

## PRESS RELEASE

THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS NEW SERIES “KARMA:  
CAUSE, EFFECT, AND THE ILLUSION OF FATE”*On-Stage Conversations and Films to Explore the Repercussions of Our  
Actions, Including Global Climate Change*

**New York, NY (August 19, 2015)** – This fall, the Rubin Museum of Art will explore the implications of our actions from a variety of perspectives in a new series, “*Karma: Cause, Effect, and the Illusion of Fate.*” Featuring on-stage conversations with pairs of eclectic personalities, as well as film screenings, *Karma* will examine potent examples of collective cause and effect – most notably, global climate change. Kicking off on September 11, 2015, the three-month series will coincide with the climate convention in Paris, and brings together notable figures including actor and humanitarian **Whoopi Goldberg**, actor **Ian Somerhalder**, environmental conservationist **Mark Tercek**, California bishop **Marc Andrus**, meditation teacher **Sharon Salzberg**, and monologist **Mike Daisey**, among many other artists, scientists, and public figures.

The ancient concept of karma has been interpreted by many cultures around the world, and it is often synonymous with destiny. However, in Buddhism, karma is not interpreted as fate but as a way of overcoming suffering in which we play a part; that our actions affect our conditions. Dynamic talks and film screenings will illuminate these concepts throughout the season, exploring the consequences of our actions.

“There is probably no better illustration of collective karma than the hot topic of our time: climate change,” said Tim McHenry, Director of Programs and Engagement at the Rubin, who curated the series. “The better one appreciates how and why things happen the way they do, the greater understanding one will have of adaptation and survival. Our future hangs in the balance right now with the greatest threat to our planetary existence in the form of the environment we have created for ourselves on the back of fossil fuels. Does everything happen for a reason? On stage at the Rubin this fall, we might find some answers.”

**Highlights of *Karma*:**

- Death row exoneree **Damien Echols**, wrongly imprisoned for 18 years and 78 days as one of the Memphis Three, analyzes his experience with a Zen priest, the **Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki** (October 24)
- **Bishop Marc Andrus** of the Episcopal Diocese of California addresses his state’s leading predicament, lack of water, and other implications of our

collective responsibility with the Buddhist teacher **Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel** (November 2)

- Do our cognitive functions prevent us from acting concertedly on a major threat like climate change? **Whoopi Goldberg** takes this concern and other questions about determinism to neuroscientist **David Eagleman** (October 21).
- Filmmaker **Jonathan Demme** will introduce the New York City premiere of **Noah Hutton's "Deep Time."** The documentary is an ethereal portrait of the landowners, state officials, and oil workers at the center of the most prolific oil boom on the planet for the past six years. With a new focus on the relationship of the indigenous peoples of North Dakota to their surging fossil wealth, "Deep Time" casts the ongoing boom in the context of paleo-cycles, climate change, and the dark ecology of the future.

The 2015 *Karma* schedule follows below. Tickets go on sale to the general public on August 20, 2015. For ticket information and updates on events, please visit:

[www.RubinMuseum.org/karma](http://www.RubinMuseum.org/karma)

### **ON-STAGE CONVERSATIONS**

Full descriptions can be found at [www.RubinMuseum.org/karma](http://www.RubinMuseum.org/karma)

#### **Conservationist Mark Tercek + Buddhist teacher Lodro Rinzler**

Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m.

\$25; 10 percent off for members

#### **Sesame Street's Sonia Manzano + artist Jan Cohen-Cruz**

Sunday, September 20 at 6 p.m.

\$20; 10 percent off for members

#### **Performer Kelly Carlin + philosophy professor Taylor Carman**

Wednesday, September 23 at 7 p.m.

\$20; 10 percent off for members

#### **Yoga master Eddie Stern**

Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m.

\$35; 10 percent off for members

#### **Monologist Mike Daisey + Vedic meditation teacher Thom Knoles**

Saturday, September 26 at 3 p.m.

\$25; 10 percent off for members

#### **I Ching expert David Hinton**

Wednesday, October 14 at 7 p.m.

\$20; 10 percent off for members

#### **Actress/producer Whoopi Goldberg + neuroscientist David Eagleman**

Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m.  
\$67/\$45; 10 percent off for members

**Ethicist The Venerable Tenzin Priyadarshi**

Friday, October 23 at 7 p.m.  
\$20; 10 percent off for members

**West Memphis Three exoneree Damien Echols + Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki**

Saturday, October 24 at 6 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**California Bishop Marc Andrus + Buddhist teacher Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel**

Monday, November 2 at 7 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**Playwright David Hare + novelist Michael Cunningham**

Wednesday, November 4 at 7 p.m.  
\$35; 10 percent off for members

**Writer Gary Indiana + artist Tracey Emin**

Friday, November 6 at 9:30 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**Activist Tim DeChristopher + meditation teacher Sharon Salzberg**

Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m.  
\$30; 10 percent off for members

**Animal rights activist Peter Singer + Buddhism scholar Annabella Pitkin**

Sunday, November 15 at 6 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**Photographer Steve McCurry**

Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**Actor Ian Somerhalder + oceanographer Carol Anne Clayson**

Sunday, December 6 at 3 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**Climatologist James Hansen**

Wednesday, December 30 at 7 p.m.  
\$25; 10 percent off for members

**SPECIAL FILM SCREENINGS**

**“The Epic of Everest”**

**John Noel, UK, 1924, 87 mins**  
\$15, 10 percent off for members

## Screenings

Friday, September 11

7 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23

7 p.m.

The Rubin reintroduces the 1924 silent masterpiece to illustrate the unintended repercussions of British showmanship had on the fate of the Tibetan nation state. As Wade Davis explains in his exemplary book on the Mallory expeditions of the 1920s, the unfortunate fallout from the film's popularity was a breach in British-Tibetan relations, which prevented the Thirteenth Dalai Lama from modernizing his army, consequently making the Tibetans ill-equipped to confront the on-march of the Chinese Army in 1949. The Rubin premiered the restored film in November last year. These 2015 screenings will act as a counterpoint to the release of Baltasar Kormákur's 3-D treatment of Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*, "Everest."

### **"Deep Time" with Noah Hutton + Jonathan Demme**

Wednesday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

\$20, 10 percent off for members

Filmmaker Jonathan Demme will introduce the New York City premiere of Noah Hutton's "Deep Time." The documentary is an ethereal portrait of the landowners, state officials, and oil workers at the center of the most prolific oil boom on the planet for the past six years. With a new focus on the relationship of the indigenous peoples of North Dakota to their surging fossil wealth, "Deep Time" casts the ongoing boom in the context of paleo-cycles, climate change, and the dark ecology of the future.

### **"TAÏGA"**

**Hamid Sardar, 2014, France, 52 min.**

\$18, 10 percent off for members

Screenings

Saturday, November 21

3 p.m.

6 p.m.

Sunday, November 22

3 p.m.

6 p.m.

Screenings include Q&A with the filmmaker and scholar Hamid Sardar

The US Premiere of Hamid Sardar's breathtaking documentary "TAÏGA" provides an intimate glimpse into the world of the Mongolian sheep herders who battle the twin predations of wolves and economic exploitation in the form of mining in the delicate ecosystem of the Mongolian steppe.

## **CABARET CINEMA: CONSEQUENCES**

These classic films, each to be introduced by a notable guest, explore karma through the lens of consequence. Included below are quotations from each film highlighting the connection to the series.

Full descriptions can be found at [rubinmuseum.org/cabaretcinema](http://rubinmuseum.org/cabaretcinema)

September 11 – December 18  
Fridays at 9:30 p.m.  
\$10; free to Rubin members

September 11

**“Highway to Dhampus”**

**Rick Farland, USA, Nepal, UK, 2014, 100 mins.**

“The children don’t see intentions.”

Set in the Annapurna Mountains of Nepal, two disparate worlds collide when spoiled British heiress, Elizabeth James (Rachel Hurd-Wood) visits a small orphanage in Nepal in an attempt to fix her image through charitable acts. Amidst both hope and tragedy, the British heiress, the headmistress of the orphanage (Suesha Rana), a western-savvy bush pilot (Raj Ballav) and an American photojournalist (Gunner Wright), discover they, too, have reasons to change. Also featuring Sophie McShera from Downton Abbey.

This is a special preview screening of the first American film to have been shot entirely on location in Nepal.

September 18

**“Senso”**

**Luchino Visconti, Italy, 1954**

“Don’t think about the consequences of an impulsive act or that are dictated by an unforgiveable lightness.”

Alida Valli (“The Third Man”) stars as a nineteenth-century Italian countess who, amid the Austrian occupation of her country, puts her marriage and political principles on the line by engaging in a torrid affair with a dashing Austrian lieutenant, played by Farley Granger (“Strangers on a Train”).

September 25

**“Oliver!”**

**Carol Reed, UK, 1968**

“Let him be or I’ll put my mark on you and I don’t care for no consequences.”

Carol Reed (“The Third Man”) directed this vibrant musical version of Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist adapted from the stage hit, and it won the 1968 Best Picture Oscar.

October 2

**“Shanghai Express”**

**Josef von Sternberg, USA, 1932, 82 mins**

“It took more than one man to change my name to Shanghai Lily.”

Possibly the best of the Hollywood Sternberg/Dietrich collaborations, “Shanghai Express” is an opulent romantic adventure that focuses on a diverse group of passengers traveling by express train from Peking to Shanghai during a Chinese civil war.

October 9

**“Badlands”**

**Terrence Malick, USA, 1974, 94 mins**

“You had to take the consequences though, and not whine about it later.”

“Badlands” is Terrence Malick’s impressionistic take on the notorious Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate killing spree of the late 1950s. A serial-killer narrative acts as a springboard for an oblique teenage romance, lovingly and idiosyncratically enacted by Martin Sheen (“Apocalypse Now”) and Sissy Spacek (“Carrie”).

October 16

**“Alphaville”**

**Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1965, 99 mins**

“All is linked, all is consequence.”

A fusion of science fiction, pulp characters, and surrealist poetry, Godard's irreverent journey to the mysterious “Alphaville” remains one of the least conventional films of all time. Eddie Constantine stars as intergalactic hero Lemmy Caution, on a mission to kill the inventor of fascist computer Alpha 60.

October 23

**“Le Jetée”**

**Chris Marker, France, 1962, 28 mins**

“They begin again. The man doesn't die, nor does he go mad. He suffers. They continue.”

A tale of time travel told in still images raises complex queries about time, memory, and the rapid advancement of life on this planet.

October 30

**“Night of the Living Dead”**

**George Romero, USA, 1968, 96 mins**

“We may not enjoy living together, but dying together isn't going to solve anything.”

This is the original zombie movie, with a group of people hiding from bloodthirsty “living dead” monsters in a Pennsylvania farmhouse.

The film will be introduced by The Sierra Club’s **Dan Sherrell**, who will draw conclusions from the film about our collective apocalyptic imagination and the threat of climate change.

November 13

**“Altered States”**

**Ken Russell, USA, 1980, 102 mins**

“What dignifies the Yogic practices is that the belief system itself is not truly religious. There is no Buddhist God per se. It is the Self, the individual Mind, that contains immortality and ultimate truth.”

A Harvard scientist conducts experiments on himself with a hallucinatory drug and an isolation chamber that may be causing him to regress genetically.

November 20

**“The Maltese Falcon”**

**John Huston, USA, 1941, 100 mins**

“I won't, because all of me wants to regardless of consequences...”

Why do a series of high-living lowlifes stop at nothing to get their sweaty hands on a sculpture of a falcon? Detective Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) wants to find out why--and who'll take the fall for his partner's murder.

December 4

**“Der Blaue Engel (The Blue Angel)”**

**Josef von Sternberg, Germany, 1930, 124 mins**

“Falling in love again/ Never wanted to/ What am I to do?/ I can't help it.”

Marlene Dietrich stars as nightclub singer Lola Lola, whose unrestrained sexuality was a revelation to moviegoers of the early 1930's. Emil Jannings delivers a towering performance as the sexually repressed professor of a boys' school who is fatefully seduced by Lola Lola and dragged down a path of personal degradation. German with English subtitles.

December 11

**“The Fountainhead”**

**King Vidor, USA, 1949, 114 mins**

“It leads to consequences which, once started, cannot be controlled.”

On the surface, The Fountainhead is a story of one man, Howard Roark, and his struggles as an architect in the face of a successful rival, Peter Keating, and a newspaper columnist, Ellsworth Toohey. But the film, with a screenplay by Ayn Rand from her own novel, addresses a number of universal themes: the strength of the individual, the tug between good and evil, the threat of fascism.

December 18

**“Prince of the Himalayas”**

**Sherwood Hu, China, 2006, 108 mins**

“Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

And, by opposing, end them?" – William Shakespeare, Hamlet, ACT III, Scene 1

Set in ancient Tibet under the shadow of the Himalayas, the film is a visually ravishing historical epic with stunning scenery, richly saturated color, and lush costuming. As the proto-typical tale of oedipal anxiety, or of the terrifying possibilities of taking action in the social world, this film re-invents a story we thought we knew.

## **KARMA FOR KIDS: SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **Crane Boy**

Saturday, October 3 at 3 p.m.

\$15 for adults; Free to children 12 and under

Diana Cohn's story of a boy and his Bhutanese classmates who are made painfully aware of the environmental impacts on the famed black-necked cranes that happen beyond the kingdom's borders gets an interactive reading in the Rubin's theater. Paint your own paper crane and take it home!

### **ST. LUKE'S SUBWAY SERIES 2015**

#### **Till Eulenspiegel**

Saturday, October 3 at 5 p.m.

Free

The sorry end to the merry pranks of Till Eulenspiegel is the cautionary tale to be heard in the free performance of Strauss' suite performed by Grammy Award-winning St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble at its Subway Series stop in Manhattan. Hear an octet of St. Luke's virtuoso musicians play music for winds and strings by Beethoven, Strauss, and Nielsen, in a free, one-hour concert, in partnership with Cool Culture and Melt Bakery.

Seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit: <http://oslmusic.org/community-education/subway-series>

## **ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART**

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City's vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

##

**For further information, please contact:**

**Robin Carol**

Public Relations and Marketing Manager

Rubin Museum of Art

212-620-5000 x213

[rcarol@rubinmuseum.org](mailto:rcarol@rubinmuseum.org)