

Phousita Serey Huy

Master of Cambodian Royal Court Ballet

Phousita S. Huy was born in Phnom Penh City, Cambodia. Every Thursday, at her early age, her mother took her to the royal palace for the public performances of royal court ballet. She loved the beautiful dances and costumes and dreamed of someday being a dancer herself. In the past, Royal Court Ballet was for entertaining the Cambodian king and queen, for some privilege personnel, and for official reception of the foreign delegates or diplomats. Royal Court Ballet requires only female performers due to its soft, gentle, flexible and delicate gesture. It is always regard as a special privilege to be selected for the Royal Court Ballet.

In April 17, 1975 the communist radical group, known as Khmer Rouge, took control of Cambodia. In order to reform Cambodia to a pure peasant society, the Khmer Rouge started the unspeakable destruction of Cambodian society. They destroyed lives of the inhabitants, national properties, tradition and high culture of Cambodian society--including the royal court ballet. Most of the learned and intellect were perished under the Khmer Rouge's brutal regime along with the most prominent performers of royal court ballet.

Despite being separated from her family, Phousita managed to survived the most ordeal of her life. After being reunited with her family, she headed back to her birthplace, Phnom Penh City. Her dream of royal court ballet in her childhood remained alive in her heart. After several scrutinies, she finally was admitted to University of Fine Arts at the early of 1980. She graduated in 1989. During her school years and after her graduation, she had toured several countries, including Vietnam, North and South Korea, Japan, America, Lao, Thailand, and India.

Prior to her departure from Cambodia for permanent residency in United States in the middle of 1996, Phousita taught royal court ballet at the University of Fine Arts and general public elementary schools. Presently, she is an artistic director at Angkor Dance Troupe, Lowell, Massachusetts.