



an ORDER disruption

# Blue Kangling

an observational documentary film by

**Matt Blackburn**

Director, Writer, Co-Owner

**Ehsan Abbasi**

Cinematographer, Editor, Co-Owner

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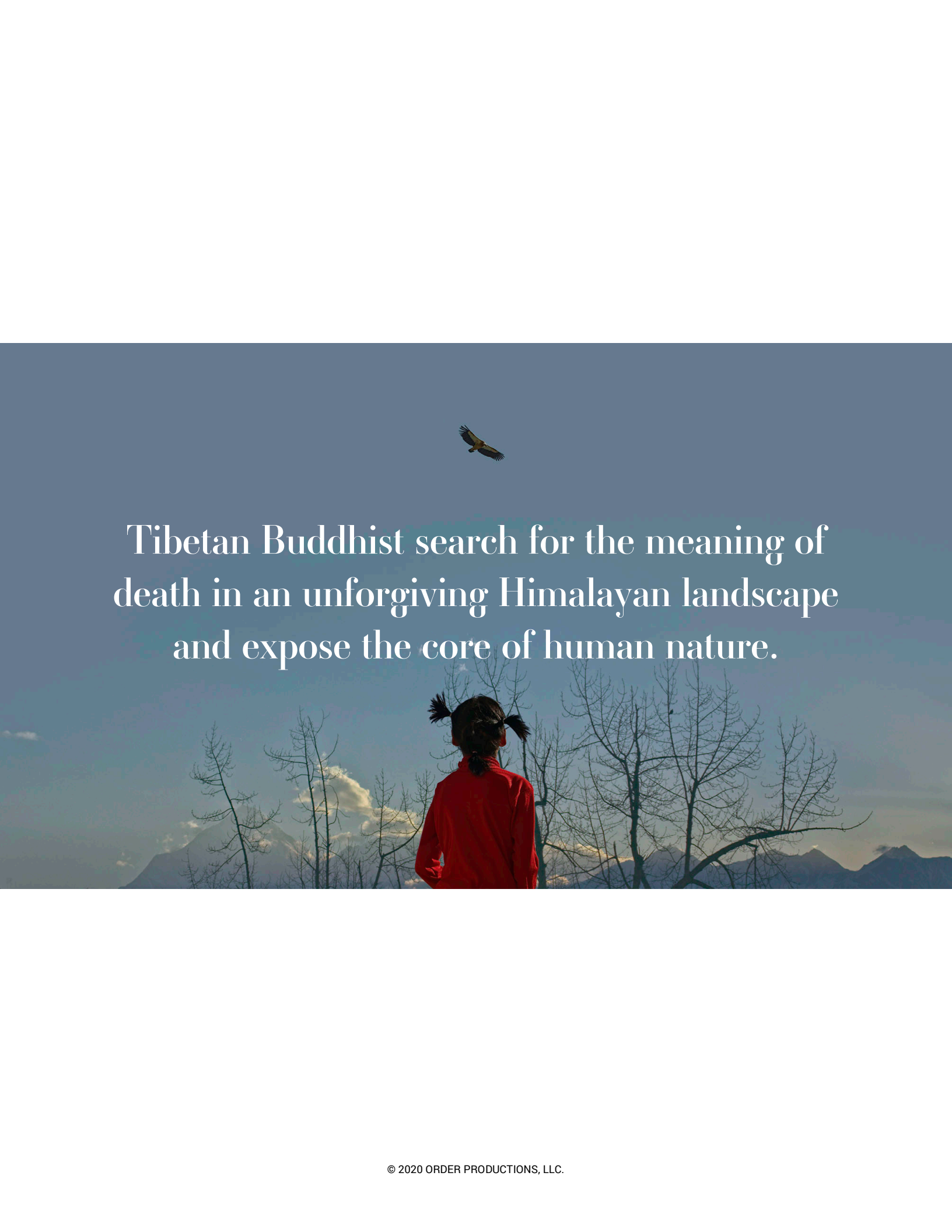
an ORDER disruption

# Blue Kangling



ORDERDISRUPTION PRESENTS BLUE KANGLING WRITTEN BY MATT BLACKBURN EDITOR AND EHSAN ABBASI  
DIRECTED BY NICK MILLS AND CHANDAN JHA AND DIGBIJAYA BHARATI AND AASHISH SHRESTHA  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NARESH KUMAR SOUND RECORDIST THOMAS KURIAN CUTTING AND EDITOR TSEPAK RIGZIN  
PRODUCTION TRANSLATOR

WWW.ORDERDISRUPTION.COM

A young girl with pigtails, wearing a red jacket, is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, mountainous landscape. In the sky above her, a large bird, possibly an eagle, is in flight. The landscape features bare trees in the foreground and snow-capped mountains in the distance under a clear blue sky.

Tibetan Buddhist search for the meaning of  
death in an unforgiving Himalayan landscape  
and expose the core of human nature.

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[Watch the entire film](#) ▷

Password: **ratnashrestha**

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# About the Film

## Overview

Death is one of the most elusive and taboo concepts. It's permanence and uncertainty have mystified and confounded humans for millennia. One aspect however, that we know for certain, is one day we will all die.

Tibetan Buddhist have multifaceted explanations, theories and practices around their concept of death and what happens to a consciousness once it collapses into darkness. Thousands of years of meditation, teachings and living in extreme conditions have given way to rich existential theories built on basic human truths.

Blue Kangling is a film that uncovers the collective consciousness of death for Tibetan Buddhist. It is an observational approach revealing individuals who shape, influence and live according to this knowledge. Understanding is established through intimate portraits of commoners, as well as the philosophical and culturally enlightened who offer meaning and insight behind Tibetan Buddhism. Exploring rituals and practices from generations past, we uncover early cultural influences and explanations that answer the existential questions, "Why are they here?" and "Where they will ultimately go?"

## Title

Blue Kangling

## Genre

Cinéma-vérité/Observational documentary feature-length

## Logline

Tibetan Buddhist search for the meaning of death in an unforgiving Himalayan landscape and stir compassion by uncovering human truths

## Versions

### Feature Film    56 min 00 sec

4K 4096x1742 2.35:1 Cinemascope 24fps PNG Sequence Clean

2K 24fps DCP Digital Cinema Package

MOV, H264 MP4, etc. Available

### Short Film        16 min 47 sec

4K 2:35:1 Cinemascope 24fps H264 MP4

### Trailer              02 min 12 sec

4K 2:35:1 Cinemascope 24fps H264 MP4

### Insta Teaser       01 min 00 sec

FullHD 1080p 2:35:1 Cinemascope 24fps H264 MP4

Watch the trailer 4K 24fps 2:12 ▷

<https://vimeo.com/282484262>



## Endorsements



"It's very important to share with the whole world."

His Holiness Sakya Trichen

The 41st gen. Throne holder of the Sakya order of Tibetan Buddhism

<https://vimeo.com/285835988>



"...beautifully done and the content is very authentic and gripping."

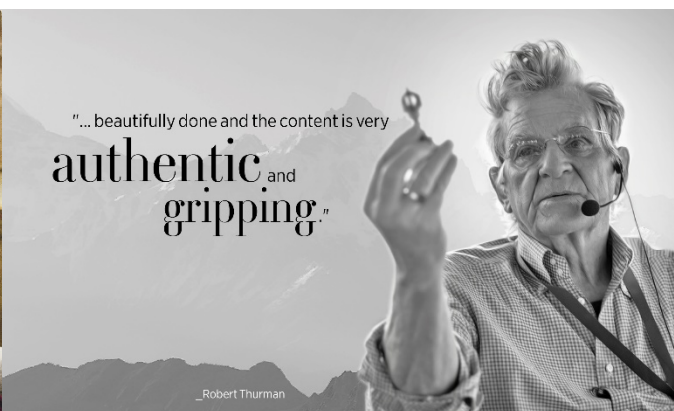
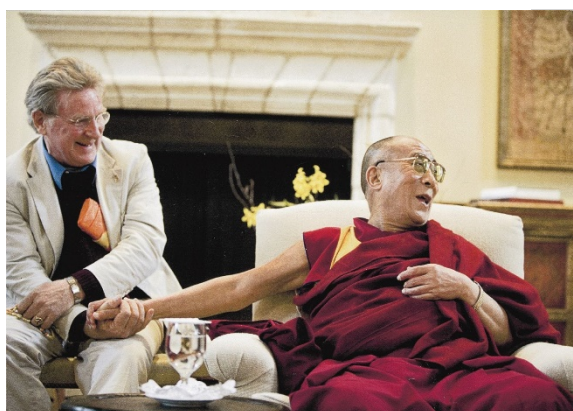
Robert Thurman

Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies at Columbia University

President of the Tibet House New York



Order is discussing Blue Kangling and its significance to Tibetan culture with his holiness Sakya Trichen, The 41st gen. Throne holder of the Sakya order of Tibetan Buddhism



Robert Thurman, Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies at Columbia university and President of the Tibet House New York

## Awards

- Winner, **Best Feature Documentary Director**, Rancagua, Chile, 2020
- Winner, **Best First Feature Film by the Director**, Rancagua, Chile, 2020
- Winner, **Best Cinematography in Feature Film**, Rancagua, Chile, 2020
- Winner, **Documentary Film**, Virgin Spring Cinefest, Kolkata, India, 2020
- Winner, **Honorable Mention**, Top Shorts, Los Angeles, California, USA, 2020
- Winner, **Best Documentary**, TMFF, London, UK, 2020
- Winner, **Best Cinematography**, Sweden Film Awards, Norrbottens Lan, Sweden, 2020
- Winner, **Best Feature Documentary**, New Cinema, Lisbon, Portugal, 2020
- Winner, **Best Cinematography**, American Golden Picture International Film Festival, Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 2020
- Winner, **Audience Award for Best Documentary Long**, American Golden Picture International Film Festival, Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 2020





# Synopsis

Among towering Himalayan mountains, the Mustang District in Northern Nepal is home to one of the last places on earth Tibetan Buddhist practice Sky Burials. A burial practice requiring the dismemberment of a human body to facilitate its disposal via Dakinis, or vultures. The practice is thousands of years old and reveals the complexity of the Buddhist philosophy as well as a brutally practical way to dispose of the dead with dignity in an ecosystem dependent on every resource for survival. The Mustang District is also a spiritual epicenter for Tibetan Buddhism with cultural, historical and legendary origins dating back to the 5th Century. Today, the area is protected by strict regulations but is not immune to the pervasive ripple effect of an emerging global community and Western influence.

*Blue Kangling* is an observational film that takes place in the remote Mustang District and captures Tibetan Buddhists collective consciousness around death and the coveted Sky Burial ritual. The multifaceted point of view is established through intimate portraits and conversations with the generous people who invited us into their places of living, work, practice and worship. Their willingness to openly share beliefs and perspectives about the taboo topic of death and Sky Burials is a beautifully honest look at Tibetan Buddhism and human nature. Our cast is made up of spiritually reincarnated, culturally enlightened, traditional practitioners and common people who live and work according to these and other Buddhist philosophies.

From his Gumba in the small village of Tiri, Karma Tenzin Chopel, an incarnate and 14th generation Lama, explains the philosophical principles of Buddha's teachings about death and their symbolic parallels to Sky burials. He shares the significance of ritual ceremonies dedicated to transition the conscience into the Buddha Realm, the sacred role of Dakinis and the practice of summoning them. The Tiri Lama establishes his lead role as an existential authority providing an enlightened voice and perspective.

Across the rocky riverbed of the Kali Gandaki River, in the shadows of the majestic Annapurna peak is the village of Kagbeni. Home to Phenclok Tsephen, also known as Dara, the village head and owner of YakDonald's restaurant and hotel. Dara's social responsibility and institutional knowledge combine to paint the picture of a shifting cultural landscape and the changing winds brought about by Western influence that's eroding rituals and practices. Dara's voice as a cultural authority may also be a grim allusion for the future of Sky Burials.

Towards the north of the Forbidden Kingdom, in the village of Charang, Lama Tsering Gompo Gurung has sequestered himself to a small tent. He is performing a three day ritual to ensure a foundation is in spiritual harmony so a house can be built. From there, he shares the duties and Pujas, or acts of worship, he performs as a Lama. Tsering explains his role and most recent experiences performing Sky Burials. His supporting role as an existential authority also underscores the intersection of philosophy and a primitive reality.

Back in Kagbeni, we hear from Wangchok Gurung who recently retired from a 25 year career as a Rogyapa, or body breaker. Body Breakers have a critical role in the Sky Burial ceremony. Tasked with processing the deceased human body to be easily and completely consumed by vultures. The arduous task is rife with physical and mental challenges that would test the faith of even the most devout. Wangchok's pragmatic voice underscores the harsh realities of a Rogyapa and Buddhist life in the unforgiving landscape. Despite the belief that Rogyapa's have secured a place in the Buddha Realm for



their services, his presence and character exude the toil of this taxing work. His voice provides a sobering reality of the difficulties required to carry out the coveted burial ceremony.



In the small village of Dakmar, surrounded by caves that were once home to the villagers, Thupten and Mingmar Gurung speak with us from an extremely modest home. The two are also Body Breakers who have found themselves burdened with this responsibility by no choice of their own. Born the sons of Body Breakers the community pleads for them to carry on the tradition. Out of necessity and compassion for the grieving families they face a moral dilemma. Their voice expands on the rigors and details of the Sky Burial process and the unique relationship they share with the Vultures. Their candid perspective challenges the philosophical and practical execution of Sky Burials for future generations.

Tibetan Buddhism is prolific. The success and consistency of the practice is partially rooted in the ability to preserve and pass along traditions and rituals from generation to generation. Dr. Khetub Bista, a traditional Tibetan Doctor, has been practicing medicine across the Mustang District. His voice personifies the dedication and discipline of carrying on tradition in Tibetan Buddhism. Dr. Bista shares ancient handwritten text, passed down for hundreds of years, he used to learn and still uses to treat the spiritually and physically afflicted. Tradition alone is not the only solution for the doctor as modern medicine and treatment creeps into the culture for better or for worse.

Our supporting cast is made up of people from different villages across the region. A random cross-section of Tibetan Buddhist whose devotion ranges from philosophical practitioners to cultural stewards and some with serious doubt. Individually they share their experiences of life in the region. Collectively their voice establishes commonalities in human nature, life experiences that shape who they are, a shared desire for love and happiness and the uncertainty of what happens when we die.

The result is *Blue Kangling*. A film dedicated to initiating and inviting conversation about mortality through an understanding of the Tibetan Buddhists concept of death and a dying practice of Sky Burials. Collectively these voices frame a perspective to intrigue, enrich and challenge the viewer to have a deeper appreciation for life through an expanded view of death.

## Featured



### **Chhamba Dukta**

*Lama at Tiri Village*

A 14th generation Lama currently resides in the small village of Tiri. The Tiri Lama invites us to a healing ritual he performs for a young villager who has fallen ill. He provides a Buddhist insight to the connection between body and soul in life as well as its transition to death. He explains the process of determining the appropriate burial ceremonies and the ritual obligations of a Lama.



### **Dr. Khetub Bista**

*Priest at Dhakmar, Upper Mustang*

One of the last priests in the village of Dhakmar who specializes in Tibetan Medicine. He shares this ancient practice, its symbiotic relationship with Buddhism and how to treat the physical and metaphysical in life and death.



### **Phenclok Tsephen AKA Dara**

*Village Head at Kagbeni*

Currently head of the central Mustang region that includes Kagbeni. Dara also owns and operates Hotel Yak Donald's. As a village head and business owner, Dara finds conflict in capitalizing on the influx of the western world and struggles to retain the ancient culture and rich tradition that continues to erode from it.



### **Tsering Gompo Gurung**

*Lama Chhuksang at Upper Mustang*

A practicing Lama for 24 years. Tsering takes a break during a three-day long ritual he's performing blessing the foundation for a new house. He explains how he uses the Tripitaka, ancient Buddhist scriptures, as a guide to perform the myriad of duties around burial ceremonies including sky burials.



## **Shini Shinge**

*Ex-Lama Community Elder at Ghami, Upper Mustang*

An ex-Lama who was exiled from Tibet after the Chinese take over. Shini provides his perspective on the Buddhist philosophy of honoring life, loss of a loved one and how to escape a Yeti encounter with your life.



## **Wangchok Gurung**

*Retired Body Breaker at Kagbeni*

Retired for 25 years, Wangchok now lives in Kagbeni. He shares the very practical process of body breaking and how he learned by watching those before him. He's a devote Buddhist who believes his practice of body breaking has secured him a place in heaven.



## **Thupten Gurung and Mingmar Gurung**

*Body Breakers at Dhakmar, Upper Mustang*

Body breaking is considered extremely holy in the Tibetan Buddhist culture. Thupten and Mingmar explain in grisly detail the necessity and rigors of body breaking, how they assumed these responsibilities and their relationship with these holy birds.



## **Chhewang Dolma**

*Community Elder at Ghami, Upper Mustang*

A community elder provides some insight into life in the region and shares the loss of her husband of 40 years and his water burial.



### **Sonam Dolma**

*Villager at Ghami, Upper Mustang*

A lifelong villager in Ghami, Sonam underscores the struggles of everyday life and loss through her heart wrenching personal experiences. She clings to the few remaining positive aspects in her life and pushes for a better future for her surviving children.



### **Mutu Sangmo**

*Community Elder at Ghami, Upper Mustang*

A multigenerational matriarch provides a Buddhist viewpoint on generational differences and the wisdom she bestowed to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. At 68 years of age, Mutu shares wisdom and an intimate perspective on death in the final stages of life.



### **Vultures**

*Aegypius Monachus, Dakinis of Upper Mustang*

These giant birds play an integral role in sustaining the philosophical beliefs and rituals of the Tibetan Buddhist. Vultures are sacred, taking part in the most noble burial practice, the Sky Burial. These birds are believed to be Dakinis', or angels. Summoned by a Lama to the ceremonial site of the Sky Burial, the Dakinis' fill their bellies with the bodies of the deceased and carry them to the heavens.

**Watch the Portraits of the Upper Mustang People 1:18 ▷**

<https://vimeo.com/275321498>





# Topic Summary

Sky Burials are an ancient burial practice that have been performed for thousands of years. Once the only means of burial for Tibetan Buddhist, Sky Burials are believed to be the most noble. Once a person dies, a Lama uses astrological calculations based on the time of birth and the time of the death to determine the necessary pujas and death rituals to be performed. If it is determined that a Sky Burial ceremony is to be performed the body will be prepared and taken to a ceremonial location where it will be cut into pieces by a Roygapa, or body breaker. Vultures, known as Dakinis or sky dances are the Tibetan equivalent of angels and are summoned by the Lama to consume the body. Once the Body Breakers complete the process of pounding the flesh, bones and organs together, the vultures consume the body entirely. The act, on behalf of the deceased and surviving family members, is believed to be extremely noble by virtue of giving one's self as sustenance for another living creature. The vultures are believed to be deities that consume the body and ascend with it to the celestial realm where the soul awaits reincarnation.

The beautiful symbolism supports many tenants of Buddha's teaching including transmigration of souls and compassion for all living creatures. The practical benefits of Sky Burials point to the realities of life in an unforgiving Himalayan landscape where resources are extremely scarce. Together the symbolic and practical benefits have served Tibetan Buddhist for millennium. Despite being such an honorable ritual, the practice has slowly waned to the point of near extinction. The practice is limited to only a few culturally protected areas.

One contributing factor to the decline of the ritual is an ever-encroaching global community and western influence. The impact is clear in many aspects of the culture where western brands and styles are prevalent. With the influx of walking paths and roads making it easier than ever for tourist looking to explore the wonders of the Himalaya's to access the primitive and remote areas where Sky Burials were once commonplace. The foreign presence alone presents challenges to the privacy and dignity of the ritual.

Another Contributing factor to the decline of the Sky Burial practice is due to a declining vulture population as well as the introduction of modern medicine. The Vulture population has seen a sharp decline resulting from poaching and other threatening epidemics. The introduction of modern medical treatments act as a repellant to the vultures preventing them from consuming the body. Both impacting the ability to effectively carryout the ritual.

It's not unreasonable to believe the practice of Sky Burials may completely cease to exist in our lifetime. The notion of losing such a rich cultural practice is a tragedy. *Blue Kangling's* aim is to document and preserve this beautifully different perception and death ritual. By virtue of its bold execution and practice, Sky Burials inherently raise questions about death and burial practices. These questions hold the key to self-discovery and an ability to reconcile the unknown and taboo topic of death that so many people spend a lifetime trying to avoid.





# Director's Statement

**Matt Blackburn**



Ehsan and I have some interesting conversations about our shared fascination with human behavior and ideology. Our conversations run the gamut from absurdly dark humor to outlandish theories. Sometimes esoteric, sometimes extreme and sometimes completely made up musings about theoretical physics, existentialism and alternate universes. I read an interview with a mortician that left a lasting impression on funeral practices in western culture. Practices I was familiar with and had witnessed many times was cast into an entirely new light. This epiphany became the catalyst for conversation around death and how the living struggle to compartmentalize and mentally process it. The topic was fascinating, and we started researching the way different cultures process the concept of death from a psychological, spiritual, and ritualistic perspective.

Given some research we had done on Vajrayana Buddhism, we discovered Sky Burials. The duality of beautiful symbolism and the seemingly brutal nature of the practice immediately appealed to us. The practice, taken out of context could easily read like a gruesome headline. But in fact, it's a highly coveted burial ceremony in Tibetan Buddhism that makes sense upon understand a few fundamental beliefs. Presenting this practice in an unbiased, unpolarizing way that remained true to Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and culture was a challenge we embraced.



We set out to make Blue Kangling, an observational documentary film about the Tibetan Buddhists idea of death and the sacred ritual of Sky Burials. Our subject matter experts were not scholars, narrators or personalities but the people who teach, live and carry out these practices every day. The idea was to capture the perspective of a cross section of people who could provide personal experiences that combined, would reveal a greater collective consciousness.

We traveled to the Mustang District, a protected region within Nepal and home to one of the last places Sky Burials are practiced. We spent time with culturally enlightened village heads, reincarnated Lamas, traditional Tibetan Doctors, Body Breakers who perform Sky Burials and many villagers who live according to the teachings and rituals of Tibetan Buddhism. Our conversations about death and burial practices reveal humble and honest human truths and just how one dimensional the western view of Buddhism can be.

Our goal was to create understanding and compassion for a foreign culture through the global reality and emotionally charged topic of death. Trusting our approach to filmmaking Blue Kangling creates an emotional connection, conveys nuances of culture, philosophy and human behavior all while leaving room for interpretation. We hope to ignite conversation and contemplation about mortality in an effort to create a greater appreciation for life.

# Visual Approach

**Ehsan Abbasi**



Our visual approach for Blue Kangling was mostly about what to avoid. Matt's vision for this for this film as we discussed numerous times has always been to try to keep it true to the aura, we're about to step in. The challenge for the cinematography was not to idolize a specific element in the seen, not to fall in love with personal taste but to minimize the footprint that we'd leave behind anyway. If there is no light in a room, then there is no light in that room, 'shoot it as it looks to one who walks in.' But of course, to maintain the basic aesthetics of a frame while trying to fight with the inner desire to express yourself was quite fun. With this approach we were simply hoping to be close to 'authentic' while shooting it with immense respect for the people who trust us with their homes and their pictures.

From the beginning, Matt has been more concerned with listening to the villagers' stories, rather than trying to tell one. Our ambition was to erase any trace of judgement as filmmakers rather than leaving one, staying true to the people and fighting the urge of describing a widely mis-understood, exotic eastern culture to the western audience, through a 3rd person's narration. This approach made me put all the old concerns behind what the Buddhists villagers of Upper Mustang area had to say with as few barriers as possible. It blurred the genre in which one categorizes their film, whether it's cinéma-vérité, neorealism, or a failed attempt of two new filmmakers in not making any judgement!

The camera movement is defined based on individual characters. The levels of authorities and tones dictates the freedom of the camera. Some are shot locked down as we listen to a confidently told scripture or rule, slightly low angle and framed inside the existing borders, sharp angles and rough textures available in their very own homes, using the existing natural light, while the ones who express more doubt, inconsistency or freedom in beliefs brings a more fluid movement and framing to the camera. In the other hand, kids are shown according to their free-spirited impressionable nature, handheld with slight floaty feel, brighter and higher angle. There is no shot used in the edit without a purpose or a new piece of information. The number of acts, subjects and the overall film duration, are all designed based on Tibetan Buddhist beliefs in numerology and astrology closely supervised by local cultural advisor. The cinematic look and feel are achieved through aiming beyond what the industry expectations of an independent film, using 8K digital cinema package with spherical focal lengths closest to the real experience rather than exaggeration. Sound is captured in high fidelity on set, with separate tracks of individual elements in the environment.

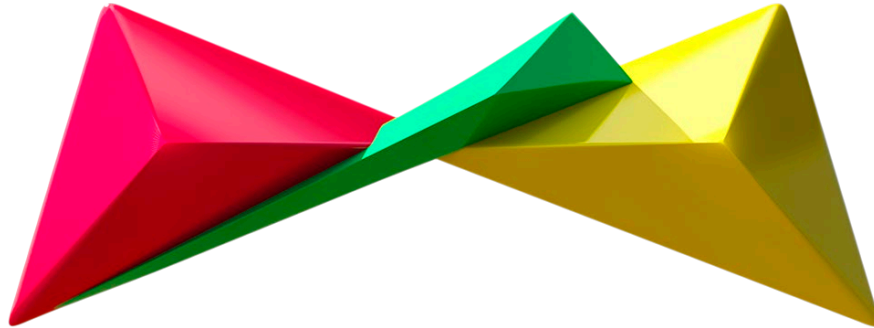
We stayed with the people. Together, we cooked, ate, laughed, learnt their games, carried the equipment, drank the local beers, and made a film.



# Tech Specs

		Shooting Format	Available Output			Potential Output
Motion Picture	Project Title	Blue Kangling				
	Genre	Observational Docu				
	Production	Order Productions, LLC.				
	Duration	21 days (Production Only)	56m 00s	16m 47s	Any (60m max)	
	Aspect Ratio	2.35:1 Digital Cinema	2.35:1 Cinemascope		Any	
	Camera	RED Epic-W Helium 8K				
	Format	5K Raw 3G10 24fps	4K 24fps	2K 24fps	5 to 8K Detail preserving Upres	
	Color Depth	16-bit	8-bit			
Still Photography	Aspect Ratio	3:2 Digital Medium Format	3:2	1:1	16:9	Any Horizontal/Vertical
	Camera	Hasselblad H6D 50-c MF				
	Format	3FR 50MP 300DPI	TIFF	PSB	JPG	Any
	Color Depth	16-bit	8-bit		Any (16-bit max)	
	Location	Upper Mustang, Nepal	Available for Premiere (Worldwide/USA)			

# About the Team



**Order Productions**  
Communication Artists

## we transform ideas into emotions

we have traveled the world researching nuanced actions that define people so that we can create shared experiences between cultures. We use film, photography, visual design, and virtual reality to connect emotionally and amplify shared values.

20+ years of experience in advertising design

40+ blue chip clients & brands

20+ media & magazines published articles

30+ national & international awards & honors

**Checkout our website** ▷

[www.order-disruption.com](http://www.order-disruption.com)

**Watch our films reel** ▷

[vimeo.com/406019279](https://vimeo.com/406019279)

**Watch our R&D CGI Process** ▷

[vimeo.com/406023854](https://vimeo.com/406023854)

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**Connect on LinkedIn** ▷

[www.linkedin.com/company/order-disruption](https://www.linkedin.com/company/order-disruption)

**Take a look at other EPKs** ▷

[www.order-disruption.com/process](http://www.order-disruption.com/process)

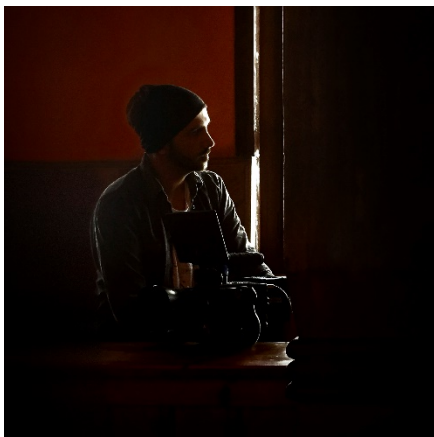
# Crew Bio



## **Matt Blackburn** ▷

*Director, Screenwriter, Drone Pilot, Co-Owner at Order*

American Director, Matt Blackburn, residing in Atlanta, Georgia, began his career in advertising as an Art Director in 1996 and graduated to directing his first commercial in London, England in 2012. In 2015 Matt Co-directed Publicolor, a short documentary highlighting a program for at risk youth in Brooklyn, New York. Publicolor was awarded Winner of the 2015 Independent Documentary Awards, Hollywood California and was an official selection for Marché Du Film at the Cannes Film Festival. Matt partnered with award winning Cinematographer Ehsan Abbasi in 2017 to start ORDER, a film production company. With offices in Los Angeles and Atlanta they have created award winning short films and are currently working on their first feature length.



## **Ehsan Abbasi** ▷

*Cinematographer/DoP, Editor, Co-Owner at Order*

Iranian Cinematographer, Ehsan Abbasi, currently resides in Los Angeles, California. Ehsan has an extensive education with degrees in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics, Media Innovations and a Master's in Arts of Communication. He has been recognized for his academic and professional achievements in both theoretical science and film industry with over 30 national and international awards and exhibitions. Ehsan partnered with award winning Director, Matt Blackburn in 2017 to start ORDER, a film production company. With offices in Los Angeles and Atlanta they have created several short films and commercials and are currently working on their first feature length.



## **Nick Mills**

*Producer, Drone Pilot*

Nick Mills is a Florida native and Atlanta transplant. Nick served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2015 before leaving to pursue a degree in marketing. He began his film career working part time as a production assistant in between college semesters before transitioning into a full-time role as a producer. He has worked with Order on multiple televised advertisements and corporate ad films. Chasing the Angel of Death is his first venture into a documentary episodic project.

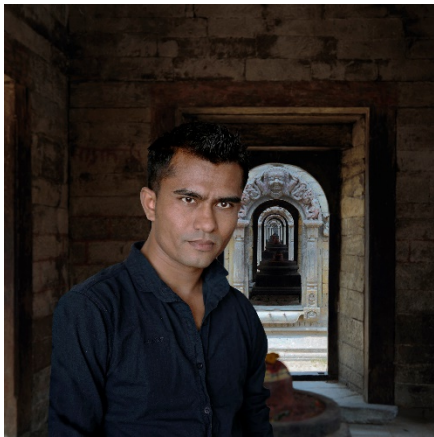




## **Aashish Shrestha**

*Line Producer, On-Set Translator*

Aashish Shrestha is a Kathmandu, Nepal native. He began his career as a secondary school teacher in the math and science fields before transitioning into the film industry. He has worked on several international documentary projects across Asia in the capacity of a line producer, translator, assistant producer, and associate producer. Aashish has also served in the role of photographer for several of the documentary projects he has worked on. He brings extensive experience Nepali culture and people.



## **Naresh Kumar KC**

*1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director*

Dr. Naresh Kumar KC is a screenwriter, director and producer working in Nepali Film Industry. He started his career in medical profession but later discovered his true passion in Film Making. He holds bachelor's degree in Screenwriting & Film Directing from Oscar International College, alongside multiple bachelor's degrees in English Literature, Mass Communication and Medicine. He then went to New York Film Academy and University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts, in Los Angeles, California for his master's in fine arts in Film Making. His career in film-making started back in 2003 with educational and health related documentaries for United Nations, Nepal Tourism Board and other Government and Non-Government Organizations.



## **Thomas Kurian**

*Sound Recordist*

Thomas Kurian is a sound recordist based out of Kerala, India. He studied Film at Los Angeles City College and shortly after pursued a career in the film industry as a sound recordist. He has worked on multiple feature films, televised advertisements, corporate ad films, and shorts, although he specializes in documentaries. Thomas brings more than 30 years of experience as a sound recordist across multiple outlets.



## **Tsepak Rigzin**

*Cultural Adviser, Translator*

Tsepak Rigzin received his B.A. and M.A. from Punjab University, B.Ed. from Annamalai University, India, and traditional Buddhist training from the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Tibetan Buddhism and he has extensive experience in written and oral translation. Rigzin led the Research and Translation Bureau at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamsala, India, producing numerous articles and books, and attending international seminars, workshops and conferences. He held high ranking positions as Rector, Principal and Education Officer with Central Tibetan Schools. He served as translator and spokesperson for Mystical Arts of Tibet, touring with the monks throughout North America and Europe. Rigzin began teaching Tibetan language courses at Emory in 2009. In addition, he served as Scholar in Residence and official translator for Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta. Rigzin has been a professor of Tibetan culture and history at Emory since 2013.

# Credits

an **ORDER** disruption

Retired Body Breaker  
**Wangchok Gurung**

Tiri Lama  
**Chhamba Dukta**

Head of Kagbeni  
**Phenclok Tsephen AKA Dara**

Lama Chhuksang  
**Tsering Gompo Gurung**

Dhakmar Priest  
**Doctor Khetub Bista**

Ex-Lama  
**Shini Shinge**

Villager  
**Sonam Dolma**

Villager  
**Chhewang Dolma**

Villager  
**Mutu Sangmo**

Director, CD, Writer  
**Matt Blackburn**

Cinematographer, Editor, Colorist  
**Ehsan Abbasi**

Producer  
**Nick Mills**  
**Chandan Jha**  
**Digbijaya Bharati**

Line Producer & Nepali Translator  
**Aashish Shrestha**

Tibetan Translator  
**Sering Dorje AKA Michael**

1st Assistant Director  
**Naresh Kumar KC**

Sound Recordist  
**Thomas Kurian**

Cultural Adviser & Translator  
**Tsepak Rigzin**

Actor & Driver  
**Ratna Shrestha**

Music Track  
Seven-Line Prayer to Guru Rinpoche  
By  
**Ani Choying Drolma**

Music Track  
Under a Blue Grey Sky Act III  
By  
**Jeremiah Cymerman**

Special Thanks to  
**His Holiness Kyabgon Gongma Trichen Rinpoche**  
**His Holiness Sakya Trizin**  
The 41st Generation Throne holder of the Sakya order of Tibetan Buddhism

**Robert Alexander Farrar Thurman**  
American Buddhist Author  
Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies at Columbia University  
Co-founder and president of Tibet House New York

**Yangsi Rinpoche**  
**Geshe Lharampa**  
Reincarnation of Geshe Ngawang Gendun  
President and Founder of Maitripa College, Portland, Oregon

**Northwest Tibetan Cultural Association**  
Portland, Oregon

**Sakya Buddhist Center LA**  
Los Angeles, California

**Emory University Atlanta**  
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**Red Digital Cinema Camera**  
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**Dhondup Dorjee & Pema**  
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Audio Engineer at AcousTech Music Productions, Inc.

**Buddy Hall**  
Executive Producer at Bare Knuckles Creative

**Chris Basta & Chris Nicholson**  
Sound Designers at Bare Knuckles Creative

**Britney Grissom Blackburn**

**Bayan Sardari**

**Chelsey Mills**

**Alireza Khatami**

**Henry Blackburn**

**Charlie Blackburn**

**Brian Pierce**

**ZEISS**



**HASSELBLAD**



**BARE KNUCKLES  
CREATIVE**



# Feature Film

Watch the entire film 4K 24fps 56:00 ►

<https://vimeo.com/389719983>

Password: ratnashrestha



# Short Film

Watch the short version 4K 24fps 16:47 ►

<https://vimeo.com/391484725>



# Marketing Support

## Medium Format Photography









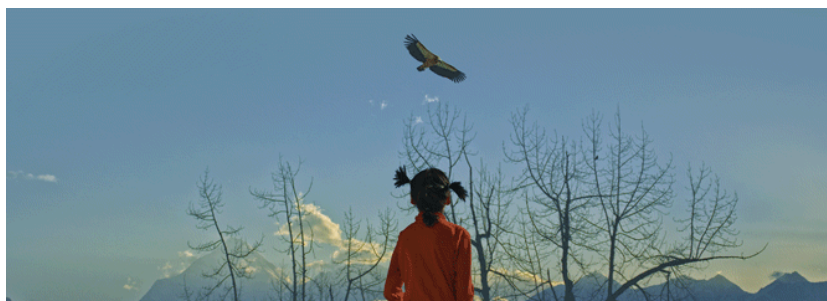
## Poster Art

Available in 27" x 41" 300dpi



## Cinemagraphs

Loopable videos & GIFs





# Contacts

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