



MANDALA

THE MINNESOTA VISIT 2011

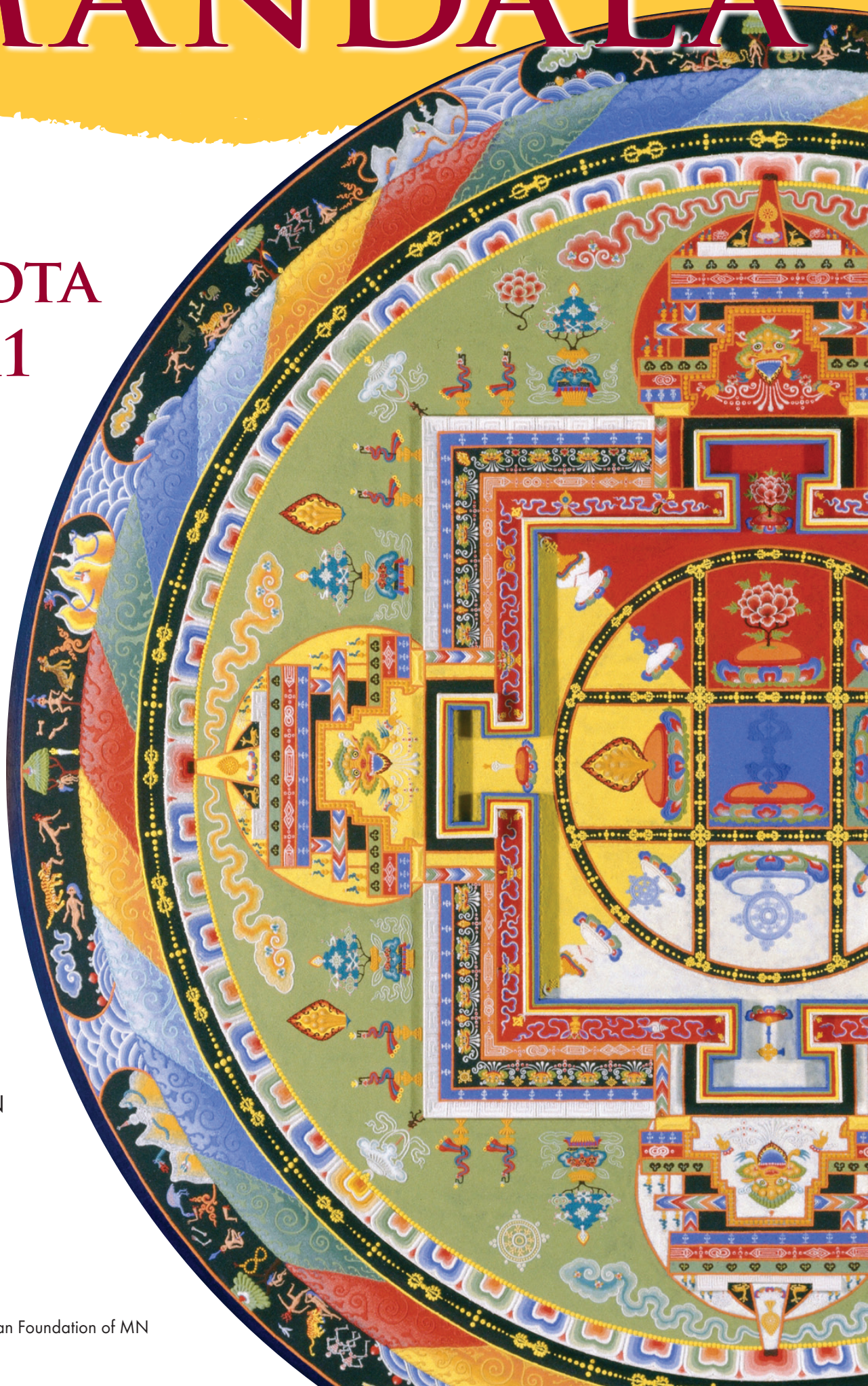
HIS HOLINESS
THE 14TH
DALAI LAMA

May 6-9

**One Heart,
One Mind,
One Universe**

Co-hosted by the
Center for Spirituality &
Healing and the Tibetan
American Foundation of MN

A special publication including
YAKKETY-YAK
the newsletter of the Tibetan American Foundation of MN



The University of Minnesota's **Center for Spirituality & Healing** enriches health and well-being by providing high-quality interdisciplinary education, conducting rigorous research, and delivering innovative programs that advance integrative health and healing.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Celebrating Tibetan Culture

By Nancy Giguere

KIPO! — a circus of spirit, song, and dance will premiere during the visit of the Dalai Lama

No matchmaker could have done a better job of connecting Markell Kiefer and Tenzin Ngawang. The two met in 2005, when Ngawang arrived in the Twin Cities from the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) in Dharamsala, the northern Indian city that is also home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile. Ngawang had come at the request of the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota, which wanted to develop a performing arts program.

A FRUITFUL COLLABORATION

Kiefer heads up TigerLion Arts, www.tigerlion.org, a Minneapolis-based production company, which celebrates human wisdom and the spirit of nature through creative works that awaken, inform and delight. She had moved back to the Twin Cities with her partner Tyson Forbes the same year. "We became interested in Tenzin's work," Kiefer says. "He knows so much about Tibetan music and dance. Collaborating with him is amazing."

Although Ngawang was unfamiliar with Western theater, he quickly adapted to TigerLion's style, which focuses on physical expression and movement. This highly visual form of theater includes improvisation, clowning, physical comedy and ensemble-based movement.

Ngawang and TigerLion's collaboration produced KIPO!, a circus of spirit, song and dance from Tibet. Kiefer directed the show, which featured Ngawang and 19 of his students from the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota. KIPO! was presented during the 2007 Fringe Festival at the Ritz Theatre, where it won "best of venue."

"As a result of that success, we were inspired to further develop the show with professional singers and dancers from TIPA," Kiefer says. "And the visit of the Dalai Lama seemed like the perfect occasion for the world premiere." The expanded version of KIPO! will begin a three-week run at Rarig Center on May 6, the eve of His Holiness's visit to the University.

A CELEBRATION OF HAPPINESS

KIPO!, which means "happy," is an apt description of the show, which celebrates the rich spirituality and values of Tibetan culture. "Happiness is the essence of the country's religious spirit," Kiefer says. "And we want to offer that to people of all backgrounds for the benefit of the world."

The show follows the adventures of a Nomad, played by Ngawang, who as a young monk is drawn to the town square where he is mesmerized by the local musicians and dancers. Eventually, he sheds his robes to follow his passion and learn about the ancient, high-spirited song and dance of his culture.

The Nomad is accompanied by his faithful sidekick, a light-hearted yak named KIPO, played by an expressive two-person puppet. Also traveling with them is a childlike human companion, who lends a strong comedic presence to the show.

Among the dances featured in KIPO! are a Tibetan gypsy dance, a harvest dance from southern Tibet and a lute dance native to the capital city of Lhasa and the surrounding province of Utsang.

Ngawang will be joined on stage by 19 singers and dancers from TIPA. Most are in their 20s and are traveling to the United States for the first time specifically for this performance. Also appearing is Lobsang Samten, long-time artistic director of TIPA.

TPT DOCUMENTARY

Kiefer and Ngawang also collaborated on *The Buddha Prince*, an outdoor "walking play" that celebrates the life and teachings of the Dalai Lama. TigerLion Arts and the Center for Spirituality & Healing co-presented performances of *The Buddha Prince* at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Powderhorn Park in September 2009 to mark Tibet's "50 Years in Exile."

The Buddha Prince was also presented in New York's Central Park on Labor Day of that same year. "Our goal was to bring people together to celebrate the humanity and teachings of His Holiness," Kiefer says.

During this year's visit of the Dalai Lama, Twin Cities Public Television will present a 30-minute film about the creation of *The Buddha Prince*. The show, "Buddha Prince Backstage," which features the Minnesota Tibetan community, will air statewide the evening of May 8 on tptMN. >



Happiness is the essence
of the Tibetan religious spirit.



► PHOTO AND ART EXHIBITIONS

Kiefer is also coordinating an exhibit of photos by A.T. Steele, the great uncle of a friend. Steele traveled to Tibet in the 1930s and '40s, where he photographed the Dalai Lama as a young boy, along with the surrounding community and landscape.

The photos will be displayed in the lobby of Rarig Center during performances of KIPO! and at other events during the visit of His Holiness. Several photos from this exhibit also appear in "Buddha Prince Backstage."

In addition, Intermedia Arts, a multidisciplinary, multicultural arts center in Minneapolis, will host a Tibetan art exhibit as part of its Catalyst Series. The exhibit, which will be coordinated by Thupten Dadak, features art collected by community members, as well as art created by local Tibetan artists. The show opens on April 24 and runs to the end of June. ❖



Calendar of Cultural Events

► **KIPO!**

World Premiere Friday,
May 6 at 7 pm at the
Rarig Center
Wednesdays - Sundays
until May 22.

www.tigerlion.org

Tickets:

www.dalailama.umn.edu

► **Buddha Prince
Backstage**

Sunday evening, May 8
at 8 pm Twin Cities Public
Television

www.tpt.org

► **Photos of the Young
Dalai Lama in Tibet**

Rarig Center Lobby during
performances of KIPO!

► **Tibetan Art Exhibit**

Opens April 24
Intermedia Arts

www.intermediaarts.org

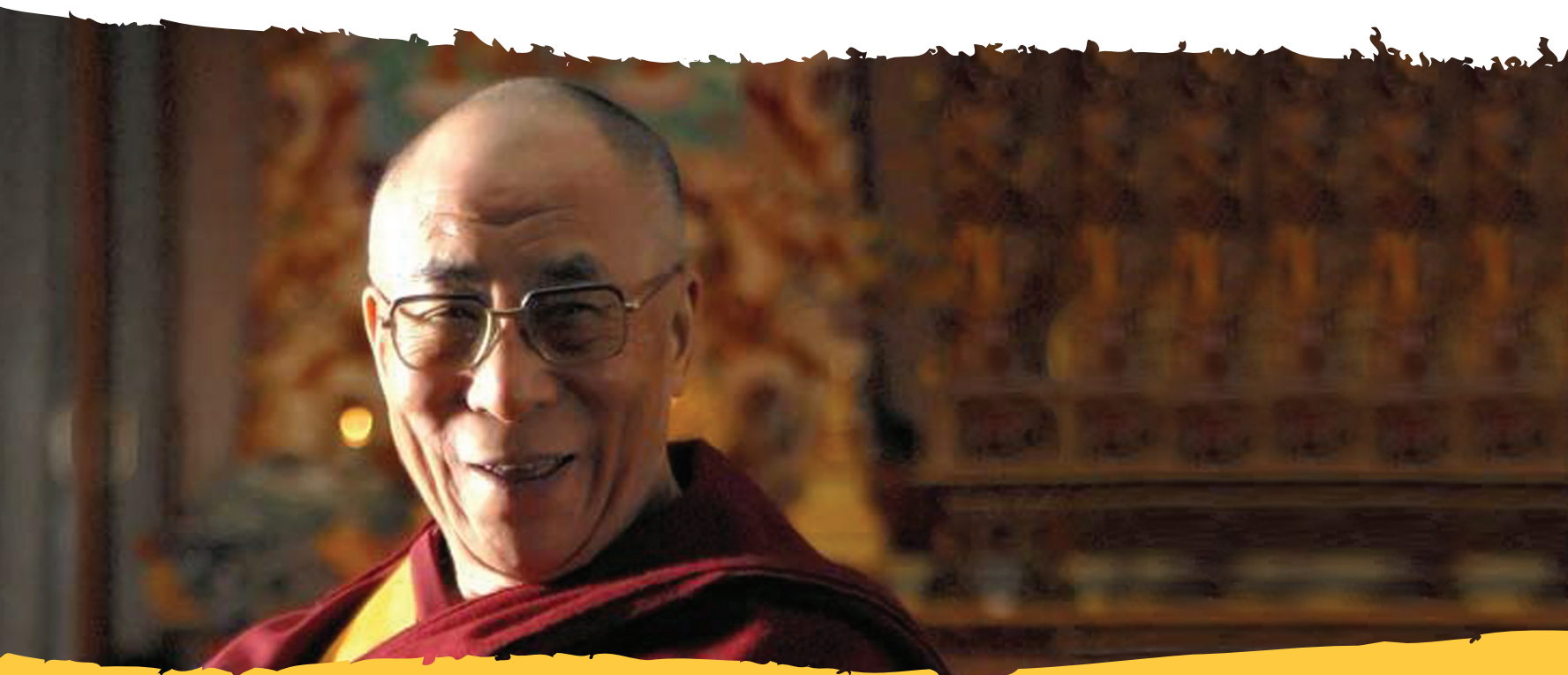


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www.csh.umn.edu

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MMC #505
420 Delaware St. S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455



The Minnesota Visit 2011

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

One Heart, One Mind, One Universe

May 6 - 8, 2011

at Rarig Center

KIPO! World Premiere:

A Circus of Spirit, Song and Dance from
Tibet presented by TigerLion Arts

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. daily

(Bonus performance May 7, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)

May 8, 2011

at Mariucci Arena

Medicine Buddha Empowerment:

A Tibetan Cultural and Spiritual Ceremony Promoting
Personal and Societal Healing with His Holiness the
14th Dalai Lama

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

May 8, 2011

at Mariucci Arena

Peace Through Inner Peace:

A Public Address featuring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

May 9, 2011

at University Radisson Hotel

*** Second International Tibetan Medicine Conference:**

Healing Mind & Body

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

* His Holiness is not expected to be in attendance.

The Minnesota Visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is hosted by:

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