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Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy, showing until December 20, is an astonishing achievement, made by a British team headed by Graham Coleman (writer and director) and David Lascelles (producer and photographer). Their camera penetrates into the most intimate corners of Tibetan life and thought: the lamas' preparations for a ritual rightly known as "A Beautiful Ornament" — the careful burning of a departed member of the monastery community — the rapt face of a departed monk in contemplation. There is no omniscient narrator shaping and ordering these amazing sights; instead, the activities are explained by subtitles. In a manner entirely fitting for a portrait of Buddhist culture, the film-makers seem entirely at one with their subject; it is up to each spectator to open his or her eyes and mind to the wonders on display.

Geoff Brown