

Nomadic *Monk*

A life on the road. A mind at ease.

LOGLINE

Nomadic Monk is about meeting a Buddhist master who has spent a lifetime working with the mind, and seeing what becomes possible when life is met with ease, humour and unwavering kindness.

KEY FACTS

FORMAT Feature documentary • digital, colour • shot in UHD, 16:9

TARGET RUNTIME 90 minutes

SHOOTING STATUS In production • principal photography 2026

EXPECTED DELIVERY 2027 • rough cut winter 2026

LANGUAGE English, with Tibetan and German

PRODUCTION COMPANY Nomadic Monk Film

COUNTRIES OF PRODUCTION Portugal • Germany

SHOOTING LOCATIONS Germany • Portugal • India • Nepal • France

SUBJECT His Eminence Ringu Tulku Rinpoche

SEEKING Finishing funds, co-production and festival partners

WEBSITE nomadicmonkfilm.com • press kit at [/press.html](#)

STILLS — 2026 SHOOT



Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, Bodhicharya Berlin, May 2026



Filming in progress, Bodhicharya Berlin, May 2026



Ela Crain and Tom Zachmeier, Berlin, May 2026

SUBJECT

His Eminence Ringu Tulku Rinpoche. Recognised and ordained as a monk at the age of one. Fled Tibet as a child, crossing the Himalayas under threat of death. Trained under H.H. the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa and H.H. Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. Studied at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology in Gangtok and Sampurnananda Sanskrit University in Varanasi; Professor of Tibetology in Sikkim; doctoral research on the ecumenical movement in Tibet. He has taught on the road, more or less continuously, ever since.

SYNOPSIS

Ordained as a monk at the age of one, forced to flee Tibet as a child, and sent across the Himalayas under threat of death, Ringu Tulku Rinpoche's life began inside events most people only encounter as history. Decades later, he moves through the modern world with disarming lightness: airports, retreat centres, public halls, family homes, cafés, and a yearly schedule that carries him from country to country.

Nomadic Monk follows him across continents, not as a figure sealed inside tradition, but as someone carrying it through ordinary life: a long-haul flight, a meal in a McDonald's, a pause before coffee, a room full of people asking how to live with their own minds. The film brings the audience close to a life shaped by Buddhist practice, exile and continuous movement.

A man with an extraordinary history is seen through daily life rather than distance. What remains is his humour, his steadiness and his unceasing kindness — and the question at the heart of the film: how does a person cultivate that way of meeting life?

APPROACH

Observational and unhurried. New material shot in 2026 in Germany, Portugal and India is woven with archival footage from Nepal and France, including an eclipse sequence over the Mediterranean in August 2026 — a few minutes in which the familiar changes shape, and everyone looking up is reminded of the same thing: everything depends on our perception.

Locations — Germany (Bodhicharya Berlin, Rinpoche's centre), Portugal (Braga, Cascais, the Algarve), India and Nepal (the Himalayas, family, origin), plus archive from a Buddhist retreat centre in the Hérault valley, France.

CREDITS

DIRECTED & WRITTEN BY	Ela Crain
PRODUCED BY	Ela Crain for Nomadic Monk Film
CINEMATOGRAPHY & EDIT	Tom Zachmeier
CO-PRODUCER	Tom Zachmeier
FEATURING	His Eminence Ringu Tulku Rinpoche
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Nomadic Monk Film • Portugal • Germany

THE FILMMAKERS

Ela Crain

DIRECTOR • WRITER • PRODUCER

Writer and filmmaker, based in Portugal. Formerly ran a video production agency in London; directed a documentary in Kenya; co-founder of a Webby-nominated non-profit storytelling platform. Background in film and digital media, cognitive and perceptual brain sciences, archaeology and sociobiological anthropology.

- Documentary feature, Kenya — director (screening link on request)
- Webby-nominated non-profit storytelling platform — co-founder (archive on request)
- Video production agency, London — founder (showreel on request)

Tom Zachmeier

CINEMATOGRAPHER • EDITOR • CO-PRODUCER

German editor and cameraman in film and television since the 1990s, in Los Angeles and Berlin. Studied Audio-Visual Communication at the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin. Has filmed Buddhist teachers, including Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, through BuddhaByNature — where the access behind this film began.

- [IMDb: Thomas Zachmeier](#) — 36 editing credits
- [23 Morde](#) — editor, TV series, 2019
- [Der Staatsfeind](#) — editor, TV mini-series, 2018
- [Sabine!!](#) — editor, TV series, 2004–05, 17 episodes
- [BFS Editor profile](#)
- [BuddhaByNature](#) — camera and edit

Ela Crain • Director & Producer, Nomadic Monk Film

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