**INTO THE NIGHT Part 2**

**Cast & Themes**

Part 2 presents candid intimate portraits of men and women who are grappling with the same questions as those in Part 1. But Part 2 is more than a continuation; it explores wholly new territory featuring different lives and perspectives. Their stories are described below in the order of their appearance.

# **Science** In this section**,**different scientists probe how rapidly advancing discoveries in the fields of aging and longevity might be changing our narratives about death. Their voices range from mainstream scientists such as **Judith Campisi** and **Gordon Lithgow**,who arefocused solely on the connection between aging and chronic disease. Their mission is to increase the healthy years of life. **Mike West**, is an outlier and visionaryscientistspecializing in aging research and regenerative medicine, pushing back against our acceptance of our natural limits. **Aubrey De Grey**,a Britishtranshumanist tackling aging as a challenge of medical engineering who believes humans can be redesigned to live indefinitely. **Ray Kurzweil**, futurist and author of *The Singularity is Near*, posits a near future nanotechnology which helps us exceed the limits of the human mind and body. For both De Grey and Kurzweil, death is the enemy.

**# Sam Keen**, a prolific author, former editor of Psychology Today, is a life-long seeker who broke away from the fundamentalist certainties of his childhood. He spent much of his life searching for the story that could rescue him from death. He was present at the birth of Esalen, traveled through the wilder shores of the New Age, explored Freudianism, Buddhism, even the art of trapeze, and is now living peacefully in Northern California writing his final book, My Ship of Death.

# **Tieraona LowDog**, MD, a physician and alternative medicine practitioner who struggles with her stage four cancer diagnosis, its impact on her family, and her own spiritual beliefs. In midst of her illness she embarks on another vision quest, drawing on the resilience of her Native American ancestors, to achieve some measure of equanimity.

**# James Kugel**isformerly the Director of the Department of Ancient Texts at Harvard University, and an Orthodox Jew. Schooled in ancient Hebrew wisdom, he is nonetheless forced by his cancer diagnosis to reconsider their meaning and this tests–and finally deepens–his own relationship to God.

**# Joel Meyerowitz** and **Maggie Barrett**, a successful photographer and novelist couple, are shocked by the sudden death of their closest friends. They abandon their lives of ambition and distraction in NYC, and come to realize that love not art will be their legacy.

# **Town of Nucla**: a small, dying town in Colorado whose aging citizens come to depend on the selfless wisdom of their faithful pharmacist, **Don Colcord**, who never takes a vacation yet yearns for adventures in far-off places. Through his devotion, he witnesses the final wishes of countless dying patients, and comes to appreciate the despair of the unlived life and the power of a fully lived one.

**Koshin Paley Olsen** and **Robert Chodo Campbell**, two American Buddhist monks who emerged from the AIDS crisis to form their renowned chaplaincy training program in New York, The Zen Center for Contemplative Care. Their mission is to be with people as they die, in their own unique way.