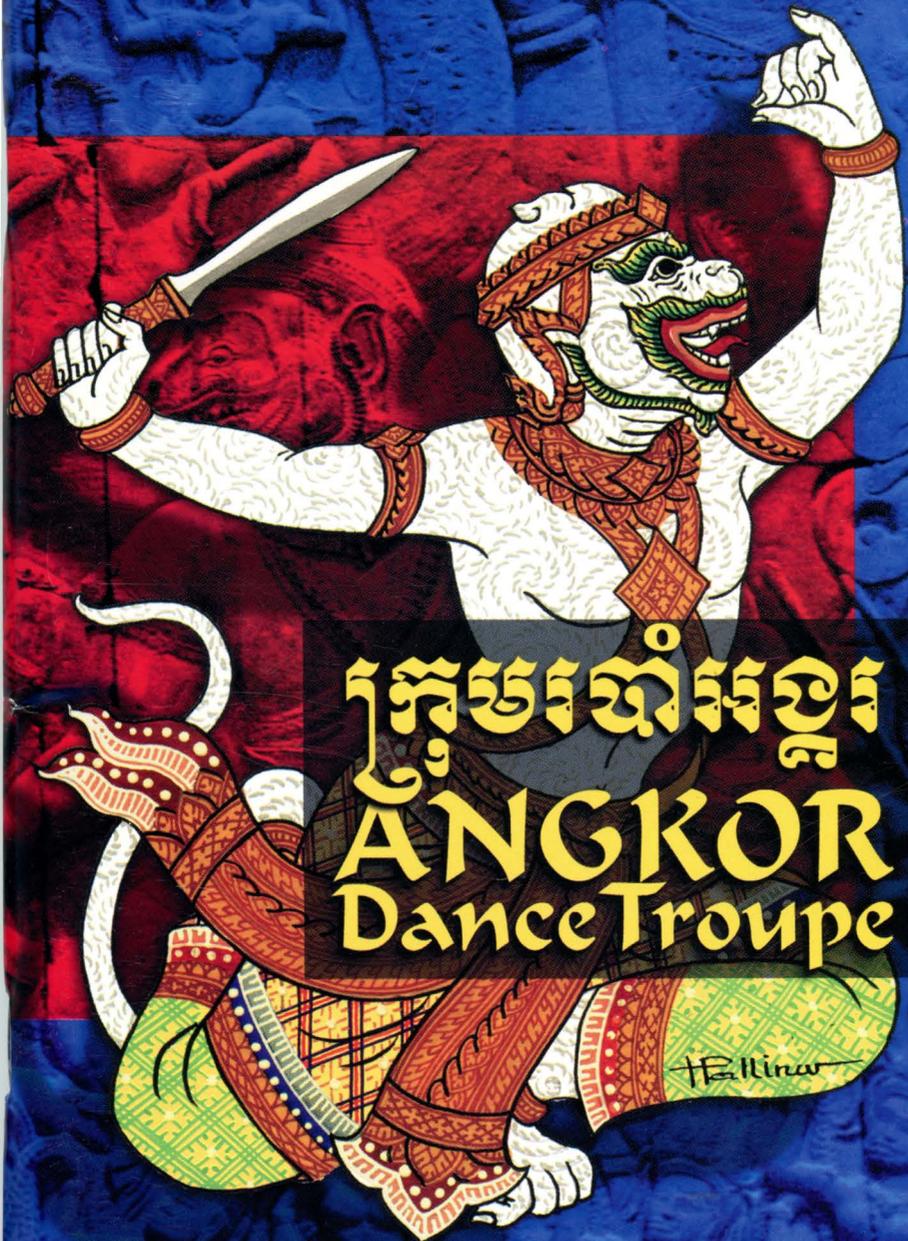


2002

Year of the Horse



ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាប្រឹក្សា
ANGKOR
Dance Troupe

H. Ellinar

Khmer Classical & Folk Dance

Louis S. Haskell

Attorney at Law

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Congratulations to the Angkor Dance Troupe for sixteen marvelous years of great performances.



ការិយាល័យមេធាវី



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Louis S. Haskell

មេធាវីលូយហាស៊ីស្កេល ជាមេធាវីដែលមានការពិសោធន៍ ព្រមទាំងមានឈ្មោះល្បីជាង ១០ឆ្នាំមកហើយនៅក្នុងទីក្រុងលូសែល ។ មេធាវីលូយហាស៊ីស្កេល ធ្វើការហ្មត់ចត់ ត្រឹមត្រូវហើយរហ័សទាក់ទងនឹងករណីផ្សេងៗ

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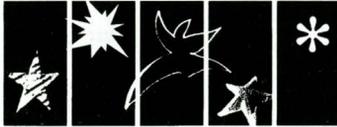
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On our cover – “Hanuman,” a mystical, magical white monkey and legendary army general, leader of the “Swva Pol” (monkey soldiers). Hanuman is a prominent character in the *Reamker*, Cambodia’s version of the epic Indian *Ramayana*. Illustration by (and special thanks to) Phallina Chea, an artist with the Department of Culture at the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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The Angkor Dance Troupe receives the generous support of the:

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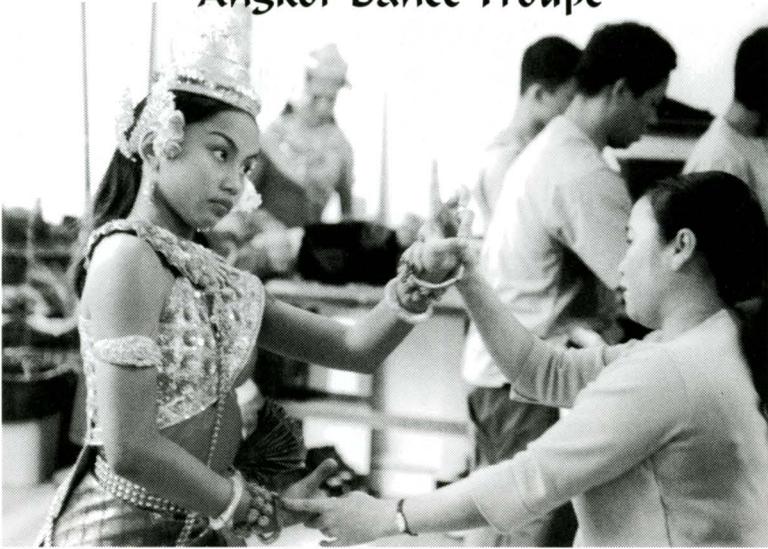
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ក្រុមរាំអង្គរ Angkor Dance Troupe



Angkor Artistic Director Phousita Huy with apprentice Sovandara Dy.
Photo by Andrew Page, Portland, Maine

From One Generation to the Next

The Angkor Dance was formed in 1986 by Cambodian refugees of the Khmer Rouge genocide. When we resettled in Lowell, Massachusetts we brought a passion to carry on our cherished traditions – to practice and perform, to teach others, and to see our art preserved for future generations of all cultures.

Greater Lowell is home to the second-largest community of Cambodian Americans in the country. Cambodian dance performances provide a poignant reminder of the beauty and spirituality of Khmer culture and help us develop a sense of home and community in a new homeland.



*On with the dance! Let joy be unconfined;
no sleep till morn, when youth
and pleasure meet
to chase the glowing hours with flying feet.*

– Lord Byron

Loom Press • PO Box 1394 • Lowell, MA 01853

Classical Dance

Classical dance has been connected to Cambodia's sacred rituals for more than one thousand years. During the great Angkor Era, dancers performed in temples to bring prosperity to the kingdom. Bas relief carvings at many of Cambodia's vast temple complexes depict celestial dancers – Apsaras – who linked the human world to the gods. Classical dance is sometimes called *court dance* or *royal ballet*. At one time, it was the exclusive domain of royalty. Today this cherished art is enjoyed by audiences around the world and is a universal symbol of Khmer culture.



Andrew Page Photos, Portland, Maine

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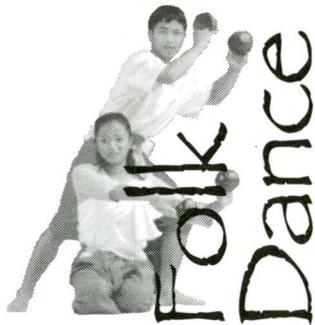
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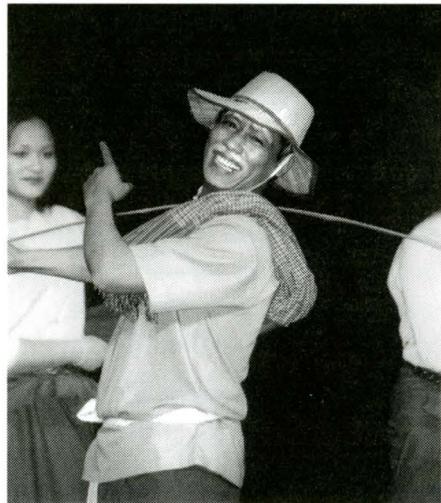


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Throughout Cambodia, after the harvest, it is time for music, song, and dance.

Folk dance is rooted in rural Cambodia and depicts rituals of everyday village life. The dances honor skills that are typically undervalued in the rush toward westernization, such as fishing and rice farming. Dance motifs are commonly based on local legends and inspired by themes of nature as well as the ceremonies, and customs that shape the lives of Cambodian people. Distinctive, colorful costumes represent the traditional dress of the various regions and ethnic groups within Cambodia.



A National Leader in Traditional Cambodian Dance

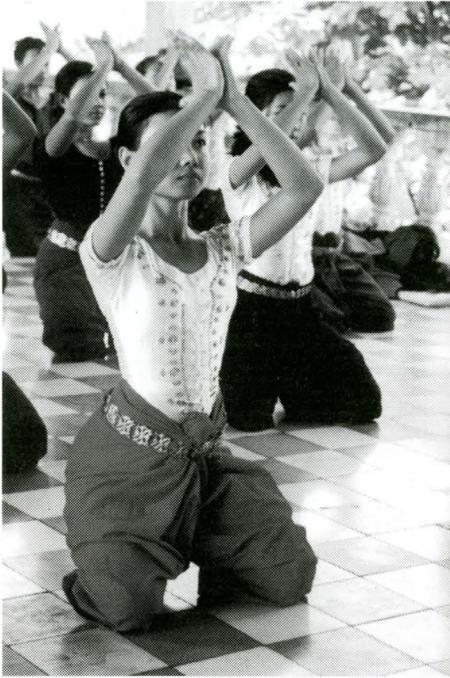


Photo by Ruth Page, Angkor Dance Troupe

A dancer rehearses at the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. March 2002

The Troupe takes its name from the great Angkor Civilization, between 802 and 1432 AD, when Cambodia was a dominant empire in Southeast Asia. Dance, music, and drama have always been prominent in Khmer society, but these ancient traditions were nearly eliminated when the Khmer Rouge controlled Cambodia in the 1970's. Artists were among those deliberately targeted for execution and more than 90% of the country's tradition bearers perished.

The Angkor Dance Troupe is nationally recognized as one of the most experienced and accomplished of the U.S. based Cambodian dance ensembles. Angkor is directed by world-renowned master teachers and performs a repertoire developed in concert with the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, considered the global standard bearer for Khmer traditional arts. Angkor has an active program of educational exchange with RUFA,



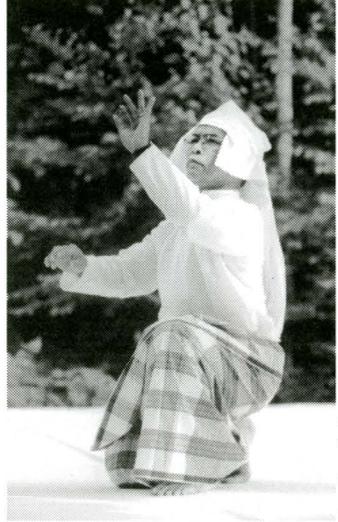
Best Wishes to All Those Involved
with Lowell's Own Jewel
The Angkor Dance Troupe
Congratulations from Steve Moses
of the UMass Lowell Center for
Public Health, Research, and Health Promotion



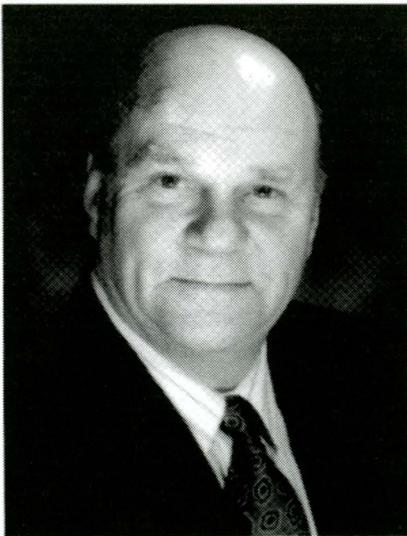
which allows us to continually improve and expand our repertoire of classical and folk dance traditions.

We routinely host visiting master teachers from RUFA, as well as U.S. based master dancers, for extended artists' residencies and workshops. Between 1999 and 2002, for example, we were honored to work closely with esteemed master teachers Phan Phoung and Sokhanarith Moeur, through projects funded by the Lila Wallace/ Readers Digest Fund for Folk Culture and the Southern N.E. Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program, funded by the NEA, Institute for Community Research, R.I. State Council on the Arts, and the Mass. Cultural Council.

At Right – Master Teacher Phan Phoung appeared with Angkor at Jacob's Pillow in June 2001.



Andrew Page, Portland, Maine



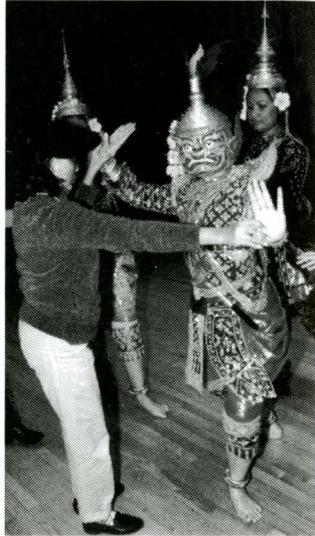
**Armand P. Mercier
City Councilor**

*To the Performers . . .
Continued Success*

*To the
Angkor Dance Troupe . . .
Best Wishes*

Masters of Cambodian Dance – Learning from the Best

In 1998 and 2001, Angkor was able to secure educational visas for a number of RUFA masters through a partnership with Middlesex Community College. These important dance masters spent several months in Lowell teaching Angkor apprentices as well as dance students in Providence, R.I. and Portland, ME. They also conducted residencies with public school students at the Lowell Community Charter School and the Peterborough, NH Regional Educational System.



Master teacher Yom Peng, is an artist-in-residence from the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh. A master of the "Giant" dance role, she instructs Kuntaer Eng before a performance at First Night Boston 2002.



Left – Master dancer Sophea Sek, an artist-in-residence from the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, performs with Angkor at Jacob's Pillow in 2001. Right – Sophea Sek, assists Vyrik Eng with his costume before a performance of Swva Pol at the Boston Center for the Arts "Cre-Asian" Festival in 2001.



Left – Angkor Founder Tim Chan Thou, who was certified as a folk dance teacher in the Khao-I-Dang refugee camp, teaches the Fishing Dance during a troupe rehearsal at the Lowell Community Charter School in 2001.





Congratulations
for another successful year!

Paul Marion, Rosemary Noon,
and Joe Marion

Masters of Cambodian Dance – Learning from the Best

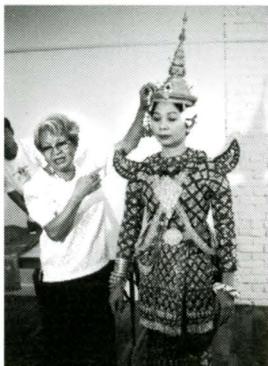
In the 16-year history of the Angkor Dance Troupe, we have had the honor to work with a number of the world's best dance masters from the University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh and around the U.S. For their invaluable contribution to the preservation of Cambodian dance, we give them our thanks.



The Esteemed Chea Samy
Master of Classical Dance



Chhieng Proeung, Dean
Choreographic Arts, RUFA



Ros Kong & Tes Sam Oeun
Masters of Classical Dance



Dr. Sam Ang Sam
Master of Cambodian Music



Chan Moly Sam
Master of Court Dance



Malis Keo
Royal University of Fine Arts



Sokhanarith Moeur (left), Master of Folk Dance & Drama
Phan Phoung, (Below) Master of Folk Dance
Choreographer, Coconut Shell

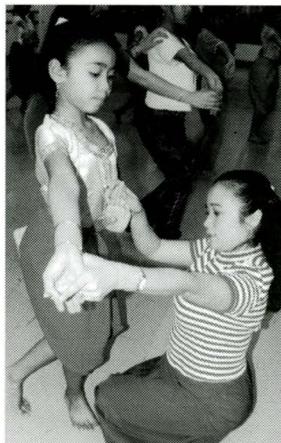




Savath Roeung (Center)
Folk Dance Instructor
with **Tim Chan Thou (left)**
& **Sokhoeum Sim**



Somaly Hay
Master of Classical Dance



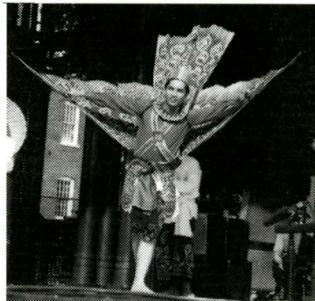
Phousita Serey Huy
Master of Classical Dance
Artistic Director,
Angkor Dance Troupe



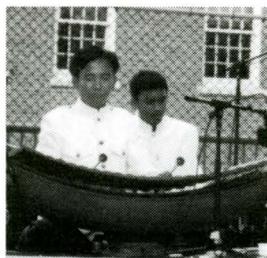
Neito Heang
Folk Dance Master



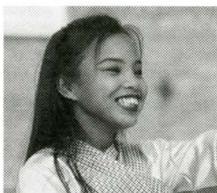
Sam On Soth
Master of Classical
Dance Drama



Thavro Phim
Folk/Giant/Monkey
Instructor



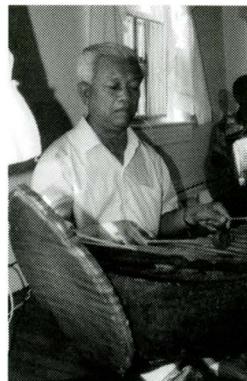
Song Heng
Master Musician



Phalla Lak Morris
Folk Instructor



Khatna Peou
Master of Classical Dance
(With Grandson **Tim Chan Thou** & Family)



Tath Sum
Master Musician



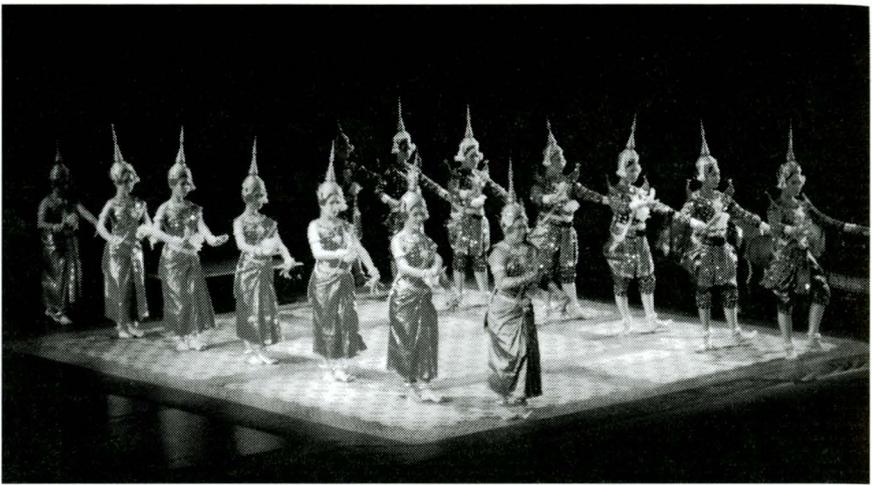
Yom Peng
Master of
Classical Dance &
Giant Role



Say Souer
Monkey Master

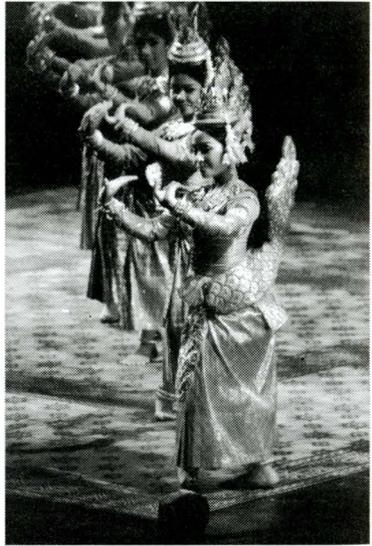
Sophea Sek
Master of
Folk Dance &
Giant (Lakhon Kowl)

Not Pictured: **Rachana Khiev,**
Tonara Hing



"Dance, the Spirit of Cambodia" 2001 U.S. Tour

Lowell was one of 12 cities to host the first major tour out of Cambodia by the Royal University of Fine Arts in more than 10 years. Produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts and Lisa Booth Management, the tour included spectacular performances and hands-on workshops. (Andrew Page Photos)



Happy New Year!

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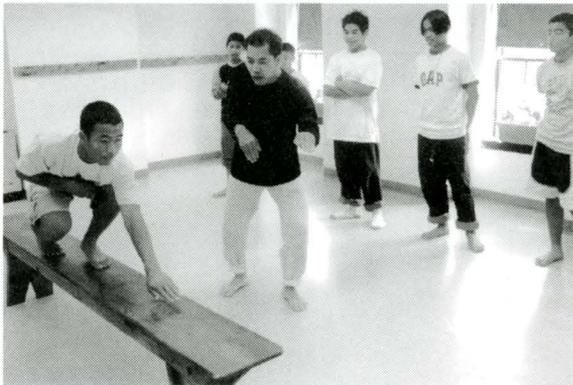
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"Dance, the Spirit of Cambodia" 2001 U.S. Tour

"Dance, the Spirit of Cambodia" included performances by more than 40 master artists. As part of the Lowell leg of the 12-city national tour, masters conducted workshops with apprentices from the Angkor Dance Troupe at our newly opened rehearsal facility in the Mogan Cultural Center.

Above Right – Sathya Sam demonstrates classical postures.

Right – Master Thavarak Soeur works with Sam Hor and other young men on their monkey dance moves.



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"Dance, the Spirit of Cambodia" 2001 U.S. Tour



Master classes at the Mogan Cultural Center and a public demonstration at Boarding House Park September 3, 2001.

Andrew Page Photos



Thanks for sharing your talent and love for the dance with us.

*Happy New Year
Angkor Dance Troupe!*

- Mayor Rita Mercier



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Photo by Tim Chan Thou

A Unique Way to Serve Youth

A central component of Angkor's mission is to provide positive cultural, and recreational opportunities for Lowell youth. Since 1986, we have served more than 500 young people, ranging in age from 4 to 18, who rigorously rehearse, participate in performances, and attend outings. Youth typically stay involved with Angkor for at least 4 to 5 years, many even longer. In 1999, our work with youth was honored at the White House with a prestigious "Coming Up Taller" award from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 1998, the Troupe has operated Angkor Youth Dance, an afterschool and summer program for at-risk youth, with major funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council YouthReach Initiative. The program benefits from the involvement of a number of community

UTEC

congratulates the youth
of the Angkor Dance Troupe.

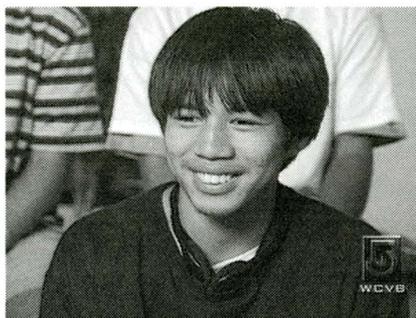
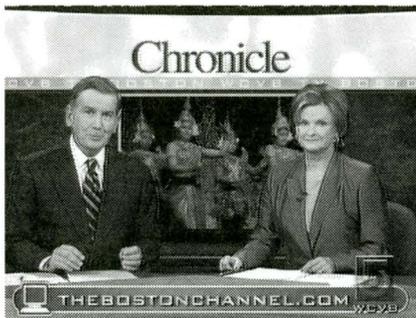
United Teen Equality Center
10 Kirk Street, Lowell • 978-441-9949

partners, including the ADAM project of Big Brother/Big Sister of Greater Lowell, UMass Lowell College of Arts and Sciences, and Lowell National Historical Park, and others. In addition to MCC funding, supporters include the Lowell Enterprise Community, Lowell Community Development Block Grant, and Friends of the Angkor Dance Troupe.

Over the years, we have witnessed firsthand the value of high quality, in-depth arts programming for youth. We have had several apprentices, for example, who were involved in gangs when they joined the troupe and have since left their street lives behind. Angkor's success with at-risk youth was featured on the WCVB-TV *Chronicle* program in October 2001.

Below Left– Peter Mehegan and Mary Richardson introduce the segment on the Angkor Dance Troupe.

Right – Lowell High School student Roeyun Chan is interviewed.

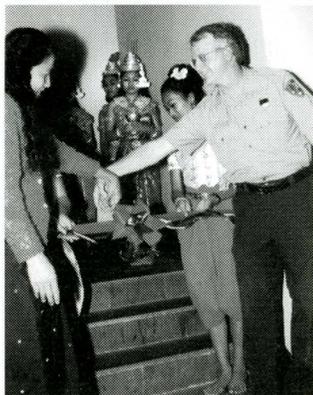


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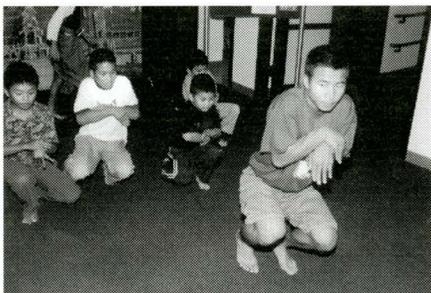
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At Last – A Home of our Own!



On September 16, 2001, the Angkor Dance Troupe and the Lowell National Historical Park celebrated the opening of Angkor's new rehearsal and office space on the third floor of the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center. Angkor set up operations in the former boardinghouse and will offer public programming through a cooperative agreement with the Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP). Our heartfelt thanks to LNHP Superintendent Patrick McCrary. Special thanks also to Memhed Ali, Jim Corless, Erin Sheehan, Todd Pappas, Patrick Laffey, Ted Davis, Paul Fontaine, and the staff of the Tsongas Industrial History Center.

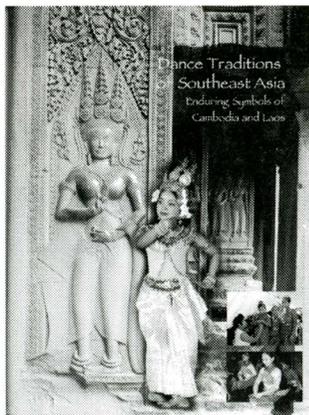


Top Left – Ribbon-cutting ceremony and Blessing dancers.

Top Right – Angkor President Sovann-Thida Loeung and Jim Corless, of the LNHP cut a ribbon to open Angkor's new space.

Middle Right – Sam Hor leads monkey dancers in a rehearsal in the new facility.

Right – The ribbon-cutting ceremony also served as the opening for two exhibits on traditional dance. "Dance Traditions of Southeast Asia – Enduring Symbols of Cambodia and Laos" and "Ancient Steps on American Soil, Cambodian Dance in Lowell" are open to the public through August 2002 at the Mogan Cultural Center, 40 French Street, Lowell. Admission is free.



Children's Museum Lowell presents



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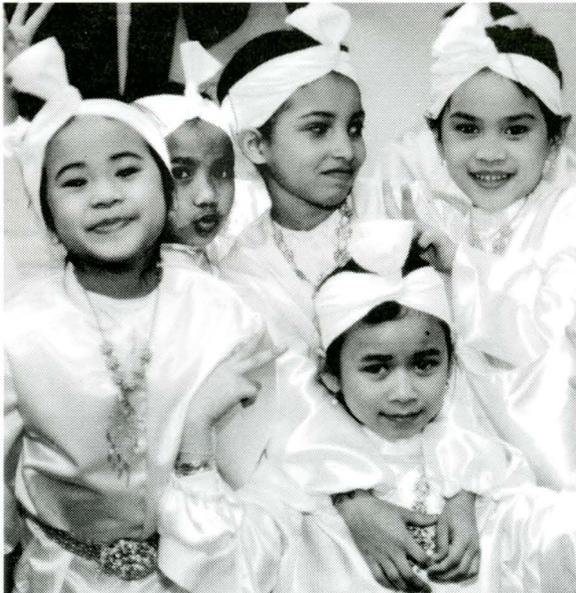
STORY TIME ALL THE TIME

Children's Museum Lowell is a project currently under development.

Two of Angkor's Rising Young Apprentices:
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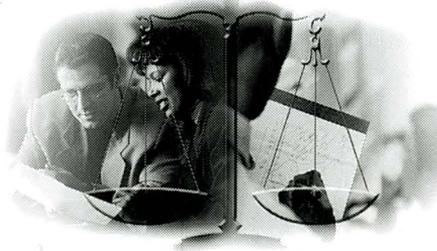


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During our busy season, leading up to Cambodian New Year in April, Angkor operates rehearsals seven days a week in five locations across three states. Rehearsals and workshops are a central part of our mission. They promote a greater awareness and appreciation for our cultural traditions, provide support for our artists, preserve fragile cultural traditions, and help us inspire a new generation of Cambodian dancers. Angkor has more than 70 dancers, ranging in age from five to adult. Our dance rehearsals are free and open to anyone willing to make a commitment to Cambodian dance



Left – Taary Ram leads a workshop on the Pestle Dance for audience members at the Lowell Folk Festival in July 2001.

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Performance Highlights



Taking it to the Streets at the 2001 Lowell Folk Festival
Left – Victoria Chau performs the Blessing Dance.
Above Right – Young men demonstrate new choreography for the Monkey Dance.

First Night Boston 2002
Right – Stephanie Seng in a performance of the Fan Dance.

(Andrew Page Photos)



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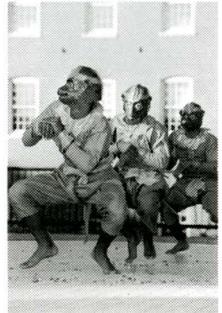
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Above – Dancers take a bow at FirstNight Boston 2002.



Left – A dance of peace at a Lowell vigil for victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.



Right – The Monkey Dance at Boarding House Park

Photos by Andrew Page

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Sophy Leng and Peter Veith. Photos by Andrew Page, Portland Maine.

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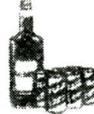
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Above Left – David Noeuk and Kuntaer Eng perform the Coconut Dance at Boarding House Park, September 2001.

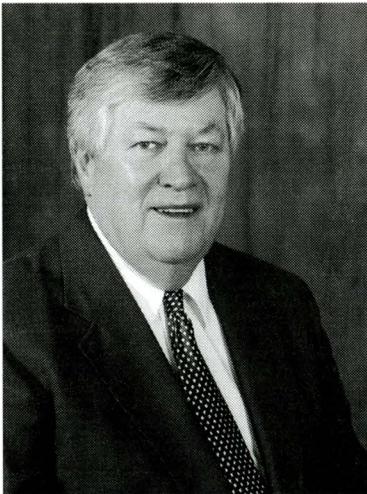


Above Middle – Channa Sath performs the Blessing Dance at the Littleton Lyceum. (11/01)



Above Right – Poe Pech and Harlan Hor perform Peacock of Pursat at the Angkor Youth Dance Fall 2001 performance at the Smith Baker Center in Lowell.

Right – Sophy Leng and Sam Hor dazzle a crowd of more than 2200 with "Peacock of Pailin" at the Boston Dragon Boat Festival in June 2001.

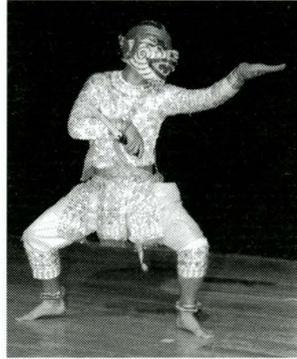


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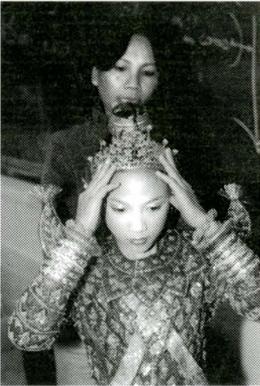
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Above Left - Tep Menorom at FirstNight Boston.
Above Right - The legendary Hanuman during a performance for Quincy FirstNight.



Left - Master Yom Peng assists Sodany Krouch with her headdress for "Ream Lak/Chup Lak" before a performance at FirstNight Quincy.
Right - Sopheap (Linda) Sou & Heng Noeuk at FirstNight Boston.

Andrew Page Photos



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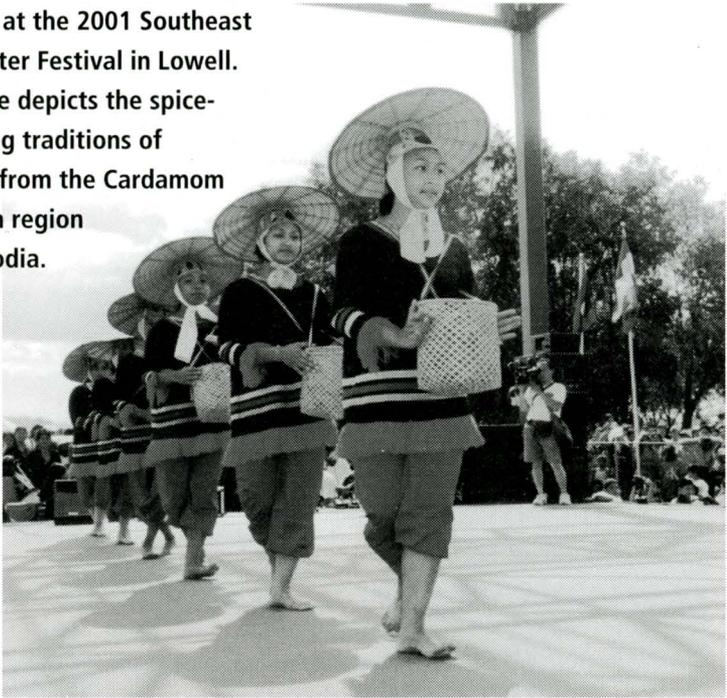
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Young women perform "Picking Krovine" at the 2001 Southeast Asian Water Festival in Lowell. The dance depicts the spice-harvesting traditions of villagers from the Cardamom Mountain region of Cambodia.



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In Our Own Words

Dancers share their thoughts



Fishing Dance – Littleton, MA, Nov. 2001

Sophal Ngin was born in Cambodia but has been immersed in American culture since she was five.

"When I perform the Fishing Dance, and my parents are watching, I feel so happy. It's like I've gone back in time and I'm this Cambodian girl out fishing in the stream. Through dancing, I can connect to my Khmer side and hold on to that part of my heritage. I can show my parents that I haven't forgotten where I come from."



Tep Menorom – Jacob's Pillow, June 2001

"We're proud to be doing a dance that has been carried down from generation to generation."

– Monica Veth and Kuntaer Eng

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1988 Lowell Folk Festival Photo by Higgins & Ross



In Our Own Words: Thida's Story

Sovann-Thida Loeung was 15 when she and her family left Cambodia for a refugee camp in Thailand. After resettling in Lowell in the 1980's, Thida joined the Angkor Dance Troupe. *"Being a new arrival to America, regularly practicing and performing Cambodian dance gave me a kind of identity that went beyond that of refugee and newcomer. It confirmed the value of my Cambodian culture – to others and to myself. With every performance of the Angkor Dance Troupe,*

I felt more and more that my community had something important to contribute."

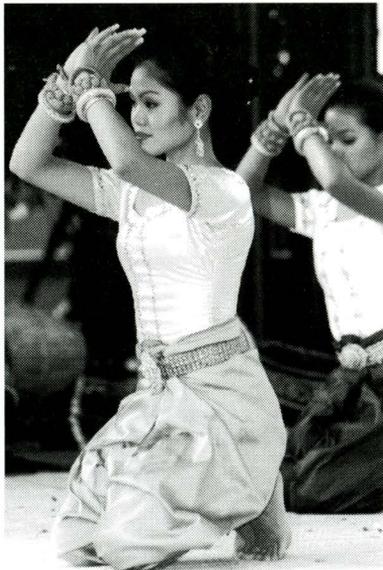
Today, more than 15 years later, Thida still dances. She also chairs Angkor's Board of Directors and is a teacher at the Lowell Demonstration School. She and her husband, George Chigas, have a three-year old son, Yianni.

Rady Mom Photo



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Andrew Page Photos, Portland, Maine



Heng's Story

18-year-old Heng Noeuk has been dancing since the seventh grade. *"The Angkor Dance Troupe has changed my life. There are so many things it's done for me, I can't even begin to explain. The teachers are like parents. When I have problems, they help me. They've really given me confidence. At one time, I wanted to give up – on dancing and on life. They encouraged me not to and gave me hope. I've learned not to give up so easily. Now, I feel I can do anything."*

In Our Own Words

Dancers share their thoughts



Heng performed Moni Mekhala, Cambodia's protectress of the waters, at FirstNight Boston *"I feel honored and very strong when I perform this role. Moni Mekhala is a goddess. When I dance, I feel I can do anything, because she is so powerful."*



Picking Krovine – Jacob's Pillow, June 2001 *"We have a lot of fun performing the folk dances. The dances are very fast, with lots of steps. We just have to let it all out. Happiness and laughter are a big part of the folk dances."*
– Sophy Leng and Vyrik Eng



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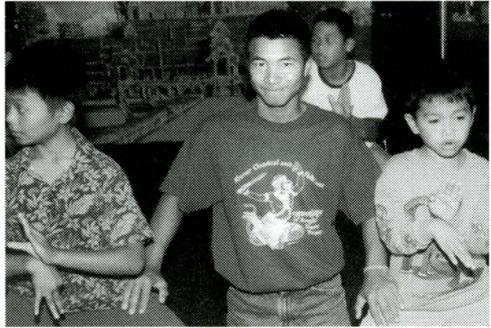
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Sam's Story



"Fear, gangs, hate, violence, drugs, and poverty – these are some of the words associated with my childhood. But so are hope, inspiration, commitment, hard work, community service, and success.

Through the Angkor Dance Troupe I discovered my culture and learned traditions that were almost lost during the Khmer Rouge regime. I learned many dances and performed on stages around the Northeast. I excelled and was promoted to assistant instructor. Today, I teach younger kids to dance and help them understand the importance of keeping traditions alive. I also serve on the Troupe's Board of Directors.

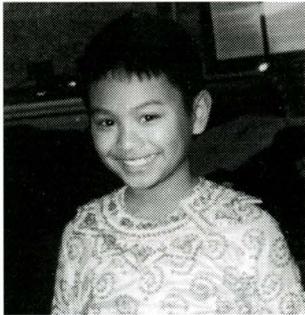
Through these programs, I've developed skills that will help me for the rest of my life, like performing and talking in front of large groups. I've also become involved with several other youth groups and have done many hours of community service.

I took a risk when I dropped my old friends and took a new direction. But I've gained so much knowledge and joy. Through it all, I've learned there are many ways to make the world a better place."

– Samnang Hor, 17

In Our Own Words

Dancers share their thoughts



"I like all of the teachers because they're nice. Sam is a great teacher and helps me with monkey.

Being in the Angkor Dance Troupe is fun because we go on trips."

*– Ricky Hai
Butler Middle School*

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Voices of Youth – In Our Own Words What the Angkor Dance Troupe Means to Us



In Our Own Words

Dancers share their thoughts

.....

"Joining Angkor Dance Troupe has introduced me to many aspects of Cambodian culture and also has taught me so much of what the movements of the dances symbolize."

– Mcfarlance Van



"The reason why I like this program is because it is a good way to learn more dance, as well as stay out of trouble."

– Sinoun Seng 15, G.L. Vocational Technical High School

"Learning through experiences makes me understand the culture more. It makes me more knowledgeable, and it's fun to learn through dancing. This is something I keep prestigiously in my head and it plugs in my mind the elements of Cambodian culture."

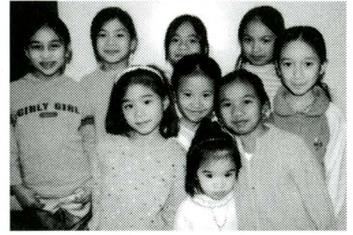
– Roeun Chan, 16, Lowell High School

"It's great to see and to learn what your culture has inspired you to do. That is why I joined."

– Steve Horn, Lowell High School

"By joining Angkor Dance Troupe, I learn about many different arts forms and understand more about culture. I also learn how to dance with friends my own age."

– Tony Chan 14, Lowell High School



"I joined the Angkor Dance Troupe because I love dancing. I am so inspired by my arts and I appreciate my culture so much."

– Sarah Soung

G.L. Vocational Technical High School

"I like this program because I like to perform and because it's boring at home. We get to go on field trips sometimes, and I like to do the monkey dance."

– Alexander Hak

"I joined because I wanted to dance and because I want to have at least the talent to dance."

– E. E. Eng

"I like this program because I like to dance and because I like to go on the field trips."

– Kimmora

"I joined the Angkor Dance Troupe because I wanted to learn the dances and the stories behind the dances."

– Jimmy Meas, Lowell High School

"I joined the Troupe because I wanted to dance and learn more about my culture."

– Lisa Vor, Bartlett Middle School

"I joined the Angkor Dance Troupe because I wanted to learn more about my traditions and culture and wanted to learn how they dance."

– Retta Xayasane, Bartlett Middle School

"I joined the Angkor Dance Troupe because I wanted to continue my culture and also to learn more about my traditional arts."

– Lina Bun

"I like the Angkor Dance Troupe because I like to dance. I like all the teachers who teach us and are very understanding with me."

– Viseth Ka, Bartlett Middle School

"I joined the Angkor Dance Troupe because I want to learn more about dancing and about my own culture."

– Christopher Oun 13, Butler School

ក្រុមរាំអង្គរ

The Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.,

40 French Street, 3rd Floor, Lowell

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1553, Lowell, MA 01853

(978) 441-9277 • FAX: (978) 251-8039

email: pageone@attbi.com • web: <http://ecomunity.uml.edu/angkor>

(Coming Soon: Our new web site – www.angkordance.org)

Special Thanks To:

Our Dedicated Staff & Board of Directors

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And to our Community Partners and Collaborators:

Pat McCrary and the Lowell National Historical Park

Big Brother/Big Sister of Greater Lowell ADAM project

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Tim Chan Thou, Love Photos, Jocelyn Augustino, Higgins & Ross

Translation Services: Nissay Liek

Sources: Dance and the Spirit of Cambodia, Toni Shapiro, Ph.D., Cornell University, 1994

"Cambodia's Royal Dance," Eileen Blumenthal, Natural History, 4/89

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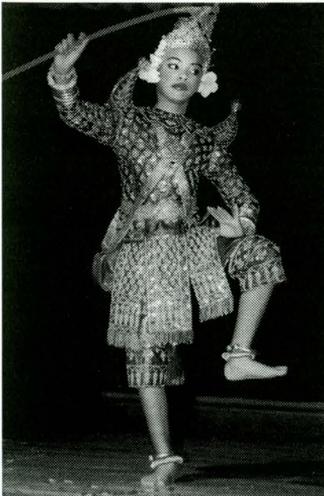
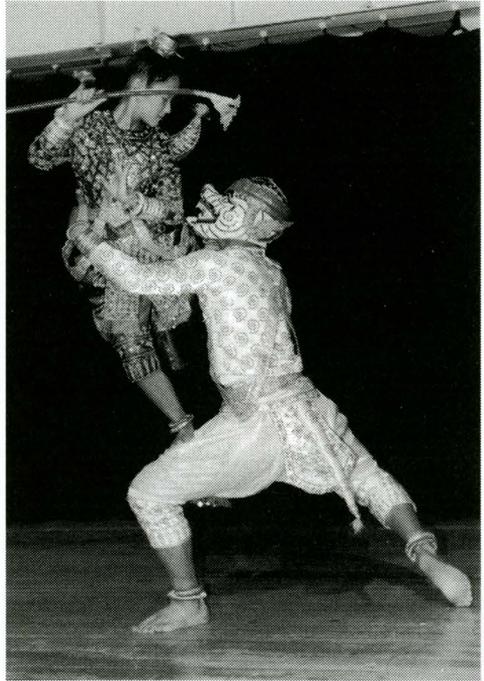
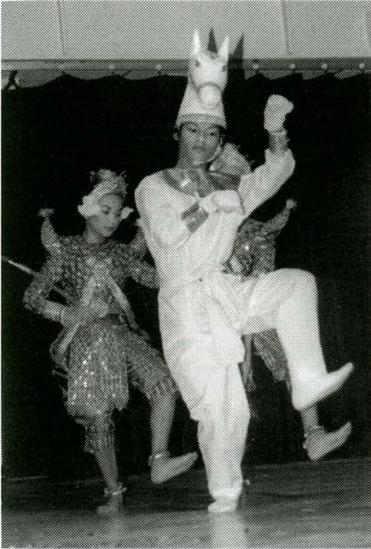


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a
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New work premiered in 2001!

Paulina Srey, Sodany Krouch, Peter Veth, and Samnang Hor worked extensively with master teachers Phousita Huy and Yom Peng to perfect an episode from the *Reamker*, previously not performed in Lowell. "Ream Lak/Chup Lak" is a fascinating story about twin sons of Sita. It chronicles their mischief in the forest and their encounters with Hanuman and Prince Rama's prize white horse.

FRIENDS OF THE ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE

The "Friends of the Angkor Dance Troupe" is a membership drive to support the Troupe's award-winning youth programs. **Thank you** to the many concerned community members and organizations who have contributed to the Friends of the Angkor Dance Troupe.

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*Saints Memorial Medical Center starts
the New Year by expanding our
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*Vanna Men, Community Outreach, Shelagh Galvin,
CNM,MSN, and Sam Phal, Medical Technician*

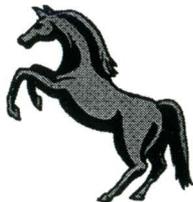
*Nurse-Midwives offer women special skills and an understanding
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*Saints Memorial Medical Center
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