



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013

p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom>

For home media requests contact Elizabeth McKee at elizabeth@zeitgeistfilms.com

PHILOSOPHY IS IN THE STREETS: ZEITGEIST BOWS "EXAMINED LIFE" ON DVD

New York (December 15, 2009) — Filmmaker Astra Taylor (*Žižek!*) liberates philosophy from the halls of academia through entertaining and thought-provoking excursions with some of today's most famous and influential thinkers in her documentary **EXAMINED LIFE**. After a smash opening run at New York's IFC Center, **EXAMINED LIFE** continued on to seventy theatrical markets nationwide. **EXAMINED LIFE makes its DVD debut on February 23, 2010.**

EXAMINED LIFE puts philosophy back in conversation with everyday life as the philosophers lead us through spaces that hold particular resonance for them and their ideas. **Peter Singer's** thoughts on the ethics of **consumption** are amplified against the backdrop of Fifth Avenue's posh boutiques. **Slavoj Žižek** challenges current beliefs about the **environment** while sifting through a garbage dump. **Michael Hardt** ponders the nature of revolution while surrounded by symbols of wealth and leisure. **Judith Butler** and **Sunaura Taylor** stroll through San Francisco's Mission District questioning our culture's fixation on **individualism**. **Kwame Anthony Appiah** discusses **cosmopolitanism** at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. **Martha Nussbaum** urges the political representation of the **disabled** while walking along the handicap-accessible lakeshore in Chicago. **Avital Ronell** muses on the human tendency to ascribe **meaning** to events in New York's Tompkins Square Park. And while driving through Manhattan, **Cornel West** compares philosophy to **jazz and blues**, reminding us how intense and invigorating a life of the mind can be.

Offering privileged moments with great thinkers from fields ranging from ethics to cultural theory, **EXAMINED LIFE** reveals philosophy's power to transform the way we see the world around us and imagine our place in it.

Zeitgeist's DVD release of **EXAMINED LIFE** features an anamorphic transfer enhanced for widescreen televisions. Supplemental materials include **two extra philosopher walks with Colin McGinn and Simon Critchley; Q&As with Cornel West, Avital Ronell, Kwame Anthony Appiah and director Astra Taylor** at New York's IFC Center; theatrical trailers; **philosopher bios**; optional English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired; and selected bibliographies.

Also available from The New Press: The 2009 companion book **Examined Life: Excursions with Contemporary Thinkers**, with full transcripts of the philosophers' walks, edited by Taylor herself.

EXAMINED LIFE Film/DVD info: 2008 • 88 minutes • Canada • Color • In English • 1.85:1 theatrical aspect ratio • Stereo • Not Rated

Note: Zeitgeist's DVD release of Examined Life is available in the U.S. only.

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Carlos Saura and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner **Nowhere in Africa**; blockbuster doc **The Corporation**; dance doc hit **Ballets Russes**; Oscar nominee **Sophie Scholl—The Final Days**; Oscar nominee **My Country, My Country**; Sundance winner **Into Great Silence**; and 2008 Oscar nominee **Trouble the Water**. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the remastered Two-Disc Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled **PHANTOM MUSEUMS**; a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled **GLITTERBOX**, with Oscar winner Tilda Swinton; an Essential Edition of Olivier Assayas' cult fave **Irma Vep** starring Maggie Cheung; and a brand-new "Repressed & Remastered" Edition of Guy Maddin's 1992 mountain film classic **Careful**.



247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013
p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom>
For home media requests contact Elizabeth McKee at elizabeth@zeitgeistfilms.com

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *EXAMINED LIFE*

"Ideas beam out from Astra Taylor's **engaging** new philoso-doc *Examined Life*; **the viewer basks in the intelligence on-screen** and, occasionally, soaks up the rays." —J. Hoberman, *The Village Voice*

"The ideas themselves are never fusty or hermetically sealed; Taylor's organizing principle, a **refreshingly intellectual** one, is that **rigorous thinking** brings us closer to global awareness."
—Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out New York*

"This film is **good for your soul!** So engaging, **hopeful** and against-the-grain that it becomes a **must-see cinematic tonic for these confusing times.**" —Scott Macaulay, *Filmmaker Magazine*

"A **playful** riposte to the notion that movies are for turning one's mind off." —Rob Nelson, *Variety*

"Part of the **fun** of *Examined Life* comes from watching these **very intelligent** people try to make themselves intelligible.... **A study in academic celebrity.**" —A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

"A **stimulating** quest for meaning.... It's as inviting and accessible as a **smart** conversation with **fascinating** friends." —Jeff Shannon, *Seattle Times*

"Highly quirky, **thoughtfully constructed**, and beautifully shot." —Anne S. Lewis, *Austin Chronicle*

"**Absorbing**, an intelligent yet **accessible** anthology of ideas." —Aaron Hillis, *IFC.com*

"Astra Taylor wisely avoids turning this talk fest into a talking heads fest by filming these effusive intellectuals in a variety of visually diverting, real-world environments."
—Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*

"**A film of substance that is nevertheless light on its feet....** [A] physically and mentally **energetic** piece of filmmaking.... We are left invigorated rather than bamboozled."
—Nick Dawson, *Filmmaker Magazine*

"*Examined Life* is **one of the smartest, and most intellectually stimulating movies of the year.** It is not often that this sort of thought is so directly presented on film." —Jesse Wentz, *CBC Toronto*

"Watching *Examined Life* is sort of like sitting on a plane next to a total stranger who insists on making conversation. Except this is that one time out of 100 when the stranger turns out to be a completely fascinating person.... **Philosophical discourse suddenly doesn't seem so remote.**"
—Rob Thomas, *The Capital Times* (Madison)

"Eighty **lovely** minutes on the road to enlightenment... surprisingly **entertaining!**" —*Toronto Star*

"Heady and **strangely exciting** viewing." —Peter Bowen, *FilminFocus.com*

"One of the most **thought-provoking**, exciting and **richly conceived** films out there right now."
—StillInMotion.com