Filmed on location in the provinces of Hubei, Sichuan, and Shandong, and in Shanghai and Beijing, “Living Chinese Philosophy” highlights the relevance of an understanding of indigenous culture traditions—namely Confucianism and Daoism—in assaying China’s responses to the pressing issues of modernization in the contemporary world. The guiding premise of this documentary is that these ancient philosophies are very much alive and well in the ways of thinking and living of the Chinese people. Professor Roger Ames, with a lifetime interest in Chinese philosophy, takes us into these traditions, providing a vocabulary for understanding Confucianism and Daoism and suggesting how this vocabulary can be related to contemporary social practices. The film looks at the pervasive influence of the ancient philosophical ideas on the ordinary life of the people in the preparation of food for the dinner table, in the important role of music and musical performance, and in the practices of traditional Chinese medicine. It uses culture to interpret several of China’s responses to the most pressing problems of the day: the impact of economic development, the degradation of the environment, the ongoing process of democratization, and human rights issues. In search of an understanding from the inside, Professor Ames goes to the streets, and into the temples, homes and workplaces to conduct interviews with some of China’s leading Daoist practitioners and Confucian scholars.