

FOR EVERY \$100 YOU SPEND ON GIFT CARDS, GET A \$20 CARD IN RETURN.



Search Courant.com Web enhanced by 

[Login or register](#)



[Home](#) > [Entertainment](#) > [Movie Reviews](#)

A Lesson In Life Changes

"Buddha's Lost Children" ★★★★★

By SUSAN DUNNE | Courant Staff Writer
November 16, 2007

"When it is my time to die, would I have achieved peace of mind?"

If everyone asked that question, was honest and gave a damn about the answer, the world would be a wonderful place. Phra Kru Ba Neua Chai asked, and the answer was no. He cared enough to change his life. The answer is now yes.

"Buddha's Lost Children" is Phra Kru's story, a documentary about a beautiful person doing his small part to make the world a little bit better. (Mark Verkerk's documentary was presented in an Oscar-qualifying run last week at Real Art Ways and was popular enough to be picked up for a standard weeklong run starting today.)

Article tools

- [E-mail](#)
 - [Share](#)
 - [Print](#)
 - [Reprints](#)
 - [Post Comment](#)
- Text size:

Movie Showtimes

Search by film:

Search by theater:

Search by location:



- Classifieds**
 - Jobs
 - Cars
 - Real Estate
 - Apartments
 - Items For Sale
 - Place An Ad
- News**
- Sports**
- Business**
- Entertainment**
 - Dining
 - Movies
 - Movie Reviews
 - Music
 - TV & Radio
 - Arts & Theater
 - Attractions
 - Events
 - Museums & Galleries
 - Celebrities
 - Nightlife
 - Columnists
- Features**
- Travel**
- Video**
- Opinion**
- Obituaries**
- Weather**
- Traffic**
- Shopping**
- eCourant**
- Resources**
 - Site Map
 - Maps
 - Lottery
 - Mobile News
 - Text Alerts
 - RSS Feeds
 - Mortgages
 - Coupons
- Newspaper Services**
 - Subscribe
 - Archives
 - Reprints
 - Browse Ads
 - Courant Jobs
 - About Us
 - Media Kit
 - View Page 1

Ads by Google

Buddha Sculptures
Buddhist carvings. Genuine Minerals Great Statues, Low prices. Buy now!
www.WonderfulStones.com

Buddha Paintings
More Than 1000 Buddha and Buddhist Paintings For Online Sale.
www.thangkapaintings.com

Lord Buddha
Teachings and Meditation with Lord Buddha and other masters
www.cobolt.com.au

Deepest Meditation Secret
Instantly Meditate like a Guru Without the Years of Training!
www.Pitacell.com

Meditation Techniques
The American Monk Shares Meditation Techniques - For Free
www.TheAmericanMonk.com

Fifteen years ago, Phra Kru was a top professional kick boxer. After a friend died, he realized his life was going nowhere and became a Buddhist monk. Then he set out to find his mission in life.

In the woods near the Thai-Burmese border, he found villages decimated by poverty and drug addiction. He saw orphans, abandoned children and handicapped boys with no hope for the future. This is where he built his Golden Horse Monastery and began taking in boys. He teaches them to fight, pray, read, fend off the drug trade, take care of horses, act like men instead of boys. Donations are his only income.

Today, he is so beloved that an annual festival is held to celebrate the day he became a monk.

Phra Kru is a true hero. But "Buddha's Lost Children" also has an unheralded heroine. Mae Ead is an angelic nun, always dressed in white, who takes care of the boys' everyday needs. But when she has

Related News from the Web

- [Movies](#)
- [Entertainment](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

to, she can be an attack dog on their behalf, browbeating the mean boys of the local village until they are cowed into submission. Without Mae Ead, Phra Kru would be lost. What a fabulous woman.

Mae Ead, Phra Kru and the boys take to Verkerk's cameras naturally; there is never any feeling that they have altered their behavior because they are being watched.

Westerners may be offended by the way Phra Kru cherry-picks the most hopeless boys from poor families, insisting they come with him and become his novices. The boys cry, the families cry, but he is insistent, and he usually gets his way. However, this is not our world, and until we live in that world, it is not our place to judge.

Cynics also might object to the irony of the entire film project, because it places Phra Kru on a pedestal, offering him up to the kind of adulation that he tells his charges they should avoid.

To Phra Kru's credit, he does not seem to revel in the praise but merely use this fame to the boys' advantage and to promote his philosophy of life: "If you gain a position of influence, one day it will disappear. If you receive honors, one day those honors will fade. Popularity is just like a straw fire. So when you get the chance, you should take that brightness and make the poor places, the dark places, bright."

ADVERTISEMENT

Ways to Share
The Joy of Giving
The Giving of Joy

presented by
Aetna FOUNDATION

Click here for details



He certainly does that. "Buddha's Lost Children" will make the influential, the honored, the popular, feel insignificant. Compared to Phra Kru, who sacrificed worldly goods for spiritual wholeness, it's difficult for any of us to measure up.

BUDDHA'S LOST CHILDREN is an EMS Films release of a documentary directed by Mark Verkerk. 97 minutes. Thai with subtitles. Unrated, but with nothing to offend. Running at Real Art Ways.

Contact Susan Dunne at sdunne@courant.com

* * * * * **Classic**; * * * * **Excellent**; * * * **Good**; * * **Fair**; * **Poor**; * **Don't bother**

[More articles](#)

Copyright © 2007, [The Hartford Courant](#)

Would you recommend this?

Rate it: ☆☆☆☆☆

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name (appears on your post)

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator.

Hundreds of listings for Restaurants, Bars, Clubs, Music!

Classifieds

Find Jobs **Find Cars**

Find Apartments **Find Homes**

Popular Links

- Pets & Pet Services
- Celebrations - Weddings
- Grocery Coupons
- Newspaper Ads
- Business Opportunities
- Commercial Real Estate
- Foreclosures
- Public Notices

[Place an Ad](#) | [Buy a local link](#) | [All Items For Sale](#)

Popular stories

- [Woman Accused Of Groping Mall Santa](#)
 - [Season Over For Greene](#)
 - [Special Probation Granted For Student Involved In Death](#)
 - [Top Mass. Football Player Commits To UConn](#)
 - [Eight Patriots Named To AFC Pro Bowl Team](#)
- [More most viewed](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Movie Photo Galleries



[The nudity double-standard](#)



['The Savages'](#)



[Johnny Depp stars at Sweeney Todd NYC premiere](#)



[Keira Knightley heads glitzy NYC premiere for 'Atonement'](#)

['Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull'](#) Photos

['The Golden Compass'](#) Photos

[Faith-offending films](#) Photos



Looking for things to do this weekend? Get great event recommendations every week in our free [Weekender e-mail](#).

[See a preview](#)

[Sign up here](#)

Ads by Google

Buddhist Punk On Sale

Wide Selection at Great Prices Free Shipping on All Orders

www.djpremium.com

Sell Gelato in Paradise

Hua-Hin, Pattaya, Chang MaiThailand International customers, good life

www.dreamcones.com

Lord Buddha

Teachings and Meditation with Lord Buddha and other masters

www.cobolt.com.au

Santhiya Resort and Spa

First Luxury Resort on Koh Phangan with our own Private Beach

www.santhiya.com

The Dalai Lama

Endorses a new book on emotional intelligence.

www.TalentSmart.com

[amNY](#) | [Baltimore Sun](#) | [Chicago Tribune](#) | [Daily Press](#) | [LA Times](#) | [Newsday](#) | [Orlando Sentinel](#) | [Sun-Sentinel](#) | [The Morning Call](#) | [The Virginia Gazette](#)

[Terms Of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise Online](#)

[CareerBuilder.com for Jobs](#) | [Apartments.com for Rentals](#) | [Cars.com for Autos](#) | [FSBO](#) | [Coupons](#) | [ShopLocal.com](#) | [Discount Shopping](#) | [Houses For Rent](#) | [Open Houses](#)