



***DYING TO KNOW: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary***  
**(2014; 96 Minutes) Released by CNS Communications**

**PRESS KIT**

(August 15, 2015)

**Contact: Larsen Associates 415 957 1205**  
**Karen Larsen and Vince Johnson**

## **SOME RECENT REACTIONS TO THE FILM:**

### ***DYING TO KNOW: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary***

*"The idea of anything that expands our thinking beyond conventional borders has always been of interest to me. When I see the living, breathing portraits of these characters, especially the early archival footage... To see them intelligent and smart - they were a kind of blessing considering how they have been caricatured in later times. I like what this film explores and I'm glad to be a part of it."*

***Robert Redford***

*"This film is stunning and literally left me speechless. It is so powerful on so many levels, whether personal, political, spiritual or ultimately facing death. It is an amazing piece of work. Thank you so much for doing it. You will make history with it."*

***Ambassador Joe Wilson***

*"A great piece of work and an extraordinary story well told." **Sting***

*"The film left me open. It's a historic document chronicling two majestic lives."*

***Jeff Bridges***

*"It is highly entertaining and enlightening on all levels. I was never bored!"*

***Kathryn Altman***

*"gay- i just finished watching your documentary "dying to know" again. It is a tremendous and beautiful piece of filmmaking. it was so deeply engaging and touching. thank you for putting this into the world. all my best,"*

***Darren Aronofsky***

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## **SET AND SETTING**

*In the early 1960s Harvard psychology professors Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert began probing the edges of consciousness through their experiments with psychedelics. Leary became a missionary for mind altering drugs, igniting a global counter-culture movement and landing in prison after Richard Nixon called him “the most dangerous man in America.” Alpert journeyed to the East to become Ram Dass, a spiritual teacher for a new generation and the author of the book “Be Here Now”. This cinematic vision quest encourages us to ponder questions about life, death, drugs & the biggest mysteries of the human condition.*

*Whether you've heard of them or not, they've changed your life and shaped a generation.*

*Now, nearly 50 years later, a new documentary re-assesses the lives of two iconic figures through the lens of their work, successes and failures, collaboration, and remarkable journey through life. Together as friends, collaborators and individuals they were both celebrated and vilified. Once viewed as luminaries of social change, they were also portrayed as caricatures in a larger power game of political upheaval. In reality, by choice or by chance, they became two sides of a coin, the mind and the heart of a generation.*

*After they had weaved in and out through each other's lives for decades, Leary announced his terminal cancer and his wish to be public about the process of his passing. His condition inspired a December 1995 reunion at Tim's house in Los Angeles, (one arranged by the filmmakers.) Ram Dass came down from San Francisco to visit Tim and the ideas began to fly. The result, “***Dying to Know: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary***” captures them in intimate and entertaining conversation about a lifetime of friendship, work, death and the psychedelic explorations that began it all. It would be their last time ever filmed together.*

*Now in release after 19 years in the making, the feature documentary incorporates 80 years of rare footage and never before seen interviews of Leary and Ram Dass. Director Gay Dillingham explores an iconic history of personal, professional and collective struggles and updates it for future generations. Her lucid and intimate portrait of the life and times of Tim Leary and Ram Dass ultimately begs a new conversation around their contributions to the science of the mind and the heart. Dying To know examines their seminal work as individuals and together as potentially more relevant today than in the past.*

*Robert Redford narrates this enlightening and entertaining journey of two iconic lives.*

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## **THE INTERVIEWEES**

**Timothy Leary, PhD**

*Philosopher. Psychologist, Author, Convict, Lifestyle Icon*

**Ram Dass (nee Richard Alpert), PhD**

*Psychologist, Author, Spiritual Teacher*

**Andrew Weil, MD**

*International Best-selling Author, Founder/Director: Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine*

**Ralph Metzner, PhD**

*Harvard Contemporary Psychologist with Leary and Alpert, Author*

**Huston Smith**

*Professor of Religion, Author: "The World's Religions"*

**Peggy Mellon Hitchcock**

*Millbrook House Resident/Owner, Benefactor*

**John Perry Barlow**

*Rancher, Author, Grateful Dead Lyricist, Co-Founder Electronic Frontier Foundation*

**Roshi Joan Halifax**

*Author, Founder and Abbot: Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**Tsultrim Allione**

*Tibetan Buddhist Lama*

**Joanna Harcourt-Smith**

*Former Wife of Timothy Leary*

**Zach Leary**

*Timothy Leary's Son*

**Dean Chamberlain**

*Photographer, Light Painter*

## KEY FILMMAKING PERSONNEL

Producer/Director, Gay Dillingham  
Narrative Writer/Editor, David Leach  
From an Idea by, Andrew Ungerleider  
Robert Redford, narrator  
Michael Donnelly, Co-Producer  
Alan Kozlowski, production and camera  
David Aubrey, camera  
Steven Postell, composer  
Ken S. Polk, Audio re-mixing  
Colin Gill, motion graphics  
Dustin Lindblad, illustrations

### **Executive Producers:**

Dal LaMagna   Rena Shulsky David & Sam S. David  
Andrew Ungerleider  
Giancarlo Canavesio  
Sarah Redlich Johnson  
Carla Kleefeld & Celeste Worl

Running Time: 95 minutes. Format: Mixed Digital Media Producer: CNS  
Communications, LLC Completed: October 2014

# ***DYING TO KNOW: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary***

## **About the Movie**

Our story begins in December 1995 with a filmed interview with Timothy Leary at his home in Los Angeles.

Timothy has announced that he is dying of cancer and intends to approach his condition with the same curious enthusiasm and eager engagement of the unknown that marked the rest of his life. Visiting Tim is his old friend and Harvard collaborator, Ram Dass (nee: Richard Alpert), now an esteemed spiritual guide steeped in Eastern and Western religious traditions. The ensuing conversation explores their life-long friendship, divergent practices of Western science and Eastern thought, and dying with dignity as the final expression of a life. Their wise exchange offers illumination and inspiration as the filmmakers revisit the history and impact of two remarkable lives.

Incorporating more than 80 years of images into the central 1995 conversation, the film explores the formative early years of the two celebrated Harvard psychology professors, their diverse backgrounds, family histories and notable scientific contributions.

After briefly attending West Point and serving in the Army Leary pursued his career in Psychology. Early in his career, Leary published several important 1950s works in the field of personality assessment. After a time he had become disillusioned with psychiatry, and having tragically lost his first wife, Leary moved to Europe with his children. There, David McClelland of Harvard found him and offered him a prestigious position to study psycho-active substances at the University. Leary took the job and returned to his native Boston.

Also from Boston and from a privileged background (the opposite of Leary) Richard Alpert, had established himself as a preeminent professor at both Stanford and Harvard. With a great academic career before him, the younger Alpert joined Leary at Harvard in the early 1960's where their graduate program came to focus on the sanctioned use of psychedelic drugs in controlled "set & settings" experiences.

They experimented and gathered data on the potential therapeutic uses for psycho-active drugs in part to rehabilitate violent prisoners. For the next few years Leary and Alpert together led the research that increasingly probed the outer reaches of human consciousness, digging deep into the mind and the substances that activated those experiences. Together, along with fellow

Harvard collaborator Ralph Metzner, they began writing *The Psychedelic Experience* in 1962. The book would chronicle their studies and personal experiences. They hoped to create a manual for the scientific, therapeutic and even religious applications of psychedelic substances.

Their perhaps too-popular daring explorations and astonishing seminal discoveries in modern psychology began to expose inherent institutional limitations, skepticism and academic envy. The spotlight had become too much by the time a Harvard undergraduate reporter, Andrew Weil, took a journalistic interest in their program and his story was published in the Harvard Crimson. The administration had had enough, and seizing on an incident unrelated to their science, the two professors and their program were discredited. In 1963 Richard was fired and Tim's contract lapsed and was not renewed. When the New York Times picked up the incident and announced they had been fired from Harvard, the story flew across the nation.

Once out of Harvard and freed of academic constraints, Richard and Tim relocated their research project and personal explorations of altered states of consciousness to Millbrook, a communal 63-room mansion in Dutchess County N.Y. Their residence there was arranged by Peggy Hitchcock Mellon, the then youngest generation of the Mellon family. Soon, the vast estate became a hotbed of communal, social and artistic activity. Seekers and intellectuals arrived, some for real exploration, some curious, and some just for the party. There, the two ex-professors finally saw their book *The Psychedelic Experience* published in 1964. Based on *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, the book was more than a chronicle, it explored the parallels of the psychedelic experience and the process of physical and ego death.

Deep into their personal drug explorations and under the sheer weight of managing the communal social experiment that was Millbrook, Leary and Alpert's lives took drastically different turns. The increased attention and notoriety sent things out of control at Millbrook. Tim's vision was becoming too much for Richard's desire for his own personal growth. After so much time and so many experiences together they grew apart. Each man developed in a different direction as teachers, authors and activists; Leary became a visionary and social revolutionary, later a cyber-hero; Ram Dass took the path of a wise spiritual advisor, Eastern philosopher and caring counsel to the dying.

Alpert made his way to India in search of a way to stay high once the drugs had worn off. There he met his guru Neem Karoli Baba (Maharajji) who gave Richard his name Ram Dass (Servant of God). Returning from India a changed man, Ram Dass led Western followers through a collective spiritual transformation. He soon became a bridge between Eastern and Western thought and life practice. A handbook of his experiences became formed the seminal book, *Be Here Now*.



On the other side of the coin, Leary, with a flair for the dramatic, pushed the culture's boundaries of conventional thinking, questioning authority and championing personal choice with his slogan "Think For Yourself." His wild ride influenced a global counter culture movement that landed him in Folsom prison, from which he escaped after using the same personality assessment test he had devised to assign himself to a low security unit. He was recaptured in Afghanistan along with his wife Joanna Harcourt-Smith and they returned to California just before Richard Nixon's inauguration - a victory over a fugitive philosopher who Richard Nixon named the "Most Dangerous Man in America."

With Leary's trials and imprisonment and several marriages behind him, and Alpert's return from India as Ram Dass, they were able to rekindle their friendship at a 1983 Harvard reunion. Finding common ground and equilibrium of their differences, they were now able to celebrate their individual paths that had led them both to become central figures in the social consciousness of the 1960s. Still, much lay ahead for each man.

## **FROM A MOVEMENT TO A FILM**

Assembling the editorial and photographic elements and timelines of a life-long association as friends and spokespersons to a generation was no easy task. To responsibly tell the complex story, even with a central conversation, required some out-of-the-box thinking. Dillingham boldly structured her material into four sections: *Birth*; *Life*; *Death* and *Soul*. Within this structure, a considered filmed discussion of divergent, yet complementary, teachings emerges between Leary and Ram Dass. Their discussion is amplified by insightful interviews from those who played a part of their story and the story of an emergent consciousness in the West. Their comments from the fields of education, medicine, psychology, art, world religion and the hospice movement help to shape fresh viewpoints on eternal issues.

Blessed with delightful and articulate onscreen personalities, the film interweaves many elements to create a deep and joyful assessment of two iconic lives - what they did right and what went wrong as these controversial figures of Western culture ultimately helped shape the evolving social consciousness of an entire age.

## **SOME ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE CONVERSATION**

Although not an "issues film," the unique relationship, history and conversation brings up society's most perennial issues.

**The Taboo of Death and Dying** - A central issue of the moment is the taboo surrounding death. Dying to know offers the viewer a powerful call to view death with awareness and dignity and compassion. From their philosophical and religious Eastern and Western perspectives, Leary and Ram Dass explore deep-rooted personal, social and economic impacts brought on by our collective failure to grapple with death and dying as an extension of life and living, two sides of the same coin.

**The War on Drugs** - Leary advocated for the reasoned control and regulation of drugs with potential scientific and medicinal value to research, he also became the first casualty of the grand failure of the War on Drugs.

Leary's story sheds light on a misguided government policy that has failed in many ways: inhibiting scientific research, social disorder, lives lost, millions incarcerated, treasure expended, increased and unmanaged drug use and expanded criminal enterprise. The current national consensus demonstrates that criminalization policies have been destructive on many fronts. The government and institutional repression of thinkers and scientists like Leary and Alpert was tragic in many ways. These scientists, philosophers and religious leaders thought for themselves, questioned authority and paid dearly for those liberties. By extension, society, too, has paid dearly for the shortsighted actions of an establishment adverse to change and controlled by those seeking to maintain power and the status quo.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Dying to Know* started on a whim in 1995 while dining with good friends, discussing the news of the day: "Timothy Leary announced he was dying." My dinner companions were all baby boomers in their mid-40s, I just 30.

I'd seen Leary in the 80s on his college lecture circuit (in his cyber-tech manifestation) promoting LSD, Leary Software Design. I was not all that impressed at the time as I experienced Leary, the showman, not the man. I also remembered my brother who I adored getting in trouble for driving 2 hours to the City one school night in 1978 to see a guy named Timothy Leary. I would later realize why he took that risk. In college like many others, I had read "*Be Here Now*", the so-called hippy bible written by Ram Dass formerly known as Richard Alpert, a Harvard Psychologist.

When I was 17 that same brother who had gone off to see Leary died accidentally at the tender age of 20. That loss became a major turning stone in my life and vision.

Back at our 1995 dinner my soon to be husband announced, “We should get Ram Dass to come down from San Francisco for a final good-bye with Tim.” He would make the call to Ram Dass and I would direct. Within 48 hours I had prepped the questions so that Ram Dass could facilitate a lively dialog between the two men. I wanted the environment to be as open as possible; the “set & setting” had to support their decades-long relationship for an honest, lively final discussion & perhaps, final good-bye. This meant the crew and equipment once set up had to disappear. I realized this was risky given I was dealing with two known anarchists. Where would it lead? The camera’s rolled and as Tim said at the end, “Thanks for bringing us together so we could make love in public.” A cosmic buddy film - a love story was underway. I was then fortunate to get a last solo interview with Tim shortly before he died. I managed another solo interview with Ram Dass in the very narrow window right after Tim died and before Ram Dass’s stroke in Feb 1997.

I loved the project but my own life became overwhelmed with the death of my father, the launching of an environmental technology business with my husband and 8 years heading up environmental management for the state of New Mexico. In that regard, I’ve now worked 25 years on some of our most intractable environmental problems from nuclear weapons and mass extinction to passing the most comprehensive climate change regulations in the country only to see them overturned. Why do we sit by paralyzed with all the information at our fingertips, yet are unable to act? Perhaps it has something to do with our blind spot, our cultural resistance to that looming mystery in the human landscape - our own mortality?

I touched in with Ram Dass over the years interviewing him, getting to know him, while trying to figure out how I was going to finish this film. I was becoming more keenly aware I had historical, rare footage and it would haunt me until I completed it. The more time went on the more I realized the story was mine to tell and was ever more relevant to my own life and, so it seemed, to the American psyche. Like many in my generation I had inherited caricatures of these two men. I needed to reconcile that media abstract with the man I met on his deathbed. In Leary the man I found an intelligent, searching, vulnerable, honest, complex human being. He was a natural risk taker breaking conventional boundaries for what he believed could bring about a higher level of consciousness. He was naïve and paid dearly. Over the years Ram Dass’s body became ravaged by his stroke, pain his constant companion yet he seems to live in a state of unconditional love and continues to be a guiding light to many people. How is this possible?

The film reaches deep with 80 years of footage asking age old questions. As we experience the arcs of their lives and relationship we see the complexity, intelligence & humanity beyond the caricatures. This part of history I believed was worth a deeper look while the taboos they continue to break down are

more relevant to contemporary life than ever. I've tried to neither glorify nor demonize these men but see the remarkable human stories composed from their lives.

Robert Redford agreed to view the film in December 2012 then reached out immediately to let me know he "loved it". I spontaneously asked him to narrate which he said he would be honored. His generosity has extended far beyond the narration to his truly masterful guidance in the editing room. I will be forever grateful to him.

I've seen this film touch people of all ages from those that have no idea who these men are to those that knew them well to those that don't care about them. For me this filmmaking journey has led me further down the path to "think for myself" with "unconditional love" and my hope is that it can do that for you.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

Over the 19-year gestation of production and post-production, the project grew in scope to unravel an expanding universe of important social issues. It became clear through the editorial process how much the scientific and philosophical works contributed to world culture and a radical rethinking of contemporary life from the 1960s forward. Not a Baby Boomer herself (she was born in 1965) Gay was able to bring a fresh perspective and honest curiosity to her personal discovery of who these real-life figures were.

The developing content of the film seemed to call out for a new generation's desire to reflect on and learn more about 60s era. Clearly it was time to engage a new conversation on how we live and how we die. A sense of historic and personal responsibility to the material and subjects grew over time and lives marched on.

**Los Angeles 1995-1996** - As she states in her Director's Notes, the original idea to reunite Leary and Ram Dass in their 1995 conversation was one that, while somewhat spontaneous, resulted in very special material and it would be their last filmed meeting together.

Three film sessions took place early on: the 1995 interview with Timothy Leary and Ram Dass shot, a 1996 follow-up with Leary alone and another with Ram Dass shortly after Tim's death in the Spring of 1996. She had great material but it seemed more would be needed.

**Along the Path 2003-2013** - As with many independent documentaries, “*Dying to Know: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary*” was made opportunistically without any preconceived budget or distribution consideration - a true labor of love. Over many years personal funds and supporters were gathered along the way. Time to reflect became a creative asset. With no hard deadline or external pressure, an organic process characterized the production and post-production process. As time, life and money allowed, Gay had the ability to engage or step back from the project and consider her subjects and the material she had collected.

Supporting interviews took place between 2012 and 2013. These sessions took advantage of notable figures whose lives and experience intersected both the larger story and intimate personal lives of Timothy Leary and Ram Dass. These interviews intelligent and candidly anecdotal explore the issues of life, death, drugs and history. They include family members, charismatic collaborators, media figures, supporters and critics of both Leary and Alpert.

The main visual approach to the written narrative was to incorporate filmed interviews with acquired period archival footage and photography, all spanning more than 80 years. Much of the material came from the Leary Archives and the Alpert family library. Timothy’s process of passing forms a major editorial timeline, but as Tim died in 1995, it is Ram Dass who moves the story forward in a manner of an old tale. In 1997 Ram Dass suffered a debilitating stroke that almost took him. Since then, his speech more labored and distant travel almost impossible. Confronted with his own physical disability, he continued his interviews from 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013. He added and extended a new dimension to their story. Despite his physical challenges, his wisdom is more profound than ever, and he remains active, alert and publicly engaged - always willing to support the film.

New Mexico filmmakers, Director Gay Dillingham and Editor/Storyteller David Leach labored long and hard to sort out and re-assemble the material into a film that tracks the intersection of two friends through the structure of *Birth; Life; Death and Soul*. Two men, four parts, too many endings? No ending at all, only one ending which is passing on as an extension of life.

**The Vision Time Allows and a Bit of High Tech** - As the editorial process continued to struggle with story structure, the early expectation that the film might find a home on DVD, broadcast outlets or online outlets was set aside. The material was being crafted into an important conversation and unique historic perspective of a period. The film and the conversation deserved a public forum in theaters. But that option required major technical adjustments, changing horses mid-stream.

A long gestation was a boon to editorial process, but it had the opposite effect on preparing the film for public exhibition. Technology had inexorably moved

on; the times had changed significantly. Smart choices a decade ago became major obstacles in 2013. Multiple video, film, graphic and photographic formats (many now long gone) used in the production over the years had to be artfully and proficiently updated and combined together to meet contemporary exhibition standards. Film was disappearing, broadcast standards were shifting to digital and high-definition. Distribution patterns were changing, so were business models.

While the need to contemporize the visual experience of the film was imperative, the original components still had to reflect their period sources and protagonists' sensibility. Retro was the objective, but seemingly simple things became complicated.

As examples: finding a modern font that mimicked the hand lettering of the seminal Ram Dass book *Be Here Now* was surprisingly difficult. Curiously, there were very few photographs or historic footage of both men together. And with no possibility to reshoot anything, the visual challenge of presenting Leary and Ram Dass together onscreen as the mind and the heart of their story, was a problem. Animating the extensive 2D art illustrations that bookmarked the four pivotal chapters of the narrative took on a new importance. The original illustrations of *Birth*, *Life*, *Death* and *Soul* mandalas had to be more cinematic and visually interesting. Then there were the sources of the photographs. Other than the Alpert library, much of the Leary photo collections and even archived news footage had badly deteriorated. Only recently did the New York Public Library make their archive public.

To help bring new life to the substantial archival elements from the Leary Archives and the Alpert Family, the film was finished by graphic talented artists at leading commercial visual effects houses in Los Angeles, New Mexico and Mexico City.

In the end, most of this process was a hugely complex puzzle that co-producer and post-production specialist Michael Donnelly had to sort out. To retain the original footage and images and have them play smoothly, despite wildly varying frame rates and aspect ratios, he experimented with some of the most innovative modern digital technology in Los Angeles and Albuquerque. Talented and creative tech specialists loved the project and, wanting to stretch their talents, supported it in many ways. Once everything was running at the same rate and on screen in the original compositions, Michael brought in the support of experienced creative finishing talent like award-winning sound mixer/designer Ken Polk. Colin Gill, a local San Francisco motion graphics and lettering specialist from the ad world helped lend a modern look the 2D art and lettering. Illustrator Dustin Lindblad supported the process and help re-do lettering and her mandala art. Despite the amount of imbedded technology,

the contemporized look and feel is subtle and faithful to the original sources, without being forced or unnatural.

**Music 2012-2013** - Reflecting the complimentary and opposing philosophies that Tim Leary and Ram Dass professed, a mixture of Western and Eastern musical audio foundations seemed natural. These are beautifully expressed in the original score by Steve Postell and performed by some of the most versatile accomplished session musicians working today. Period and contemporary songs by musicians such as Jackson Browne, Moody Blues, John Lennon, Krishna Das, Jai Uttal and others resonate the times. Contributing musicians from the Los Angeles studio and indie circuit, like violinist Lili Haydn and indie artist Bird York lend their talents and to the compelling audio textures directed by Postell. Austin Texas singer/composer, Eliza Gilkyson, contributed her lovely end piece “*When You Walk On*” over the end credits.

**Narration 2013** - Robert Redford agreed to narrate after he fell in love with the film. He was not only honored to narrate but also provided editorial guidance on the content. A full-feature narration by Robert Redford brings authority and familiarity to the message and the film.

**Completed Spring of 2014**, “*Dying to Know: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary*” brings a new perspective to the historic legacies of Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert, Ram Dass and their influence beyond their own generations. Finally the film is ready to go out to audiences in theaters and there to create a conversation that resonates that time in December 1995. The filmmakers and other speakers will tour with the film as possible.

As a society we must be able to grapple with our social issues. The viewer can reflect on what went right and what went wrong in the tumultuous 1960-70s, and how these two well-lived lives archetypically reflect those times. *Dying to Know* will be a powerful tool that helps explore and reassess the work of Tim Leary and Ram Dass for the next generation. At it’s most impactful, the film serves to engage the public in a dialogue around death and dying.

The filmmakers are eternally grateful to all the participants whose generosity of time and spirit, as well as their total commitment made the information so special and personal.

# DYING TO KNOW

## CAST & TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### THE CAST

#### Timothy Leary

In the early 1960s Harvard psychology professors Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert began probing the edges of consciousness through their experiments with psychedelics. Leary became the LSD guru, challenging convention, questioning authority and as a result spawned a global counter culture movement landing in prison after Nixon called him “the most dangerous man in America”.

#### Ram Dass

Ram Dass (born Richard Alpert, April 6, 1931) is an American contemporary spiritual teacher and the author of the seminal 1971 book *‘Be Here Now’*.

#### Dr. Andrew Weil

Dr. Andrew Weil is a physician, author, professor and one of the world’s preeminent media celebrities in the field of medicine and personal growth. He is a long-time advocate for both Western medicine and alternative therapies. Dr. Weil graduated from Harvard University where he was also an undergraduate reporter for the Harvard Crimson. His investigative journalism led to Leary & Alpert’s dismissal from Harvard and the unraveling of their University studies in the use of psychoactive drugs for medical research and treatments.



## **Huston Smith**

Smith's book "*The World's Religions*" has sold over two million copies and remains a popular introduction to comparative religion. Smith, through his friendship with Aldous Huxley, met Leary and Alpert and others at the Center for Personality Research at Harvard. There, Smith was one of the active participants in Leary and Alpert's early experiments, particularly "the Good Friday Experiment." He termed the experiments "empirical metaphysics. His book, "*Cleansing the Doors of Perception*," describes his experiences. Smith has both studied and practiced Christianity, mysticism, Vedanta, Zen Buddhism and Sufi Islam.

## **Roshi Joan Halifax**

Joan Jiko Halifax is an American Zen Buddhist roshi, anthropologist, ecologist, civil rights activist, hospice caregiver, and the author of several books on Buddhism and spirituality. She currently serves as abbot and guiding teacher of Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a Zen Peacemaker community which she founded in 1990.

## **Ralph Metzner**

A German psychologist whose work includes extensive participation and collaboration with Leary and Alpert while at Harvard and after. Metzner continues his involvement in consciousness research. He is the cofounder and President of the Green Earth Foundation, a non-profit educational organization devoted to healing and harmonizing the relationship between humans and the Earth.

## **Joanna Harcourt-Smith**

Joanna was Timothy Leary's fourth wife however never legally married. She shared what was probably the most difficult period of his life. After meeting Leary in Europe while he was a fugitive, the couple went to Afghanistan, where they were arrested and sent to California - a foreign place where she had never been. She advocated long for Leary's release from prison and witnesses his mistreatment there. After almost four years of Leary's imprisonment and turning State's evidence, she accompanied Leary into the Federal Witness Protection plan in New Mexico.

## **Lama Tsultrim Allione**

Allione is an author and teacher who has studied in the Tibetan Buddhist lineage. She was born in 1947 in Maine, in the United States, and given the name Joan Rousmanière Ewing. She first travelled to India and Nepal in 1967, returned in 1969 and in 1970 she became one of the first American women to be ordained as a Tibetan nun. She was given her vows by the Karmapa, from the Karma Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism, who gave her the name Karma Tsultrim Chodron.

## **John Perry Barlow**

Barlow is a multi-talented poet, essayist and retired rancher from Wyoming. Known to many as a cyber-libertarian political activist, Barlow is most popularly recognized for his many song lyrics written for the rock band, the Grateful Dead. He has recently been a Fellow at Harvard University's Berkman School for Internet and Society. Barlow and Dead musician friend Bob Weir were frequent visitors to Tim Leary's Millbrook estate. Barlow founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation to actively advocate for digital rights and internet freedom.

## **Peggy Hitchcock**

As an intimate friend to both Leary and Alpert, Peggy was instrumental in establishing a communal living and research community in Millbrook, NY once Leary and Alpert left Harvard. Peggy convinced her brothers to allow the two professors to live and conduct their unfettered and continued research into the effect of psychedelic substances on the personalities of willing participants.

## **Zach Leary**

Zach is a seasoned digital marketer, blogger and is working on a new podcast. He is also a practitioner of bhakti yoga as taught by his guru Neem Karoli Baba. Through the practice of kirtan he has found keys that unlock doorways that allow the soul to experience its true nature of being eternal, full of knowledge

and full of bliss. In addition to bhakti yoga, Zach has been influenced by many different methods and traditions ranging from trans-humanism and hatha yoga to Buddhism and psychology. But above all he believes first and foremost in his gurus teaching that “love is the strongest medicine.” You can visit his website at [zachleary.com](http://zachleary.com)

## **THE TEAM**

### **Gay Dillingham - Producer/Director**

Gay has consistently juggled her passions for the environment, public policy and communication to deepen our human experience and success while on this marvelous planet. Gay co-founded and managed two environmental technology companies and served eight years in charge of environmental management and consumer protection for the State of New Mexico. She was one of only four Americans who joined Governor Richardson as his energy advisor on a private mission to North Korea in 2010. She is headed back to cross the Korean Demilitarized Zone May 24 with 30 international women. As an award winning filmmaker she is again concentrating her passion through her film company CNS Communications, LLC. The project, *Dying to Know* is a 19 year labor of love with footage so compelling it haunted her to finish. She is grateful to revisit the lives of these controversial iconic characters and initiate a new conversation about their often misunderstood work and influence

### **Michael Donnelly - Co-Producer**

A film industry veteran producer and post-production specialist, Michael’s career spans the domestic theatrical, independent and Latin American filmmaking industries at all budget levels. Over the decades he has always kept a keen eye out for great films with positive commercial potential that equally entertain and enlighten.

His view is informed by executive terms with CFI and Technicolor, a history in theatrical distribution, innovative film exhibition and curatorial film work at UCLA. Fortunate to have worked with some the best theatrical filmmakers of our time, Michael is most proud of his contributions to film preservation, festival programming and international cinema foundations. His personal projects have screened at festivals such as Cannes, Telluride, Sundance, New York, Toronto and San Sebastian.

Always a supporter of independent film, as the Co-Producer of *Dying to Know*, Michael found another opportunity to apply his creative, technical and

management skills to a great team and important project in the New Mexico film community. The opportunity broadens his experience in the feature documentary field, where over the years, he has supported the production and distribution for various documentaries including: *Imagine the Sound*, *Poetry in Motion*; *The King of Prussia*; *Underground*; *Cover-up: Behind the Iran Contra Affair*; *The Panama Deception*; *The Buena Vista Social Club* and *The Unheard Music*. Michael is a New Mexico filmmaker and photographer and partner in the digital consulting and educational company, Fahrenheit 444, LLC.

### **David Leach - Film Editor/ Narration Writer**

David Leach has been editing films for over 35 years. From 1971 to 1994, he cut commercials, documentaries and dramatic television series in Toronto, Canada, working in both 16mm and 35mm. He was Supervising Editor of TV drama series, and producer/director of several short films.

Since moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1991, he has edited numerous episodes of television documentary series for TBS, TLC, National Geographic, Discovery, PBS and Hallmark, and has also edited several independent feature-length documentaries.

Dillingham chose David for his professional talent and keen sense of long form storytelling. He was a welcome inspiration to this complex narrative. Working side by side over the years Gay & David formed a productive, respectful partnership in the edit suite.

### **Ken S. Polk - Sound Supervision & Design / Recording Mixer**

Ken Polk is a multi-award winning and Academy nominated Rerecording Mixer, Sound Designer and Sound Supervisor in both the film and television mediums as well as an award-winning Engineer and Producer.

A graduate from the UCLA School of Motion Picture-Television, he has been an accomplished creator in the sound and music business for facilities such as Warner Brothers, Skywalker Sound and Glen, Glenn/Todd-AO. A veteran of many dozens of films, his credits and work on both television series and mini-series, documentaries, feature films and music projects have garnered numerous nominations and awards that span many years. His extensive feature credits range from “*The Untouchables*” to “*Juno*” from “*Akeelah and the Bee*” to “*The Hills Have Eyes*.”

Ken immediately appreciated *Dying to Know* as an important film that

encapsulates much social history from the last fifty years. Likewise the film has benefited greatly from his imagination, experience and professionalism. Documentaries, by nature, face unique audio challenges and in Ken's capable hands, these challenges became opportunities to expand the reach of the film and give audiences a more complete cinema experience.

### **Steve Postell - Composer**

Steve Postell is a singer/songwriter, composer and guitarist now living in Los Angeles. Steve recently won two HOLLYWOOD MUSIC IN MEDIA awards for best song in the Americana/Roots and The Blues categories.

His latest solo CD on Immergent Records features a host of illustrious guests including David Crosby, John Oates, Robben Ford, Eric Johnson, and Jennifer Warnes. Steve was

the project coordinator for the Shout Factory release of the 20th anniversary edition of the Jennifer Warnes/Leonard Cohen project "*Famous Blue Raincoat*".

Steve manages Katonah Recording Studios and The Renegade Music Group. This past year he produced sessions for "*On The Music Path*", a series of music lesson apps for the iPad, featuring such artists as Jackson Browne, Eric Johnson, and Richard Thompson, as well as releasing an *Introduction to Guitar* series of his own lessons. He recorded and mixed Ravi Shankar's final two performances, to be released on DVD.

Steve is thrilled to have had the opportunity to create music for "*Dying to Know*", which posed the challenge of musically matching the moods and eras of the many incarnations of Timothy Leary and Ram Dass, pioneers of the inner landscape as well as cultural revolutionaries.

### **Dustin Lindblad - Graphic Artist / Illustrator**

New York artist, Dustin Lindblad created many of the beautiful hand-drawn illustrations found in *Dying to Know*. Her work evokes the Leary/Ram Dass period graphically intersecting the worlds of Eastern and Western thought and culture. Perfect for the subtext of the film, her mandalas and chapter headings form important story functions contribute essentially to the feeling and message of the film.

Dustin works as an art director, filmmaker, graphic designer and illustrator,

integrating a diverse background of traditional visual arts, architectural design and animation. Her stated goal is, “to bring ideas to life through striking visual representations” and to combine critical thinking with moving imagery inspired by story and concept.

## DYING TO KNOW



For more information please contact:

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