



## 'My Reincarnation' review: Documentary about Tibetan Buddhist family

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'My Reincarnation' documentary

In one sense, Jennifer Fox's documentary, "My Reincarnation," tells a very particular story about the effects of the Tibetan diaspora and the unique stresses that come from being deemed a reincarnated holy man.

In another, it's the familiar saga of a son rebelling against, then coming to terms with, the long shadow of his father.

After China invaded Tibet in 1959, Chögyal Namkhai Norbu fled the country along with most of the Buddhist leadership. He

settled in Italy, married and had two children. Norbu's son Yeshi, as recorded by Fox's camera for more than 20 years, resents his father's frequent absences as he founds and builds his own community and travels the globe teaching. As his father ages and declines in health, though, Yeshi feels more and more drawn to assume his place in the family business.

Just getting this film finished is a major achievement for Fox, thanks partly to a record-breaking crowdsourcing campaign that raised more than \$150,000. It offers a rare look at the everyday life of a spiritual leader, so that even if Yeshi's dilemma never seems that urgent or vital, "My Reincarnation" remains a compelling, universal film.

*(82 min., not rated, Clinton Street Theater) Grade: **B***

-- **Marc Mohan**

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