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## Performance Locations

Central Park

New York City

W. 103rd St Entrance

September 4-7

Friday - 5:30 pm

Saturday, Sunday, Monday 2 & 5:30 pm

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Chaska, MN

Snyder Terrace

September 10 - 4:30 pm

Powderhorn Park

Minneapolis, MN

Southside of Powderhorn Community Center

September 17-21

Weekdays - 5:30pm

Weekends - 2 & 5:30pm



# The Buddha Prince

Directed by Markell Kiefer

Written by Markell Kiefer, Michael French,  
Carlyle Coash, and Waylon H. Lewis

Musical Score by Tenzin Ngawang,  
Nina Rolle, and Ngawang Choephel

Choreography by Tenzin Ngawang

A walking play through the extraordinary life of his  
Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama

This production of **The Buddha Prince** is presented  
in honor of Tibet's Fifty Years in Exile, a worldwide  
celebration of Tibetan culture.

Net proceeds from the performances benefit the  
Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota and the  
Tibetan Community of New York and New Jersey.

## About The Dalai Lama

At the age of two, the Dalai Lama was identified as the incarnation of his predecessor, the 13th Dalai Lama.

He soon entered a rigorous program of education and spiritual practice. At fifteen, he assumed full responsibility as leader of the Tibetan government.

When the Chinese Communists invaded Tibet, the Dalai Lama fled to India, where he lives and heads the Tibetan government-in-exile to this day.

He devotes his life to restoring peace in Tibet and in the world at large. The Dalai Lama's teachings of non-violence and compassion serve his commitment to world peace, human rights, and the protection of the environment.

## Notes from The Director

### The intention of The Buddha Prince:

To share a story of true warriorship, the courage of kindness and compassion.

To celebrate the culture and wisdom of Tibet.

To respect and appreciate the innate power and sacredness of the natural world.

To offer a performance that is equally fulfilling, accessible and inspiring to all ages and those of all backgrounds.

To never forget the magic of humor.

To always remember the inherent goodness of human beings.

To "Never Give Up" our longing for Peace in the face of war.

Markell Kiefer - Director



# The Production Staff

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Executive Producer/Director           | Markell Kiefer   |
| Music Director/Composer/Choreographer | Tenzin Ngawang   |
| Technical Director                    | Tyson Lien   |
| Assistant Technical Director          | Alan Fessenden   |
| Sets by                               | Tyson Lien<br>Sky Brooks<br>Elly Sturgis                       |
| Masks by                              | Sky Brooks<br>Katie Haggerty                                   |
| Puppets by                            | Katie Haggerty<br>Cami Lien<br>Pam Pedersen                    |
| Costumes by                           | Tess Arjune<br>Katie Haggerty<br>Courtesy of TAFM              |
| Props by                              | Alain Gulliou  |
| Production Stage Manager              | Sarah Dawa Root  |
| Production Manager                    | Maggie McKenna   |
| Co Producers                          | Alan Fessenden<br>Tyson Lien                                   |
| Webmaster                             | Kathy Crowe  |
| Publicists                            | Alice Larsson (MN)<br>Tony Baisley (MN)<br>Scott Tillitt (NYC) |

# The Cast

Dalai Lama  
Reporter  
Yak Herder  
Aide  
Story Dalai Lama 1  
Story Dalai Lama 2  
Story Dalai Lama 3  
Mother  
Father  
Head Monk  
Sweeper  
Chinese Drill Sergeant  
Chairman Mao  
Oracle  
All other roles played by the Chorus  
Principal Musicians

Alan Fessenden  
Shá Cage  
Tenzin Ngawang  
Piper Sigel-Bruse  
Tenzin Palkey  
Eric Sharp  
Yefei Jin  
Tenzin Pemchoe  
Tendor Norbu  
Payton Woodson  
Tenzin Choerap  
Katie Bradley  
Alex Erdman  
Christiana Clark  
  
Tenzin Ngawang  
Tenzing Jigme  
Elena Orsak  
Shirley Mauch Spanhanks  
Katie Melby

## Mythic Beings

**Mahakala** – The personal protector of the Dalai Lama.  
**Gesar of Ling** – (the messenger) – A great Tibetan warrior.  
**Snow Lion** – A symbol of Tibet.  
**Red Dragon** – A symbol of China.

## About The Dances

**Tashi Sholpa** – An opening opera dance performed for the Dalai Lama.

**Rangshoong Chenzin** – A folk dance from Amdo (the present Dalai Lama's birthplace) cherishing his wise and compassionate leadership.

**Trookshey** – A step dance from Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, performed by minstrels to honor the nobility.



# the Buddha Prince

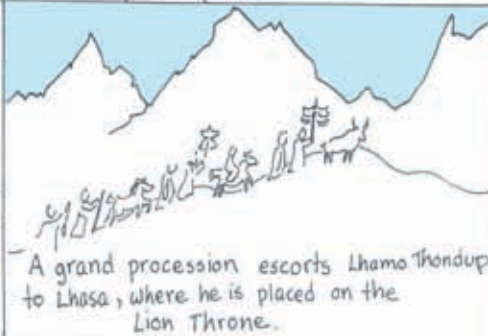
Our Intrepid reporter, Gail MacArthur, meets the Dalai Lama...



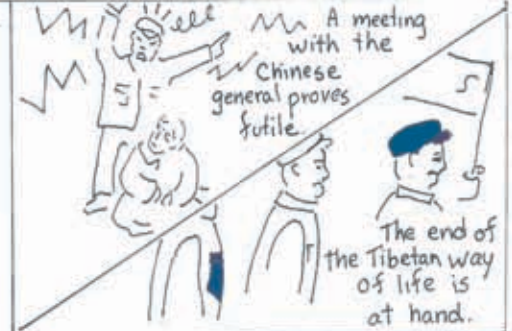
In a small farm hut in Tibet, under an auspicious rainbow, a special child is born



A series of tests proves young Lhamo Thundop to be the 14th incarnation of the Dalai Lama.



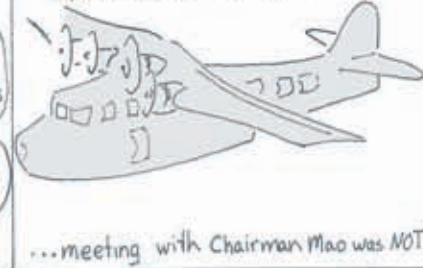
It becomes clear the Dalai Lama must flee his own country.



Four years later... The situation grows worse, The Red Army's demands: ludicrous.



Flying to Peking was a joyful experience for the Dalai Lama...

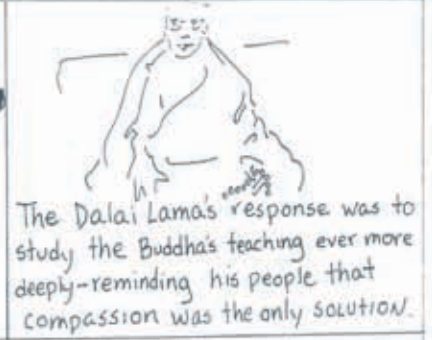


The Dalai Lama, now a mischievous 8 year old, learns of the outside world while cloistered in the Potala Palace.



Being the Dalai Lama is not easy, with the help (and insistence) of many tutors, the Dalai Lama studies math, religion, art, medicine, government, philosophy, even the stars.

The misery of the Tibetan people grew.



At the summer palace, a veritable paradise of tame animals, the Dalai Lama learns an important lesson on the nature of friendship.



The opera festival was a happy time for all...



Unfortunately, it seemed a tragic confrontation between his supporters and the Red Army was inevitable. The Dalai Lama concluded the best way to protect his people was to remove himself from the conflict.



Working to free Tibet while in exile is a formidable task, but through kindness, patience and wisdom we can overcome any human problem.





# About the People of The Buddha Prince

**Alan Fessenden** (Dalai Lama)- Alan is a writer, director, actor, who lives in NYC. He comes from a loving family of 7. Any chance to spread love, joy, laughter, compassion and kindness, he considers a gift. He loves gifts. In New York you can catch him performing with the Improv group Hello Laser and the Sketch group BAM at the Magnet Theater.

**Alex Erdman** (Chairman Mao, Chorus, Sheep, Gesar, Musician)- Outside of his family, what Alex loves most is creating something raw, transcendent, engaging (and perhaps fun) whether it be in music or theatrical performances. Entertaining with the purpose of drawing the audience in as much as possible is the ultimate goal.

**Christiana Clark** (Yak, Chorus, Oracle)- I love honesty & genuine human behavior especially catching people in a genuine moment when they're not aware they're being watched.

**Elena Orsak** (Musician) - Elena was practically born with a violin in her hands. The daughter of two professional musicians she began playing the instrument at age three. She then went on to expand her knowledge of many other instruments and self taught herself as a singer/songwriter. Elena successfully released two albums, the first of which, 'Lilies Upside Down' was released at age 18. Currently teaching strings at City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis, Elena continues to be inspired artistically in all that she does, supported above and beyond by Mayla and Jason.

**Eric Sharp** (Middle Dalai Lama)- Eric is an actor who lives and works in the Twin Cities. This is his second tour of The Buddha Prince. He loves creating work with an ensemble of performers and then having the opportunity to share it with people like you. Enjoy the show!

**Jolie Meshbesh** (Yak, Chorus, Rainbow, Deer, Red Army, Costume Coordinator)- Jolie holds a BFA in Acting : The Hartt School (summa cum laude) and a Certificate: The Alvin Ailey School. Favorite credits: Title Role- The Little Matchgirl (Ballet of the Dolls- under Myron Johnson), "Lady Macbeth" (Artists' Shakespeare ) and "Ariel" The Tempest (Caliban Co.) More than anything, she loves to inspire.

**Katie Bradley** (Yak, Chorus, Monkey, Red Army Sergeant) - Katie received her B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College, holding scholarships in both theater and vocal music. Her theater credits include Theatre de la Jeune Lune (Antigone), History Theater (Snapshots: Life in the City), Jon Ferguson (Animal Farm), Robert Karimi (The Cooking Show con Karimi y Comrades), Pillsbury House Theater (Chicago Avenue Project) and Mu Performing Arts (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Ching Chong Chinaman, Bahala Na: Let It Go, Asiamnesia, and Flower Drum Song).

**Katie Melby** (Musician): Katie is cofounder and Artistic Director of 3 Sticks, a physical theatre company dedicated to making original work. She has been a performer/creator in over a dozen new show since graduating from the London International School of Performing Arts and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

**Kunga Choney** (Chorus, Tibetan Dancer, Red Dragon)- Kunga was born in small a Tibetan camp in Orrisa, India. With the blessing of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, she and her family were able to start a new and brighter life in America. Life teaches us many different lessons. It's important we take in that teaching and make positive outcomes. She simply loves when people come together in harmony with no intention of harming any beings.

**Maggie McKenna** (Production Manager):Maggie loves passion—the force which brings us all together today. Loves the will to love, laugh, live, sing, dance, create, and share in the face of struggle and fear. Loves the moments that heal us and remind us to take life slow and grow. Loves curiosity and the quest to learn as you go.

**Maria Isabel Gonzalez** (Yak, Chorus, Red Army, Red Dragon)- Maria is happy to be part of The Buddha Prince. She just graduated from USF and has been in The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Dog Sees God, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot and The Man Who Turned Into a Dog/ Poet in New York. She would like to thank Markell for this amazing opportunity :)

**Markell Kiefer** (Director) has a BA in Religion and Environmental Ethics from Middlebury College and a MFA in Lecoq-based physical theatre from Naropa University. She aspires to bring people together in celebration of the human heart and the natural world.

**Payton J. Woodson** (Mahakala, Big Yak, Chorus, Head Monk, Red Army) - Payton is native to Minneapolis. With a Bachelors Degree in Theatre, Payton has been in numerous plays locally, nationally and internationally; most recently in Penumra Theatre's production of A Raisin in the Sun. Presently he's the voice of Famous Dave's on radio and Television. Payton LOVES his Daughters!

**Pema Dolma** (Tibetan Dancer, Chorus, Red Dragon)- Pema was born in Bylakuppe, India and later moved to Dharamsala, India at the age of two. She attended UTCV where her mother taught Tibetan literature. At the age of 9, Pema moved to the United States where she currently resides in Richfield, MN. She is a senior at Richfield High School and is definitely looking forward to finishing strong and graduating. What she loves to do most is make others around her smile and help them in every way she can.

**Piper Sigel-Bruse** (Aide, Chorus, Monkey, Parrot, Red Army) - Piper has been performing professionally in Twin Cities theaters since she was 10. She is very excited to be a part this third collaboration with Markell Kiefer. Performing The Buddha Prince in Central Park, NY is a dream come true, "cuz that's where all the people are."



**Sky Brooks** (Prop Master, Mask Maker, Set Designer)- Born, schooled, tried, gave up, started to paint. Raised a good son, wandering now, an explorer of life. loves: Lake, sky, the strip of land in between. Cotton-woods. The integrity of animals. A good book. Toast with butter. Paths. Making things. Mysterious dreams. Color. My son. Beauty.

**Sarah Dawa Root** (Production Stage Manger): Sarah loves the magic of things as they are, creativity of any kind, and basic human connections. Laughing is key, hugs essential and connection to nature imperative.

**Shá Cage** (Reporter)- Shá's work and activism has taken her all across the U.S. to South Africa, England, France, the Netherlands, Belgrade and Croatia, Mali, and Canada. She is a founder of Mama Mosaic Theater (for Women) and Artistic Director of the MN Spoken Word Association. Shá enjoys directing and teaching teens activism through art. She believes in the possibility of world peace!

**Shirley Mauch Spanhanks** (Musician): Shirley grew up on a farm near Mooreton, ND and has played accordion with the 80-member musical "Texas" in Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo, TX., the Heart of the Beast "On the Day You Were Born" and with Na Fianna Irish Theatre. She currently plays guitar with her husband Jerry Spanhanks in the bluegrass group Blue Wolf.

**Tendor Norbu** (Chorus, Tibetan Dancer, Father): Tendor cherishes his family & friends the most in his life. In addition, he finds joy in helping others. He likes watching Bollywood, Korean, and International movies during his free time. He tries to live in the present moment and enjoys his life.

**Tenzin Ngawang** ( Music Director, Composer, Choreographer, Yak Herder, Oracle)- Tenzin is a native Tibetan and has been a member of the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), which is located in Dharamsala, India. TIPA was founded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the objective of preserving and promoting the traditional arts in exile. During his eleven years in TIPA, Tenzin performed all around the globe, making him a well known performer in the Tibetan Diaspora. He has been instructing students at the Tibetan American Foundation Of Minnesota (TAFM) since 2004.

**Tenzin Legden** (Chorus, Tibetan Dancer, Red Army): I like to play sports and just have some fun. Football is my favorite sport because I can tackle and have fun doing that. I joined Gen Ten Ngawang Dance Troupe when I was eight. I go on the computer a lot. I go on my three best web: Myspace, Facebook and Youtube.

**Tenzin Choerap** (Tibetan Dancer, Chorus, Dog, Red Army, Sweeper)- At this point in life, Choerap loves learning, whether it has to do with education, life, music, etc. He is enjoying the transitional period from teen to adult and feels like he knows everything. But deep inside, he knows that there are many more things he could learn and experience.

**Tenzin Singhi** (Tibetan Dancer, Chorus, Crow, Snow Lion)- I was born in India and went to Tibetan school for 6 years. Now I am a student in my senior year of high school. I started writing rap lyrics and producing beats when I was 15. I soon want to be there for the independence of Tibet.

**Tenzin Pemchoe** (Mother, Tibetan Dancer)- What I love most about life is finding the different meanings and ways to receive and give love to other beings. I think that love is a big word to be taken to heart and once the love is made, it's always easy to lead on with your life. Love can bring you happiness, peace, kindness and much more.

**Tenzin Palkey** (Beginning Dalai Lama, Tibetan Dancer, Red Army)- Palkey is ten years old. She has been singing for about four years and also plays Tibetan instruments. She is one of our youngest cast members in The Buddha Prince and moved here from India two years ago. "What I love the most in this world is my friends and family because they are always there for me when I need them. My friends are nice and fun to be with."

**Tenzing Jigme** (musician)- Jigme is a recording artist and an activist for Tibet as well as for social justice and human rights across the world. He was born in Katmandu, Nepal and now lives in Minnesota. Jigme loves to play soccer, travel, hang out with friends, make music and cook.

**Tyson Forbes** (Technical Director, Co Producer, Set Design and Construction) - I love genuine connection with others. I love authenticity, no matter how it looks or feels. I love my son, Kobun, and can think of nothing I would rather do than waste an afternoon with him. I love watching my wife, Markell Kiefer, manifest her dreams. And I love my dog Kayo, whose spirit is always wild.

**Yefei Jin** (End Dalai Lama, Chorus)- Yefei is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota. He is very excited to be part of The Buddha Prince 2009. In his spare time, he enjoys to cook. One day, he hopes to travel around the world and maybe get lost in the Amazon jungles.

**Yeshi Gyaltzen** (Tibetan Dancer, Chorus, Crow, Snow Lion)- Yeshi was born in Byalekope, India but later on moved to upper TCV in Dharamsala. He stayed there for 8 years and later moved to America with his father in 1993. Ever since he moved here, he has stayed in the small town of Richfield, MN. He hopes one day he will be able to help the Tibetans in need of help back in Tibet and India. For now, he is only concentrating on his education which is the most important step toward reaching where he wants to be in the future.



# Without You, We Are Nothing

Thanks to the following:

## Contributors:

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