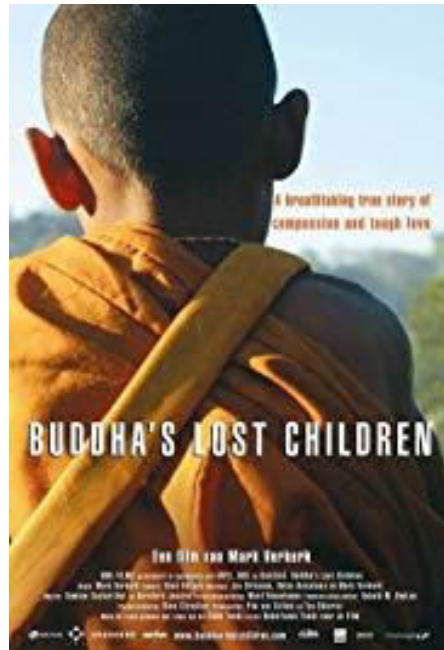


**Buddha's Lost Children**/ The Netherlands/2006/96 min./ Thai / English subtitles/Non-fiction

*A breathtaking true story of compassion and tough love. One man's crusade to save the lost souls of the Golden Triangle.*



Director: Mark Verkerk

### **Synopsis**

Winner of half a dozen festival awards, *Buddha's Lost Children* is a feature-length documentary film about a Thai Buddhist monk who - armed only with his faith and master boxer skills - wages an inspirational battle to help orphaned children fight drug abuse, and preserve a vanishing way of life.

### **Director's Bio**

Born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1956, London International Film School and freelance assistant editor and editor on commercials and documentaries in London, UK. Mark Verkerk has been Creative Director at EMS FILMS, The Netherlands since 1990, writing, directing and overseeing a range of award winning programming for international broadcasters. *Buddha's Lost Children* is his first theatrical feature-length documentary.

### **Director's Statement**

*Buddha's Lost Children* covers a year in the life of a small roving monastic community in northern Thailand. From the outset however, the film was to be more than just a portrait of a monk and his novices, I wanted to touch on larger, more universal themes. One goal was to explore the nature of compassion, and what it actually means to live by it. I wanted to find out how it worked, record the mechanics of it in action. In the West, compassion is often seen as something passive and debilitating. But to Khru Bah — a Rambo in robes who shattered for me the stereotype of the navel gazing monk — it has become the basis for action. The film is also a 'coming of age' story, and looks to capture the struggle of youth coming to knowledge of itself. In fact in that little community, many boys find the freedom to become children for the first time in their lives, and in doing so, discover the key to develop and mature as individuals. In this way the film is also about personal transformation, both of the boys and of Khru Bah himself. The novices don't have MTV or the latest PlayStations, yet in many ways they find riches greater than those enjoyed by many children in the West. Khru Bah once said to me, that to change the world you begin by changing a single person. In his remote corner of northern Thailand, that's exactly what he's doing.