

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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WorldDharma.com | FilmsforAction.org

From an author, activist, performing artist, former monk and war journalist, comes a compelling and uncompromising feature documentary covering the triumphs and tribulations of a life spent exploring contemporary spirituality, universal human rights, indoctrination and the psychology of totalitarianism.

# SPRITUALLY INCORRECT

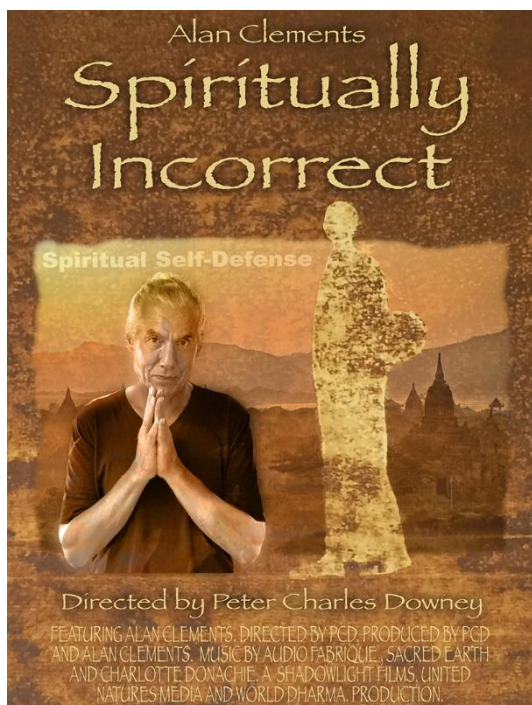
THE LIFE AND REBEL WISDOM OF

ALAN CLEMENTS

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"Blend Noam Chomsky, Lenny Bruce, and Terrence McKenna and you get Alan Clements, the most spiritually astute humorist in America today." **Jon Woodhouse, Entertainment writer, Maui News**

Alan Clements offers "a scorching comedic romp through the world of spiritual and political indoctrination and the commodification of mind states." **Paul Morris, former managing editor of Tricycle: The Buddhist Review**



Told through the life of Alan Clements, **SPRITUALLY INCORRECT** is feature-length documentary that shatters numerous white-washed sacred cows of the spiritual movement and explores sustainability from an inner perspective. Showing how we can escape the trap of spiritual narcissism and heal from trauma with empathy and compassion, Alan scours the inner depths to cover issues ranging from the commodification of consciousness to the collective existential crisis of a world on the brink of extinction. With material drawn from his years as a monk in Burma (Myanmar), and decades of retreats, media activism, stand up and spoken word performances, *Spiritually Incorrect* dares to ask of us the questions that gurus and corporate CEOs dread.

"It doesn't mean you are awake because you are aware," Alan states. "Even assassins, thieves and Presidents can be mindful. Both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are two sides of the same oligarchical coin and the apartheid of a corporate consciousness high on the crack of Wall Street,

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white supremacy, global totalitarianism, and bad excuses. On the other hand, one of the most challenging tasks before us, is to face our own addiction to fossil fuels as well as our complicity with the killing machine of endless wars, eternal consumerism and the climate Apocalypse we are ALL participating in, undivided by blue and red states.”

Alan’s improvisational spoken word performances are part sermon, part stand up, and part activism; they are poetic meditations on freedom of expression and a psychedelic-like soul cleansing. They are finely crafted theatrical environments to inspire self-honesty and reveal both our darkest secrets and re-enchant our wildest dreams. And if courageous, find that sacred place of realistic hope that motivates our ACTIONS to save the world.

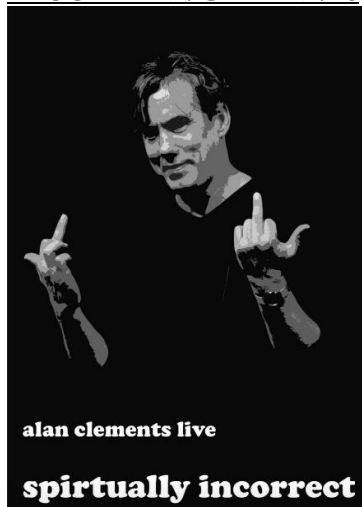
**SPIRITUALLY INCORRECT** takes viewers on an impassioned journey covering:

- **The commodification of consciousness and the narcissism of “NOW”:** Alan Clements deftly imparts the wisdom and folly of years as a Buddhist monk in a monastery in Burma (Myanmar), where the worldwide lay meditation movement began over 70 years ago. Having lectured and led mindfulness retreats for decades, he addresses the most prevalent corruption and hypocrisy of both the industry and its acolytes.
- **Spiritual activism and global human rights:** As a war journalist and global human rights activist, Alan affords us the insightful blasphemy that meditation is not enough. “Meditation in action”, meditation off the cushion, deeply informs his concept of “mindful intelligence” – the application of liberating states of mind towards creating a better world.
- **The future of freedom at a time of mass extinction:** With the American Indian philosophy of examining the merit of our actions based on their consequences for the next seven generations as his mantra, Alan takes an unflinching look at the potential for the global collapse of human civilization and the next mass extinction, while offering his vision of “realistic hope.”

**If you wish to watch SPIRITUALLY INCORRECT to review the Film and interview Alan for your podcast, magazine, newspaper, TV or radio show, please let me us know and we will be happy to send you a private “media link” at FilmsForAction.org**

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#### ABOUT ALAN CLEMENTS



**CLEMENTS** was among the first Westerners to ordain as a Buddhist monk in Burma, where he lived in a monastery practicing mindfulness meditation for nearly four years. Expelled from monastic life by the dictatorship, Clements returned to the West, becoming a spiritual maverick, journalist, and human rights activist engaged in Burma's nonviolent struggle for freedom while speaking up for political prisoners worldwide. His books include *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?*, and *Revolution of the Spirit*, both with forewords by the Dalai Lama and endorsed by 8 Noble Peace Laureates and former President Jimmy Carter. He's also written *The Voice of Hope*, *Instinct for Freedom*, *A Future To Believe In: 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom* and *Burma's Voices of Freedom: Conversations with Alan Clements*. He has been performing his stand up, spoken word show *Spiritually Incorrect* since 2003. Full bio at [AlanClements.com](http://AlanClements.com)

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**A Q&A with Alan Clements**

## **SPIRITUALLY INCORRECT**

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### **1. Who is Spiritually Incorrect for?**

Those blessed and afflicted by the unease of a convulsing and convoluted world, mavericks at the liminal edge of being, dharma savants, spiritual activists, recalcitrant rogues, itinerant, self-exiled holy men, culturally estranged holy women. Essentially, anyone who can no longer swallow the bitter taste of compromise, those chocking on soiled sacraments, those who's default position is dissonance, those who cannot reconcile hope with hatred, peace with war, victory with demonization, or freedom with subjugation. Young people who distrust the empty promises of their elders; elders who distrust the fads and fashion of youth.

My hope is that, by sharing the pitfalls and pretenses of my own spiritual journey, others will be better equipped to navigate some of the obvious corruptions and conceits of 21<sup>st</sup> century spirituality and the politics of a world in collapse.

### **2. Why now?**

America is burning. The Amazon is burning. As many as 200 species are going extinct every day. Where do we turn for realistic hope and meaning? The church is figuratively burning. Some of the world's most renowned Buddhists have been outed as serial abusers. Mindfulness is the drug of choice for civilian-killing drone pilots and CEOs looking for a docile and compliant workforce. Economics is based on a fallacy of perpetual growth; politics is based on lip service to the many and comfort for the few.

SPIRITUALLY INCORRECT is not just a film about my radical life and rebel wisdom, both the gems and blinding deceptions of a former Buddhist monk – it's a wake-up call for freedom loving people everywhere to preserve democracy, human rights, and the sanctity of Life. It is A CALL TO ACTION to save the world from the sixth mass extinction.

### **3. What makes someone spiritually incorrect?**

In these times, all it seems to take is a discerning ear and the courage to question the many spiritual platitudes that are out there. I mean, I don't want to "be one" with a toxic universe populated by badly wired robots on a God trip. I'm not going to pretend I can imagine for a minute what it's like to be born in a war zone, to be gang raped by soldiers or sold into slavery. I can't go there, and if I can't go there even mentally, I can't speak for people who have that experience. So what am I supposed to seek union with? The good stuff? That's not union at all – it's a type of violence, it's existential apartheid. You can't surgically remove the horror and expect to have a human being left at the end. The universe, life, it's a badly designed app. Our thoughts are not manifesting our reality, and there is no law of attraction or ancient secret that can account for childhood cancer or genocide. There just isn't. And if chanting could save the world, India would be enlightened.

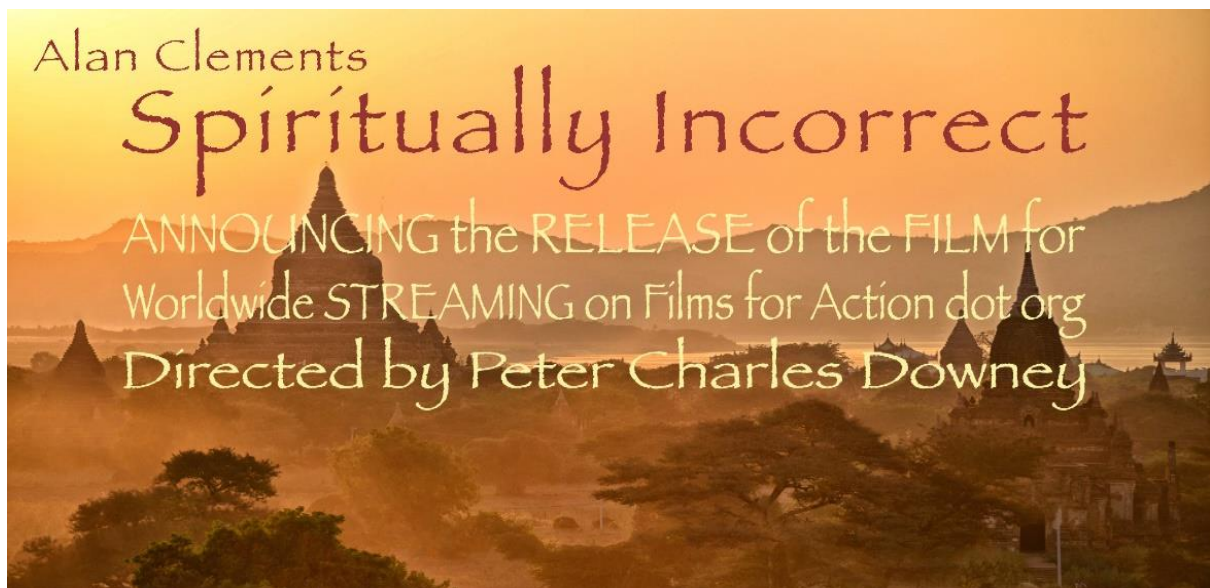
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**4. You talk of a trans-religious, trans-cultural “world Dharma”. What does this term mean to you?**

My concept of World Dharma reflects that human interconnectedness, that solidarity with Earth rather than any one ideology, country, or people. It’s also my way of challenging the psycho-spiritual hegemony of a three-pound organ made of the same ingredients as a stick of butter. Throughout history we’ve tried to define “Truth” –with a capital T – via a brain that can’t even talk to itself properly, let alone “the masses” (whoever they may be). Either no one has that capital T, or we all share a part of it, perhaps little more than a glimmer that serves only to remind us of the need for dialogue and cooperation as we explore the frontiers of mutually beneficial, conscious *living*.

**5. What’s the one thing you hope people take away from Spiritually Incorrect?**

Be your own Buddha. Be your own bible. Drop the labels. Drop the pretense. Stop pretending to be someone else’s Buddhist, someone else’s Hindu, someone else’s Christian. Abandon the surrogate group ego that first salved your uncertainty and now denies its very existence, along with your own. Please, drop into the radical authenticity of your own self inquiry. And keep alive the question. Paraphrasing Elie Wiesel, the late Nobel Peace Laureate and Holocaust survivor, Keep the question alive. Always ask questions. There are no absolute answers. Keep our critical reasoning, independent thinking, and moral courage active as the basis of our shared humanity.



[Spiritually Incorrect](#) | [Alan Clements](#)