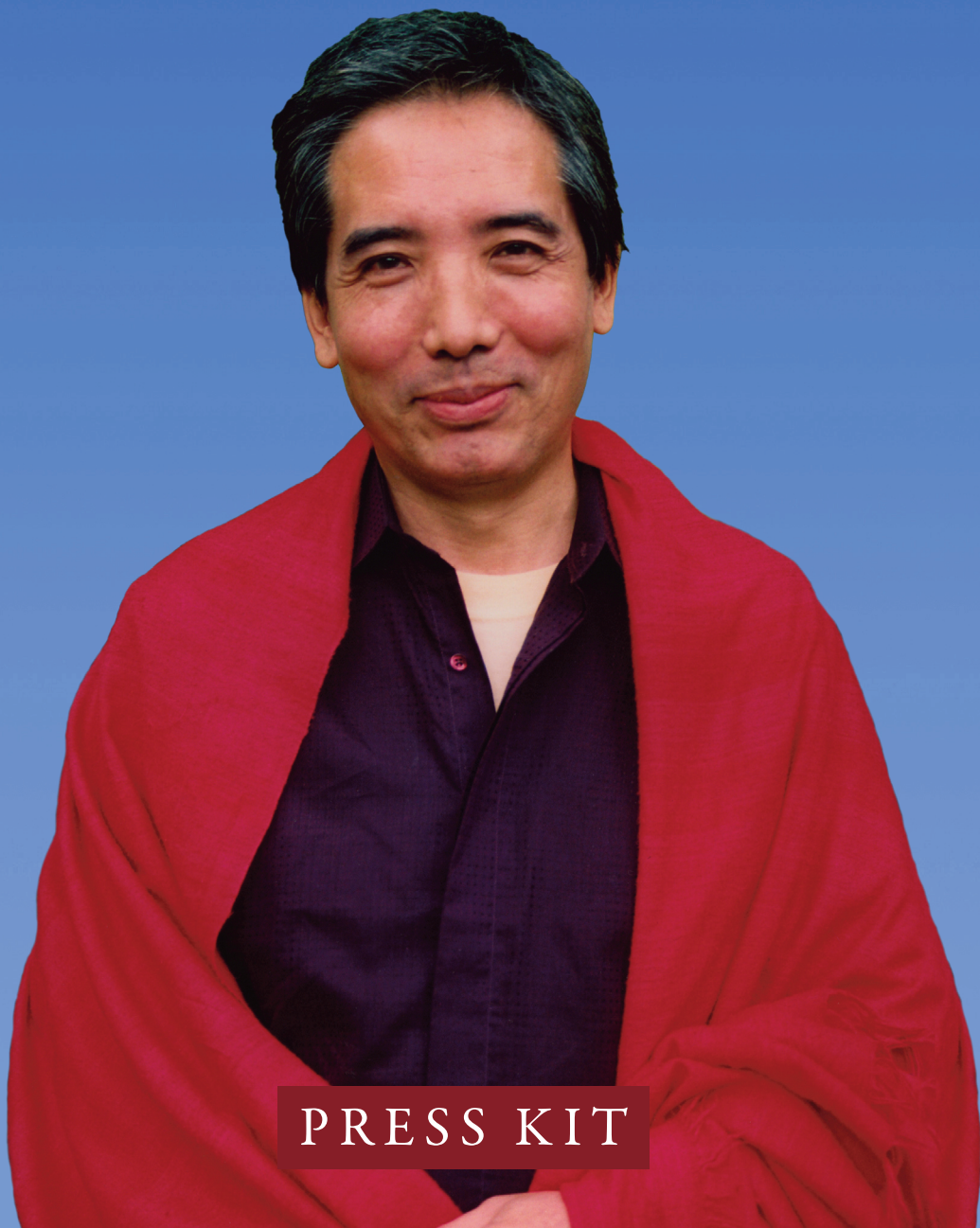


Beyond Two Worlds

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche IX

A Remarkable life • A beautiful and moving story • Stunning footage

Recognized at the age of two as the 9th Traleg Tulku, Rinpoche escaped Tibet at the age of 5, travelling at night using the stars as a guide. After disrobing at the age of 25 and making his home in Australia, Rinpoche returned to his original home and reconnected with his people.



PRESS KIT



presents

Beyond Two Worlds

Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX

A Collaboration

Traleg Khandro, Jocelyn Fay Meli, Leigh Tilson

Duration: One hour 24 minutes

Shogam Publications Pty Ltd
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shogam.com

ABOUT THE FILM

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche (1955-2012)

In *Beyond Two Worlds* we have an opportunity to share a personal journey of an incarnate Buddhist lama, Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX, his escape from Tibet, his life in the West, and his journey home to his beloved Tibet.

Beyond Two Worlds gives an intimate portrayal of the life of Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX, a highly recognized Buddhist incarnate Lama, and Abbot of Thrangu Monastery in Qinghai Province, Tibet, his life in the West, and his reconnection with his land and his people. A scholar, author, teacher, humanitarian, and spiritual friend, Traleg Rinpoche devoted his life to benefiting others and ensuring that Tibetan Buddhism was apprehended and practiced traditionally but within a contemporary setting. His remarkable command of the English language ensured that any potential cultural and linguistic barriers were overcome and replaced with clear and penetrating teachings that brought the philosophy of Buddhism to life in such a way that made it accessible philosophically and practically to enrich the lives of students of Buddhism in the West in particular, where Rinpoche spent much of his adult life.



THE PRODUCER'S STORY

The Remarkable Life of my husband Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX



It was clear that Rinpoche's health may not give him the opportunity for as long a life as his students and loved ones would have hoped. Rinpoche achieved so much in his 57 years we perhaps could not have asked for anything more. He gave everything of himself. Some life stories are so remarkable that against all odds, they somehow not only survive, but flourish. Rinpoche flourished, but instead of seeking a better life for himself, Rinpoche sought a better life for others.

"He was always teaching you something." Gerb Hurley

When in the West, whether he was teaching at a Buddhist Center or interacting with people in an ordinary everyday setting, "people were attracted to him." "We call it Wang Tang in Tibetan." Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche is referring to a type of charisma, a magnetism that Traleg Rinpoche displayed naturally.

Born to a humble family in Eastern Tibet in 1955, at the age of 2, monks arrived at his family's home and announced that His Holiness the 16th Karmapa had prophesied his birth as the 9th Traleg Tulku, Abbott of Thrangu Monastery in Yushu, Tibet. Instructed by the Karmapa to have the 9th Traleg Tulku enthroned immediately, the monks returned to the monastery and the enthronement ensued. At 4 1/2 years of age, along with some family members and some of the Thrangu monastic community, they travelled at night using only the stars as their guide to escape the Chinese invasion of their homeland.

At monasteries and Sanskrit University in India, Sikkim, and Bhutan, Rinpoche continued the traditional education of a high incarnate Lama. Through his own volition and with the help of a Jesuit Father, Father Mickey, Rinpoche became fluent in English, which was very unusual particularly for a monastic at that time. In his early 20's, because of Rinpoche's command of English, he was appointed as the translator for His Holiness the 16th Karmapa, as many Western students had begun visiting the East studying Buddhism and seeking audiences with His Holiness.

At 25, Rinpoche disrobed and came to live in Australia. He pursued academic studies in Western philosophy and at 30 years of age, we married. Throughout his adult life, Rinpoche continued to teach Buddhism, and so doing became a prolific author and teacher, travelling the world.

"He gave everything of himself to this world." Kesang Marstrand.

A life so complete and generous we could not have asked for anything more.

The footage in *Beyond Two Worlds: Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX* by cinematographer Leigh Tilson was captured by Leigh following Rinpoche in Australia and throughout China and Tibet capturing extraordinary moments of Rinpoche's life and the return home to his beloved Tibet.



After so many years away from his homeland, Rinpoche returned to Tibet—his people and his monastery.

“I didn’t know them, and they didn’t know me... but I felt an instant connection.”

Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX

A brief biography of

TRALEG KYABGON RINPOCHE IX



Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX (1955-2012) was born in Nangchen in Kham, eastern Tibet. He was recognized by His Holiness XVI Gyalwang Karmapa as the ninth Traleg tulku and enthroned at the age of two as the supreme abbot of Thrangu Monastery. Rinpoche was taken to Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim at the age of five where he was educated with other young tulkus in exile by His Holiness Karmapa for the next five years.

Rinpoche began his studies under the auspices of His Eminence Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche at Sangnak Choling in Darjeeling. He also studied with a number of other eminent Tibetan teachers during that time and mastered the many Tibetan teachings with the Kagyu and Nyingma traditions. In 1967, Rinpoche moved to the Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, and studied extensively for the next five years. He studied Buddhist history, Sanskrit, and Hindi, as well as many great Buddhist texts.

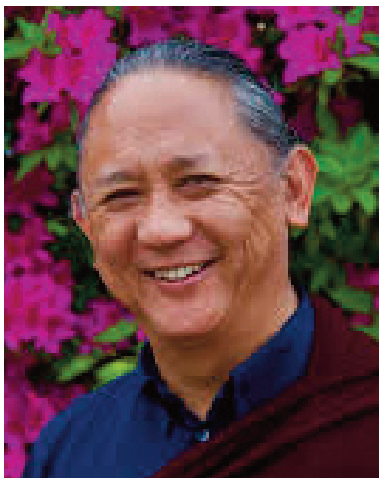
When Rinpoche had completed these studies at the age of sixteen, he was sent by His Holiness Karmapa to study under the auspices of the Venerable Khenpo Yesha Chodar at Sanskrit University in Varanasi for three years. Rinpoche was subsequently put in charge of Zangdog Palri Monastery in Eastern Bhutan and placed under the private tutelage of Dregung Khenpo Ngedon by His Holiness Karmapa. Rinpoche ran this monastery for the next three years and began learning English during that time.

From 1977 to 1980, Rinpoche returned to Rumtek in Sikkim to fill the honored position of His Holiness' translator, where he dealt with many English-speaking Western visitors. Rinpoche moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1980 and commenced studies in comparative religion and philosophy at LaTrobe University. Rinpoche established E-Vam Institute in Melbourne in 1982, and followed that by opening Maitripa Centre, E-Vam Institute in America, and Nyima Tashi Centre in New Zealand.

For the next 30 years Rinpoche gave teachings at his Centers and travelled internationally through America, Europe, and South East Asia. Throughout his life Rinpoche gave extensive teachings on many aspects of Buddhist psychology and philosophy, as well as comparative religion, and Buddhist and Western thought. He was an active writer and has many titles to his name. Titles include: *Essence of Buddhism*; *Desire: Why It Matters*; *Vajrayana*; *Moonbeams of Mahamudra*; *Karma What It Is, What It Isn't, and Why It Matters*; *The Practice of Lojong*; and many more. Rinpoche's books have been translated into many different languages including Chinese, French, German, Korean, and Spanish.

Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX passed into parinirvana on 24 July 2012, on Chokhor Duchon, the auspicious day of the Buddha's first teaching. Further details can be found at TralegRinpoche.org

MEETING THE OTHER BUDDHIST TEACHERS IN “BEYOND TWO WORLDS”



Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche

Venerable Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche was born in the Northern Indian province of Himachel Pradesh to Tibetan parents and grew up in a monastic environment. Recognized as an incarnation of Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Thaye, he received extensive training in all aspects of Buddhist doctrine. In particular he received the teachings of the Nyingma lineage, especially that of the Longchen Nyingthik from his root teacher, H.H. Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. Rinpoche also studied extensively under Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche, Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche, and the great scholar Khenpo Rinchen.

In 1989 Rinpoche moved to the United States and soon after founded Mangala Shri Bhuti, which has since developed further Centers and Sanghas in the U.S. and in different parts of the world. While not in retreat, Rinpoche travels widely throughout the world teaching and furthering his own education.

It was Traleg Rinpoche’s wish that Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche be appointed Traleg Khandro’s spiritual guide after his passing. Traleg Rinpoche had great respect for Kongtrul Rinpoche’s Dharma activity and was impressed by his pristine ethic and activities. They had become friends over the years with Traleg Rinpoche visiting Kongtrul Rinpoche on his visits to Colorado. Kongtrul Rinpoche made several visits to Traleg Rinpoche’s Centers in Australia and gave teachings to his U.S. Sangha after Traleg Rinpoche passed.



Lama Zeupa

Lama Zeupa is the now Spiritual Director of Yeunten Ling and its associated Centers in Belgium and has lived there since 1993. Originally from Sikkim, Lama Zeupa was educated at the monastery of Sonada. After his three-year retreat, he toured many dharma Centers in the West. Lama La decided to settle in Yeunten Ling as he was charmed by the special atmosphere of the place and by the beautiful dharma activity, patience, great wisdom, and discipline of the senior Lamas.

For many years, Traleg Rinpoche visited Europe and Yeunten Ling to give teachings and spend time with the wonderful resident Lamas there. A great respect and friendship developed. Rinpoche was always warmly welcomed and became part of the Yeunten Ling Sangha family in many ways. He shared many fond memories with his wife and his students in Australia of his times in Europe with the Lamas. Lama Zeupa travelled to Australia to teach Rinpoche’s students on a number of occasions, detailing some of the practices for those following the Kagyu three-year retreat practices, and for the broader Sangha teaching aspects of the Buddha-Dharma and Tibetan Yoga.

MEETING STUDENTS AND FRIENDS INTERVIEWED IN “BEYOND TWO WORLDS”



Traleg Khandro (Felicity)

Khandro now runs Traleg Rinpoche’s publishing business Shogam Publications, is the Director of E-Vam Buddhist Institute in the US, and a Governing Director at E-Vam Institute in Melbourne Australia. As well as producing books of her husband’s Buddhist teachings, she also regularly gives commentary on his teachings.

At Rinpoche’s request, Felicity left her life as a business consultant in her late 40’s and began assisting Rinpoche with his Centers and other Buddhist activities in Melbourne, Sydney, and New York. “This was my training ground. In retrospect, he was preparing me for his passing. He taught me so much and gave me so much remarkable advice. He would test my skills and understanding all the time. He would regularly quiz me about a teaching he gave, and would ask me about how I was assessing situations and people’s propensities and suitability for different tasks that needed to be performed at the Center. He was preparing me for his departure. I did feel prepared in some ways, but nothing can fully prepare you for such a loss. Rinpoche’s life is an important story to be told for so many reasons.” He said, “No matter what environment you are faced with in life—politically, environmentally, or personally, you can find a way to work with it.”



Lyn Hutchison

Lyn came to E-Vam Institute in Australia a few years after it opened and has been part of the E-Vam sangha for over 3 decades. As well as attending many of Rinpoche’s courses and retreats, she also focused on organizing, digitizing, and transcribing Rinpoche’s many teachings; studying the Tibetan language; and completed the traditional Kagyu 3 Year retreat.

One of her passions is the preservation of Traleg Rinpoche’s teachings and to participate in the dissemination of these teachings in accordance with Rinpoche’s instructions and wishes.



Gerb Hurley

Gerb attended a teaching by Traleg Rinpoche in New York City in the 90’s at a difficult time of his life. He described meeting Rinpoche as “life

changing.” As well as becoming Rinpoche’s student, Gerb and Rinpoche developed a close friendship. Rinpoche described Gerb as his “best friend in America.”



Luc Queue

Luc was Traleg Rinpoche’s French translator and student when Rinpoche was travelling and teaching in Belgium and France. Luc is a Sangha member at Yeunten Ling

Buddhist Centre in Belgium. Luc described the time he spent with Rinpoche as some of the most wonderful moments in his life. Luc is currently translating Traleg Rinpoche’s book “Luminous Bliss” into French.



Jampa Dradak

Jampa was one of Traleg Rinpoche’s closest friends when they attended Sanskrit University in Varanasi India as teenagers.

Jampa went on to work and teach at the university. Now an American resident, he occasionally consults for Traleg Rinpoche’s publishing arm Shogam Publications.



Tenzin Murdoch

Traleg Rinpoche’s nephew Tenzin came out to Australia with his mother at the age of 8. He lived with Rinpoche and Khandro for four years

while his mother adjusted to life in Australia. Rinpoche treated Tenzin like a son and Tenzin recalls, “he always made time for me.” Tenzin lost his mother as a young man. Tenzin speaks of the closeness between himself and his uncle. “People saw me as Rinpoche’s nephew,” “he was more like a Father to me.”



Kesang Marstrand

Kesang is an American folk singer, songwriter, and guitarist. She was brought up in a Buddhist household and met Traleg Rinpoche when she was a teenager. Her

recollection of Rinpoche included sharing with him her concerns and “dramas” as a teenager. “He was very kind and patient.” Some of Kesang’s music is featured in the documentary. As an act of gratitude and devotion, Kesang led many of the pujas (religious chanting) in New York, chanting each day for 49 days after Rinpoche passed into Parinirvana.



Ali Coomber

Ali is a long-time student and resident at Nyima Tashi Buddhist Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Through the Nyima Tashi Centre, led by Ani Jangchub

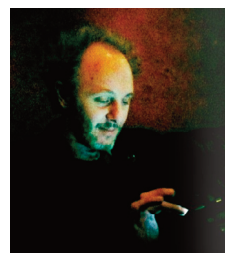
Lhamo, Ali has followed Traleg Rinpoche’s teachings through the instruction she received directly from Traleg Rinpoche and the instruction, inspiration, and support she has gained from Ani Jangchub’s commentary on Traleg Rinpoche’s teachings and her guidance and the example she displays for what it means to be a humble and devoted student of the Dharma.



Meaghan Duffy

Meaghan assists Ani Jangchub at the New Zealand Center with administrative and organizational matters and has also given courses herself at their annual Buddhist

Summer School. Her devotion to Rinpoche was born through her connection with Ani Jangchub and Ani La’s fierce and undying efforts to uphold Rinpoche’s unique approach in presenting the Dharma.



Mark Dawson

Mark joined the E-Vam Sangha as a teenager and has gone on to become a Governing Director and Office Coordinator for the city Center in Australia. He is

part of the traditional Shedra studies program started under the guidance of Traleg Rinpoche and after his passing, continued under the guidance of Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche and instruction by Khenpo Chonyi Rangdrol, head of the Thrangu Tara Abbey, in Nepal. Mark is also a musician—composer, vocalist, guitarist, and sound engineer. Some of his music features in the soundtrack of the documentary.

THE COLLABORATIVE TEAM



Director and Editor—Jocelyn Fay Meli

Jocelyn has been a student of Tibetan Buddhism for 30 years and in 2002 took refuge with Kabyje Chime Rinpoche in England. Jocelyn began working with filming and editing in 2013, and soon became the Online Program Manager at Tara Mandala Retreat Center in Colorado USA. It was here that she met Traleg Khandro. In 2018, Jocelyn branched out, working on several small projects, trailers, and videos and it was at this time that she also decided that she wanted to make documentaries. Traleg Khandro and Jocelyn discussed the possibility of making a documentary about Traleg Rinpoche's life and began working together with Leigh Tilson in December 2018.

Jocelyn is also a Psychotherapeutic Counselor and has her own private practice named "Holistic Counselling with Joss," where she weaves Buddhist wisdom and compassion into her therapeutic work with clients.



Cinematographer—Leigh Tilson

Leigh has been a student of Traleg Rinpoche for many years. He travelled with Rinpoche through China and Tibet as well as filming Rinpoche in Australia at the Buddhist Summer School and other special events. He is a professional producer, director, and cinematographer with over 40 years of experience in the film and television industry, both as a freelancer and running his production house. Leigh has won awards for his documentaries, television programs, commercials, and educational resources. He has lectured in media production at five universities, including the University of Melbourne, where he has been employed as a freelance media professional for over 25 years, as well as teaching media production. He has maintained an ongoing commitment to social justice and human-interest documentaries, both as an independent filmmaker and with his commissioned projects.

Leigh's expertise and unique perspective has provided breathtaking and intimate footage that displays the beauty and spirit of his teacher, Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche IX, and the love Rinpoche expressed for his students, his adopted home in the West, and his heart connection with his homeland, Tibet.



Producer—Traleg Khandro

Traleg Khandro (Felicity) Australian born, was Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche's wife of 27 years before his untimely passing from a heart attack at age 57. Knowing that hours of remarkable footage had been taken over many years in different parts of the world, and being present at the very moving reunion Rinpoche had with his monastery and his people when returning to Tibet, she waited until all the necessary pieces of the puzzle could come together to produce a documentary of her husband's remarkable life.



“The main criterion is that we never give up in the face of adversity, no matter what kind of world we are confronted with at the personal or political level.”

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche IX.