

Peter Coyote
Zen Buddhist Priest | Writer | Actor
October 2023
(245 words)

PETER COYOTE has performed as an actor for some of the world's most distinguished filmmakers, including **Barry Levinson, Roman Polanski, Pedro Almodovar, Steven Spielberg, Martin Ritt, Steven Soderberg, Sidney Pollack** and **Jean Paul Rappeneau**.

Peter was the co-host of the Academy Award show with Billy Crystal in 2020.

He is a double Emmy-Award winning narrator of over 160 documentary films, including Ken Burns acclaimed *The Roosevelts*, for which he received his second Emmy nomination in July 2015. Other Ken Burns documentary films include *National Parks, Prohibition, The West, the Dust Bowl* and *Vietnam, The History of Country Music, Ben Franklin, Ernest Hemingway, The Holocaust* and *America*.

Peter has written five books including the international bestseller *Sleeping Where I Fall, The Rainman's Third Cure: An Irregular Education* which reached second on the Marin County bestseller list. His third book, entitled *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Meet the Buddha*, outlines a long-standing series of classes he runs using acting, improvisation and masks to induce temporary ego-free states and is based on Peter's work as a Zen Buddhist student of over 40 years.

In 2011, he was ordained a priest, and in 2015 "transmitted" by his teacher and is now an independent Zen teacher with the authority to ordain priests himself.

He is and has been engaged in political and social causes since his early teens and his primary concerns are the environment, voting rights and security of elections, and the threat of nuclear weapons and energy production.