



SOULS OF ZEN - BUDDHISM, ANCESTORS, AND THE 2011 TSUNAMI IN JAPAN

by Jakob Montrasio, Tim Graf



SYNOPSIS

The documentary “Souls of Zen – Buddhism, Ancestors, and the 2011 Tsunami in Japan” presents perspectives on Buddhism as practiced by clergy, lay adherents, and families in Japan by drawing on ethnographic fieldwork on the daily life of Buddhist temples, monastic education, prayer practice, mortuary rituals, and Japan’s tradition of ancestor veneration in the wake of 3/11. From March to December 2011, Tim Graf and Jakob Montrasio filmed invaluable footage of the greatest religious mobilization in Japan’s postwar history. This film is the only documentary based on sustained attention to the everyday lives of Buddhist professionals in the disaster zone. In an ethnographic journey from Tokyo to the hardest-hit prefectures (among other regions in Japan) Souls of Zen covers insights and opinions from scholars, clergy, and lay adherents with a focus on Soto Zen and Jo-do Pure Land Buddhism. The filmmakers visited rural graveyards, urban temples, modern funeral halls, prayer...

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Jakob Montrasio, Tim Graf

Germany 2012

90 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Sustainability, Economy, Religion

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Japanese

PREMIERE

Germany (2012)

FILM LOCATION

Japan

LINKS / REFERENCE

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