

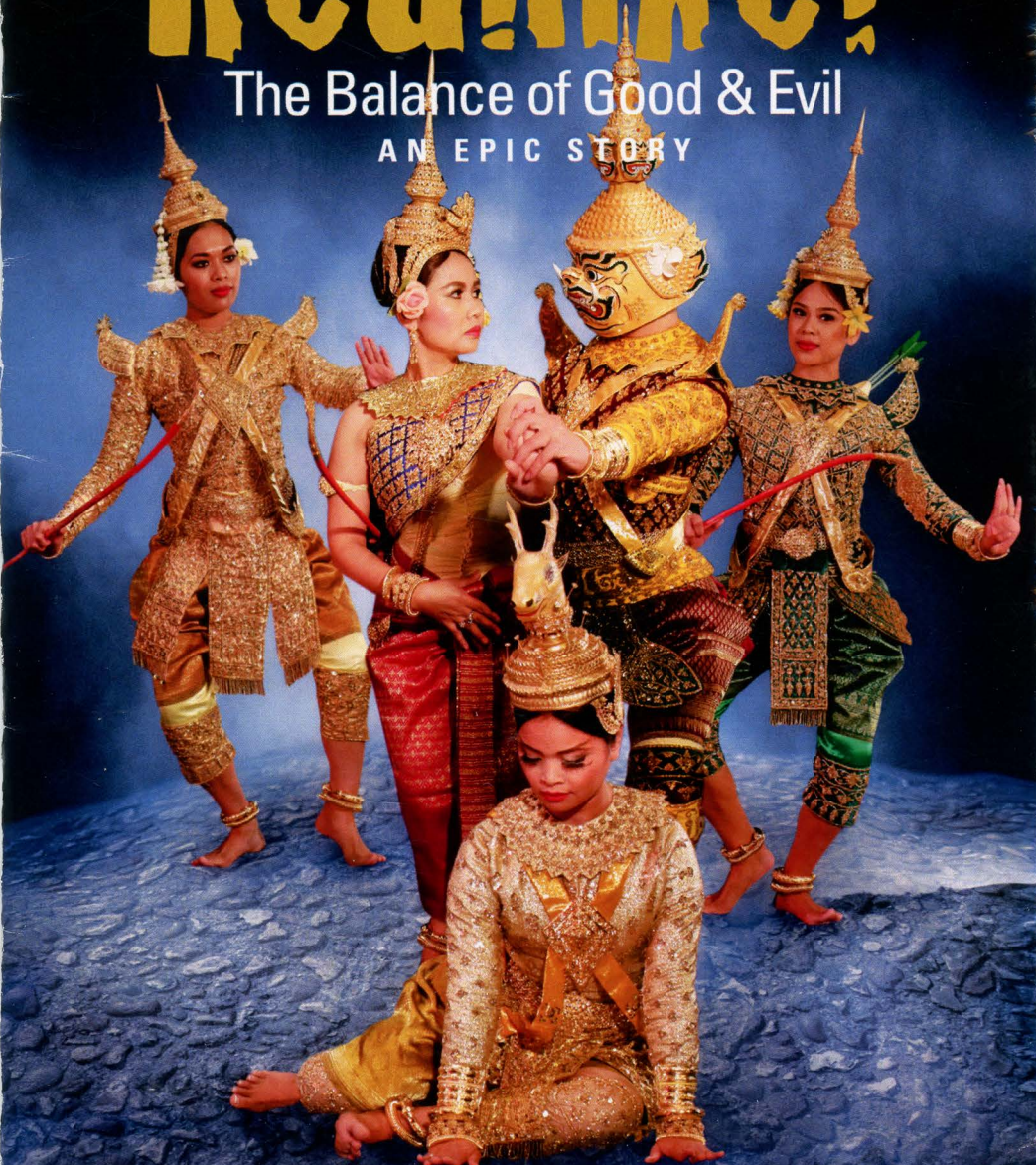


Richard K. and Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation
Presents

Reinkner

The Balance of Good & Evil

AN EPIC STORY



www.angkordance.org

Thank You

We are delighted you have joined us for Reamker, 29 years ago we began the Angkor Dance Troupe with the vision to preserve and develop the traditions of Cambodian performing arts, that was almost completely wiped out during the Khmer Rouge genocide. As a community struggling to put down roots in a new homeland, Cambodian dance provides a poignant reminder of the beauty and spirituality of our culture and helps us build a more stable foundation for our children.

As the heart and soul of the Cambodian American community in Lowell, the Troupe has served as a foundation and voice of our cherished cultural traditions. We are nationally recognized as one of the most accomplished and experienced of the U.S. - based Cambodian traditional arts ensembles and have received recognition from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, and the White House.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Tim Thou
Co-Founder

Phousita Huy
Artistic Director

Dahvy Tran
Executive Director



The Angkor Dance Troupe is proud to present Reamker a Cambodian epic poem, based on the Sanskrit's Ramayana epic. It adapts the Hindu ideas to Buddhist themes and shows the balance of good and evil in the world.

Reamker Program

Scene I:

Krong Reap sees Preah Ream and Neang Seda

Scene II:

Preah Ream follows the Golden Deer

Scene III:

The Abduction of Neang Seda

Scene IV:

Preah Ream and Preah Leak calls for Hanuman

Scene V

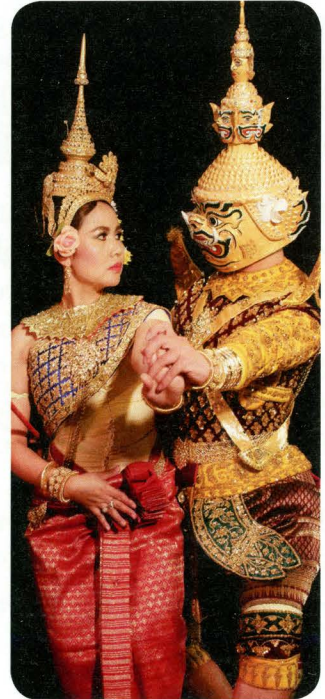
Kingdom of Langka

Scene VI

Hanuman and Sovann Macha

Scene VII

Neang Seda and the Test of Fire



The classical literature of Cambodia during the 16th and mid-19th century reflected the cultural influence of India and represented three major genres: the epic, verse novels, and bap, or “codes of conduct.”

One of the earliest literary epic stories that was composed in the Khmer language is the Cambodian version of the Indian Ramayana, Reamker. The evolution of the Indian Ramayana story in Cambodia represents the adaptation of Hindu ideas to Buddhist themes and shows the balance of good and evil in society. Reamker serves as an inspiration for various genres of performance in Cambodia. Classical dance-drama, all-male masked dance-drama, and shadow puppet plays all include episodes in their repertoire.

The story of Reamker centers on Preah Ream, a Prince who was exiled to the forest through no fault of his own for fourteen years. Following many adventures including the abduction of his wife Neang Seda by the evil giant Krong Reap, Preah Ream eventually rescues her with the help of an Army of monkeys guided by Hanuman. Preah Ream and Neang Seda return home in triumph and the Prince reclaims his throne.

The complex interplay of strengths (bravery, foresight) and weaknesses (distrust, trickery) --though couched in episodes lined with magic -- nonetheless represents aspects of human social behavior.

Characters



Preah Ream, is the main protagonist of the epic. He is believed to be the reincarnation of the Hinduism deity Vishnu and the husband of Neang Seda.

Neang Seda, the female protagonist of the epic and wife of Preah Ream.

Preah Leak, is the brother of Preah Ream and his aid to fight Kong Reap and rescue Neang Seda.

Krong Reap, is the main antagonist of the story. He captures the beautiful Neang Seda to his island of Langka.

Preus Meas (Golden Deer) is the transformation of Maharik, a cousin of Krong Reap.

T'a Eysi (Hermit) - Krong Reap transforms into an old hermit to disguise his true identity in order to capture Neang Seda.

Hanuman (General White Monkey), helps rescues Neang Seda. While building the bridge connecting the island of Langka to the mainland, he falls madly in love with Sovann Macha, the Golden Mermaid.

Sovann Macha (Golden Mermaid), is the Golden Mermaid who tries to spoil Hanuman's plans to build a bridge to Langka but fell in love with him instead.

Scene I: Krong Reap sees Preah Ream and Neang Seda

The story begins with Preah Ream, Neang Seda and Preah Leak venturing off to the forest to gather fruits and flowers. Preah Ream and Neang Seda falls asleep under a tree. It was there that Krong Reap catches sight of Neang Seda, he was so awed by her beauty that he commands his soldier Maharik to transform into Preus Meas - the Golden Deer. Neang Seda falls in love with Preus Meas and ask Preah Ream to capture it for her. Neang Seda and Preah Leak waits, while Preah Ream pursues the Golden Deer.

Scene II: Preah Ream follows the Golden Deer

As Preah Ream pursues Preus Meas, Neang Seda becomes worried that her husband may have trouble capturing the deer and ask Preah Leak to assist him. Preah Leak agrees but before leaving he pulls out his magic bow, shoots it at the ground near Neang Seda, which cast a protective enchantment around her

Scene III: The Abduction of Neang Seda

Krong Reap's plans to get Neang Seda alone succeeds and attempts to capture her, but fails. He keeps circling around the enchanted perimeter, trying to find a way in, but each time gets burnt by the enchantment. The only way Krong Reap can get to Neang Seda is to trick her out of the circle, so he transforms into an Ta Eysi - an old Hermit. Neang Seda sees Ta Eysi and steps out of the protective circle to bow down and pay her respects. She allows him into the circle, where Ta Eysi tells her she is destined for Krong Reap and not for Preah Ream. Shocked, Neang Seda reprimands Ta Eysi by striking him. Angered, Ta Eysi transforms back to his true form and chases her. The scene ends with Krong Reap capturing and flying away with Neang Seda.

Scene IV: Preah Ream and Preah Leak calls for Hanuman

Upon returning the brothers realized Neang Seda was abducted. They seek out Hanuman for help. Preah Ream shoots his magic arrow into the sky to summon Hanuman and when he arrives, Preah Ream places his ring preah thomrong in Hanuman's hand. This would be proof to Neang Seda that she can trust Hanuman to bring her back home.

Scene V: Kingdom of Langka

At Krong Reap's palace, the gods cast a protective spell around Neang Seda's body, which caused intense heat to radiate. Krong Reap is burned every time he attempts to touch her. Angered, Krong Reap orders two female servants to punish her, but they are interrupted by Hanuman. Initially, Neang Seda thinks Hanuman is a fraud, so she places a spell on him to test him. If he is the real Hanuman, a flower garland would appear around his neck. Hanuman then places the ring from Preah Ream in Neang Seda's hand.

Scene VI: Hanuman and Sovann Macha

Hanuman attempts to build a bridge to the kingdom of Langka to rescue Neang Seda, but is thwarted by Krong Reap's daughter, Sovann Macha. As soon as the monkeys lay down the stone path to cross the ocean, Sovann Macha's mermaids remove the stones. Hanuman catches Sovann Macha and decides to seduce her. He succeeds and they end up falling in love. Sovann Macha allows the completion of the stone path to the kingdom of Langka where a battle ensues between good and evil.

Scene VII: Neang Seda and the Test of Fire

Preah Ream, out of jealousy, assumes that Neang Seda was unfaithful and no longer pure after being Krong Reap's captive, he puts her through the test of fire to prove her fertility and purity. Her innocence was proven.



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“We are delighted to support and celebrate the Angkor Dance Troupe as it debuts their annual residency at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre and continues to connect communities with the preservation and innovation of their rich culture.”

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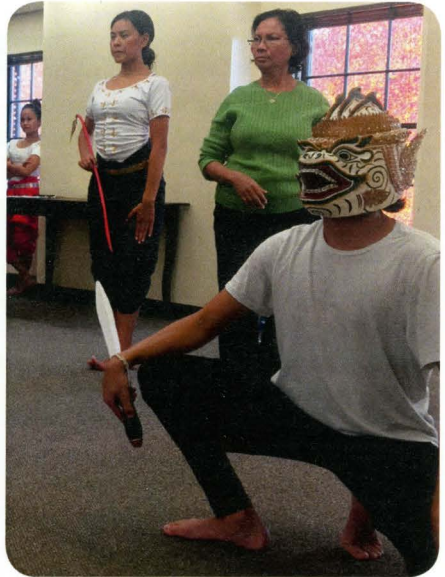
Robert Farrant



Sara Serendipity

Sharing Foundation





Artists and Performers

Masters and Teachers

Artistic Director and Master Teacher – Phousita Huy
Dance Program Manager – Channa Sath
Master Teacher Pech Heung
Master Teacher Phirum Meas
Master Teacher Kimhan Meas

Supporting Master Teachers:

Master Teacher/Choreographer - Proeung Chhieng
Master Teacher - Yom Peng



Artists and Performers



Performers

Alexandra Mai

Anita Srey

Brianna Mai

Celena Mai

Chad Mai

Channa Sath

Chummeng Soun

Daisy Var

Emaly Horn

Isabel Clafin

Jaren Kong

Jasmine T. Udomsay

Jefferson Phan

Johnny Khat

Judith Wilson

Kelly Ly

Kevin Searth

Kevin Vann

Krisna Thou

Krissandra Mai

Monica Veth

Nadia Heng Noeuk

Nicky C. Fennell

Nina Touch

Pech Heung

Peter Chea

Peter Veth

Phirum Meas

Poutda Pech

Robin Wilson

Salena Mam

Sambo Yoeun

Semngang Kao

Sophy Leng

Sovann-Malis Loeung

Tanromni Chum

Tim Sokhoeun

Victoria Phan

Virginia Prak

Viseth Loeung-Rinehart

Vituu Touch

Costume Support:

Kolab Thou

Chenda Wilson

Multimedia Support:

James Higgins

Prerecorded music:

Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Advisory Board:

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Students practice a scene from Reamker

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 Tim Chan Thou, Operations Director
 Tom Southernton, Program Coordinator
 Khakhada Horn, Program Assistant
 Shaun McCarthy, Grant Writer



The Angkor Dance Troupe host a traditional Sampeak Gru ceremony to pay their respects for past Master Teachers to help guide them to a successful performance.



Vision

We envision Lowell Massachusetts to be the epicenter for innovative Cambodian performing arts with the Angkor Dance Troupe at the core.

Mission

The Angkor Dance Troupe connects communities through the preservation, education and innovation of Cambodian performing arts.

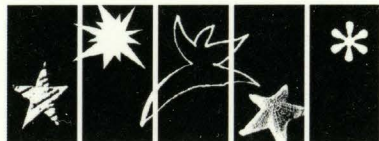
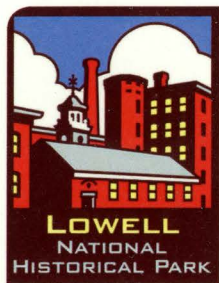
History

The Angkor Dance Troupe was formed in 1986 by Cambodian refugees of the Khmer Rouge holocaust. Lowell's Cambodian American community, estimated at more than 35,000 people, is the second largest in the country. When we resettled here, we brought a passion to carry on our cherished cultural traditions to practice and perform, to teach our children, and to see our art preserved for future generations of all cultures.

We take our name from the great Angkor civilization, between 802 and 1432 AD when Cambodia was a dominant empire in Southeast Asia. Dance and music have always been prominent in Khmer society, but these ancient traditions were nearly eliminated when the Khmer Rouge controlled Cambodia in the 1970s. Artists were among those deliberately targeted for execution. More than 90% of the country's tradition bearers perished. Today, as Cambodians around the world struggle to emerge from decades of war and poverty, our people look to the rebirth and re-creation of dance as testimony to the endurance of our culture.

"The Angkor Dance Troupe is a gem in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is proud to be a longtime supporter of Angkor for its beauty, value, and impact in preserving this rich cultural art form for the Lowell community and beyond" says Anita Walker, the Executive Director for the Mass Cultural Council. "The Angkor Dance Troupe is not only an organization promoting dance, it's an inspiration to all those who survived the Cambodian Genocide three decades ago, and a testament to the enduring power of the arts."

Supporters



Massachusetts Cultural Council



The Parker Foundation

NANCY L. & RICHARD K. DONAHUE

In Celebration of Reamker we would like to extend sincere gratitude to NANCY L. & RICHARD K. DONAHUE for their continuous support, which help made this show possible.



Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.

ក្រុមរាំអង្គរ

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www.angkordance.org

Reamker Cast

2015

Casting/Title	Principal Dancers Friday, November 6th
Students	Tim Sokhoeun Poutda Pech
Preah Ream	Brianna Mai
Neang Seda	Monica Veth
Preah Leak	Virginia Prak
Krong Reap	Chummeng Soun
Giants Army	Judith Wilson Alexandra Mai Salena Mam Daisy Var
Golden Deer	Channa Sath
Tha Eysi (Hermit)	Kimhan Meas
Hanuman (Gen. White Monkey)	Nicky Fennell
Monkey Army	Jaren Kong Peter Chea Johnny Khat
Swva Pol Army	Kevin Searth Vituu Touch Chad Mai Viseth Loeung-Rinehart Jefferson Phan Semnang Kao Sambo Youen
Sovann Macha (Golden Mermaid)	Nadia Heng Noeuk
Mermaids	Nina Touch Victoria Phan Jasmine Tauvari Udomsay Isabel Claflin Kelly Ly Anita Srey
Candle Dance	Krisna Thou Emaly Horn Robin Wilson Celena Mai Krissandra Mai Tamromni Chum

