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My Reincarnation, a documentary by Jennifer Fox opens October 28

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A film by Jennifer Fox, twenty-years in the making, is soon to open in select theaters.

Film synopsis: The feature length documentary, **MY REINCARNATION**, follows the renowned reincarnate Tibetan spiritual master, Chögyal [Namkhai Norbu](#), as he struggles to save his spiritual tradition, and his Italian born son, Yeshe, who stubbornly refuses to follow in his father's footsteps. When [Namkhai Norbu](#) Rinpoche escaped Tibet in 1959, he settled in Italy, where he married and had two children, of which Yeshe was the first. Yeshe was recognized as the reincarnation of Rinpoche's uncle, a famous Dzogchen master, who died after the Chinese invaded Tibet. Yeshe grew up in Italy and never wanted to have anything to do with this legacy. He didn't want to be a teacher like his father, nor did he want to return to Tibet and the monastic life that his father continually admonished him to do. Instead, he dreamed of a normal life, away from the hoards of devoted students that always surrounded his father

Through intimate scenes we see a young man grow from 18 years old to 39 years old and maturity; and a father who begins the story in his 50 year-old prime turns to 70 years and old age. As the story unravels what is at stake is [Namkhai Norbu](#) Rinpoche's spiritual tradition; for Yeshe it is his own identity. Will Yeshe's Western lifestyle replace his family tradition and his spiritual roots? Will his father succeed at transplanting the vanishing Tibetan heritage to the Western world? The stories of both the father and the son combine to make **MY REINCARNATION** a universal drama that taps into the classic narrative of family and inheritance. As time passes, both father and son begin to change, giving **MY REINCARNATION** the scope and depth of great fiction.



The film builds its narrative through a creative weave of archival film, still photographs, and over 1,000 hours of footage shot from 1988 to 2009: intimate cinéma vérité scenes with neverbefore-seen access to a high Tibetan Teacher and his family. In addition, the interviews done with [Namkhai Norbu](#) and Yeshe over twenty years provide a second text that is married to scenes to give insight and conflict, revealing the changing characters. The image of water and swimming, [Namkhai Norbu](#)'s beloved pastime, is used as a repetitive thematic pillar through the film and a representation of his teachings of integration and emptiness. The natural sounds of chanting and song, combined with added effects and carefully scored music, is used to express a non-verbal sense of the spiritual world Norbu Rinpoche seeks to transmit to his son — and to the West.

Through years of filmmaking, Jennifer Fox has honed her skills at documentary storytelling with projects such as **BEIRUT: THE LAST HOME MOVIE** (Best Documentary Film at the 1988 Sundance Film Festival and Grand Prix for Best Documentary at the 1988 Cinema Du Reel), **AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY** (premiered at the Berlinale and Sundance 1999 and Gracie Award for Best



Television Series), and most recently **FLYING: CONFESSIONS OF A FREE WOMAN** (premiered at IDFA and Sundance 2007, theatrical release in the US). With **MY REINCARNATION**, she has applied these skills to transform this secret and esoteric subject into an accessible and powerful dramatic feature for a general audience. **MY REINCARNATION** has been made through a unique co-production with the Dutch Buddhist Broadcasting Channel, ZDF-ARTE, Swiss TV, YLE-1, Finnish Television and Italy and is presold to POV, the premiere documentary series on American Public Television

<http://thebuddhistdispatch.com/my-reincarnation-a-documentary-by-jennifer-fox/#comments>