

Tuesday March 1 @ 7pm



“The Philosopher Kings”

a film by Patrick Shen

USA 2009

Plato felt that philosophers should rule society as so-called “Kings.” Los Angeles-based director Patrick Shen, who will attend this very special VFS screening, wants us to hear from contemporary philosopher-heroes in the invisible background. They are custodians who clean bathrooms and buildings at major universities; they explain their life philosophy in this candid and moving documentary.

The film focuses on people whose conflicts and triumphs forge experiential rather than theoretical views of life’s meaning. We look into the extended lives of a Purple Heart Veteran, a Haitian who returns home to help his family, and a woman whose mother died from a doctor’s error. We learn how to endure hardships from each one and how to triumph over them from a few.

Quotes from famous thinkers interlace these stories, with an underlying insight: true wisdom involves caring for others. These real life philosophers practice this hard lesson. We can’t but help measure ourselves by their example.

Robert Louis Chianese – Ventura Film Society