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ENTRANCING...."

—Manohla Dargis,  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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# INTO GREAT SILENCE

A FILM BY PHILIP GRÖNING



Soundtrack available on  
**JADE**

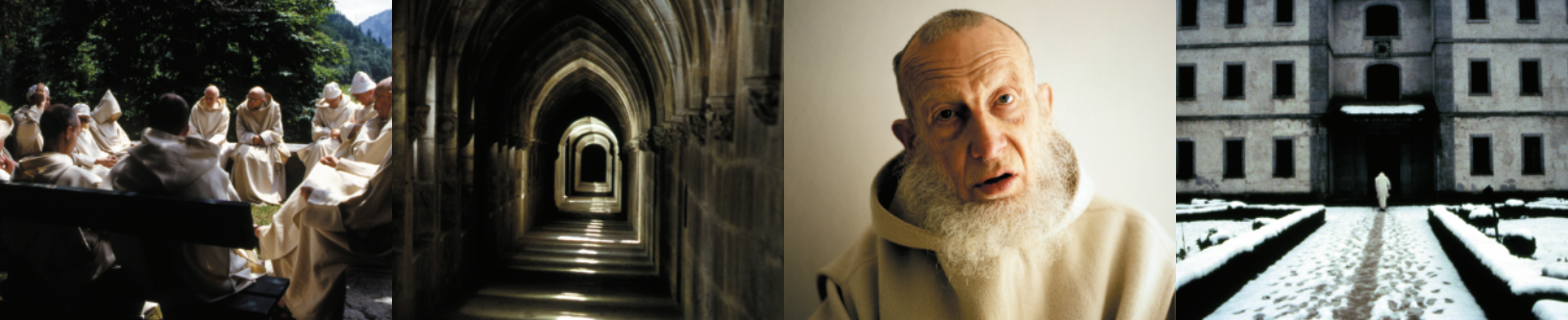
BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS A PHILIP GRÖNING FILM PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH VENTURA FILM SA, BAVARIA FILM GMBH, CINE PLUS. A FILM BY PHILIP GRÖNING. SCREENPLAY PHILIP GRÖNING. DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH PHILIP GRÖNING AND NICOLAS HUMBERT. PHOTOGRAPHY ORIGINAL SOUND FILM EDITING PHILIP GRÖNING. SOUND EDITING MICHAEL HINREINER. BENEDIKT JUST. MAX JONATHAN SILBERSTEIN. SOUND MIX MICHAEL KRANZ. DIGITAL GRADING AND FILM RECORDING ARRI FILM & TV. PRODUCERS PHILIP GRÖNING, MICHAEL WEBER, ANDRÉS PFAFFEL, ELDA GUIDINETTI. CO-PRODUCER FRANK EVERS. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JÖRG SCHULZE, PHILIP GRÖNING. IN COOPERATION WITH ARTE/ZDF, BAYERISCHER RUNDFUNK, TSI—TELEVISIONE SVIZZERA WITH THE SUPPORT OF FILMSTIFTUNG NRW, FFA, FILMBÜRO NW, A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE.

**BAVARIA FILM**  
INTERNATIONAL



*Zeitgeist*  
FILMS





**“A MASTERFUL OBJECT OF CONTEMPLATION!”**

—Keith Uhlich, SLANT MAGAZINE

**“EXHILARATING!”**

Witnessing more than two and a half hours of the stillness inside a monastery might sound off-putting, but *Into Great Silence* is such a poetic essay on the slowed-down rhythms of life, that its quiet pleasures carry the viewer along at a pace commensurate with the monks' own unhurried sense of time. With a painterly eye and a deep appreciation for the hermetic world set apart from, rather than at odds with, modern life, helmer Philip Gröning takes the viewer into their cloistered world.”

—Jay Weissberg, VARIETY

# INTO GREAT SILENCE

A FILM BY PHILIP GRÖNING

**“A German documentary about Roman Catholic monks who barely utter a word, *Into Great Silence* runs 162 minutes—162 engrossing, entrancing, enlivening minutes.**

Operating the camera himself, the director, Philip Gröning, brings us inside a world as mysterious and often as silent as the dark side of the moon, a charterhouse of Carthusian monks in the French Alps. Founded in the 12th century, the Carthusians are among the most rigorous of all Catholic orders, since the monks (and separately accommodated nuns) mostly live alone in their individual cells. In an overwhelmingly noisy world, the Carthusians seek God in solitude; all things considered, including the enviable tranquillity and focus of their lives, you soon understand why.

“Because solitude is the essential vocation of the Carthusians, *Into Great Silence* is purposely low volume, with no voice-over and little exegesis. (Indeed I found most of my facts about the Carthusians at the order's helpful Web site.) Framed by the seasons, the film opens in a wintry hush with the introduction of two initiates. In the days and seasons that follow, the filmmaker takes us in and around the charterhouse and cells, following the initiates and monks as they eat, pray, work—planting, cooking, sewing—and sometimes play. Through unrushed rhythms and a harmonious mise-en-scène, Mr. Gröning finds beauty in a mote of dust, a patch of newly tilled earth and the long white eyebrows that hang over an aged blind monk's eyes like a curtain. Grace, it seems, makes little noise.”

—Manohla Dargis, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nestled deep in the postcard-perfect French Alps, the Grande Chartreuse is considered one of the world's most ascetic monasteries. In 1984, German filmmaker Philip Gröning wrote to the Carthusian order for permission to make a documentary about them. They said they would get back to him. Sixteen years later, they were ready. Gröning, sans crew or artificial lighting, lived in the monks' quarters for six months—filming their daily prayers, tasks, rituals and rare outdoor excursions. This transcendent, closely observed film seeks to embody a monastery, rather than simply depict one—it has no score, no voiceover and no archival footage. What remains is stunningly elemental: time, space and light. One of the most mesmerizing and poetic chronicles of spirituality ever created, INTO GREAT SILENCE dissolves the border between screen and audience with a total immersion into the hush of monastic life. More meditation than documentary, it's a rare, transformative theatrical experience for all.

2006 • Germany • 162 mins • 35mm • 1.85:1 • color • Dolby SRD • In French and Latin with English subtitles

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