The film “The Dalai Lama - Scientist” won the Eurasian International Film Festival in Moscow. In February of this year, the creator of the film, Don Gifford Engle, was awarded an award in the category "Best Director".

The Eurasian International Monthly Film Festival

is an independent festival for independent filmmakers. His mission is to introduce viewers to directors from around the world and discover new names.

The film is planned to be presented in Moscow on July 6 at a holiday dedicated to the 85th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

About the film
The premiere of the long-awaited film "The Dalai Lama: Scientist" took place on August 31, 2019 at the 76th Venice International Film Festival. The tape lasting 1 hour 35 minutes became part of the series "The Legacy of the Nobel Laureates" of the Peacejam international charitable foundation, created in 1996. This series is designed to introduce us to the cutting-edge activities of the fourteen Nobel Peace Prize winners on the foundation’s board and to highlight their efforts to create a better future and build a safer, more harmonious society. The film was awarded the SNOB Film Festival, the Picasso Einstein Buddha International Film Festival, the Druk International Film Festival and the London Independent Film Award. American director Don Gifford Engle reveals a new facet of the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. As you know, His Holiness the Dalai Lama XIV Tenzin Gyatso gained worldwide recognition due to his religious activities and active life position. He became a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and received many other international awards. Over the years of his long life, he has demonstrated openness to the world and modern society. He visited many countries, met countless people, and not only Buddhists recognize his influence and authority. People of different nationalities and religions respect the activities of the Dalai Lama and draw knowledge from his books. From the events in the life of His Holiness, one can trace the chronology of many historical events. His biography is open to all, extensive descriptions of facts about his life are presented on the Internet, and it may seem as if we know absolutely everything about him. Nevertheless, the documentary film “The Dalai Lama is a scientist“ reveals to us a spiritual leader from a new perspective. It turns out that the Dalai Lama has a deep interest in scientific research. By his own admission, since childhood, he sought to understand how the world works. He carried his love of science through his whole life and now sometimes calls himself “a half Buddhist monk, half a scientist“.The film includes dialogues of the Dalai Lama and representatives of various scientific fields. His informal communication style, sense of humor and human simplicity have any interlocutor to him. Spectators will see the meetings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with David Bohm and Karl Friedrich von Weizsacker, whom he considers his mentors in quantum physics. We will also witness his touching friendship with the late neuroscientist Francisco Varela, who passed away after a long, valiant fight against cancer. The documentary tape not only tells about the life of the Dalai Lama, but also serves as a source of scientific knowledge, a kind of educational material. First, we see conversations with scientists, and then a comparative table of the postulates of Western and Buddhist science. We see how the living mind of the Dalai Lama manifests itself in conversations with astronomers, physicists, biologists, psychologists and other scientists. Of course, as a religious leader, he adheres to certain views, but his goal is to find common ground between science and Buddhism. This position of a religious leader in the 21st century can be called the position of common sense. Religious dogmas dating back to the ancient and middle ages, stagnation and fundamentalism - this is what pushes many people away from faith. The position of the Dalai Lama, on the contrary, encourages the viewer to learn as much as possible about the philosophy of Buddhism and its connection with modern science, to overcome boundaries and take a fresh look at the world around us. This
is the success of this film. Understanding that followers of different religions or unbelievers will perceive this film in different ways, its creators in no way seek to convert the viewer to Buddhism. The opinions of the Dalai Lama and scholars often coincide, and we find that Buddhism and science have much in common. However, the director does not impose any opinion on us. For this reason, the film can be considered a cultural phenomenon and a kind of scientific research, and not a religious movie. In the 19th and 20th centuries, a fascination with Buddhism was already noted in the West. This religion still finds a large number of adherents in countries where Buddhism has never been a major creed. The personality of the Dalai Lama will continue to attract interest, because he is one of the outstanding people of our time. The film “The Dalai Lama - Scientist” reveals to us another brilliant facet of his personality.

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