Film ist eine Reise entlang jener facettenreichen Linie, die Menschen und Kulturen gleichermaßen trennt und verbindet.

«UNE ENQUÊTE MAGNIFIQUE.
SINUEUSE, DÉROUTANTE,
POÉTIQUE ET PROFONDE.»

Six mois avant le raid sur les Twin Towers à New York, une explosion a secoué la lointaine vallée de Bamiyan en Afghanistan, détruisant deux immenses statues du Bouddha. Le drame déclenché par ces anciens colosses de pierre – vestiges exceptionnels d'une civilisation florissante le long de la route de la soie jusqu'au treizième siècle – est le point de départ d'un essai cinématographique sur le fanatisme et le pluralisme, la terreur et la tolérance, l'ignorance et l'identité. Le film nous en-traîne le long d'une ligne de démarcation particulière, celle qui sépare et unit, à parts égales, les hommes et les cultures.

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Locarno International Film Festival – World Premiere – Filmmakers of the Present

Monday, August 8th, 16.00 Kursaal, PRESS-SCREENING (English Version) / Tuesday, August 9th, 11.00 FEVI, WORLD PREMIERE (German Version) / Wednesday, August 10th, 14.00 L'altra sala, REPETITION (German Version) / Thursday, August 11th, 21.00 Cinema Otello, REPETITION (English Version)

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GERMAN VERSION

The Giant Buddhas

35mm, 1:1,85
Dolby Digital, 95'11"
German Narration with
German/French Subtitles
Narrator: Stefan Kurt

ENGLISH VERSION

The Giant Buddhas

35mm, 1:1,85
Dolby Digital, 95'11"
English Narration with
English/French Subtitles
Narrator: Peter Mettler

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