

ក្រុមរាំអង្គរ
Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.

The Quick Center for Arts

Presents

Dances and workshops of the Cambodia

March 16-17, 2004

Program:

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| 1. The Blessing Dance | Classical |
| 2. The Coconut Dance | Folk |
| 3. The Tep Monorom Dance | Classical |
| 4. The Khen Dance | Folk |
| 5. The Moni Mekhala & Giant | Classical |
| 6. Fishing Dance | Folk |
| 7. Pestle Dance | Folk |
| 8. Swva Pol with DNC | Classical |

Angkor Dance troupe, Inc.

Mrs. Phousita Huy, Artistic Director
Mr. Tim Chan Thou, Dance Program Director
Mr. George Chigas, Troupe Manager

**This program is sponsored by the Quick Center for the Arts
With special thanks to**

Ms. Deborah Sommers, Director Programming
Ms. Melissa Di Fiore, Assistance Director of Programming
Mr. Russ Nagy, Technical Director and his staff

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1) The Blessing Dance

Dancers: Heng Noeuk, Rancia Phin, Sopharl Ngin, Rathanee Yean, Monica Veth

It is dance of greeting and good wishes. During the performance, the dancers come forward and sprinkle flower petals toward the audience. This is done in the hope brining prosperity, peace, and good health to everyone in the audience.

2) The Coconut Shell Dance

Dancers: Povtda Pech, Sodany Krouch, Paulina Srey, Linda Hong, Channa Sath
Samnang Hor, Zenith Rith, Sanny Meas, Rothna Mao, Vyrik Eng

The dance was inspired by a popular game that used coconut shells. The game was played during all kind of ceremonies, but most often during weddings, engagements, and when the groom was escorted in a procession to the bride's house. The Coconut Shell dance is one of the most popular and well known on the Cambodian folk dance. In its original form, it was a one-man show. In the modern-day dance, an equal number of male and female dancers perform the dance, signifying friendship and courtship. The Khmer-language lyrics, the words that accompany the song-speak to how the coconut is the heart of the Cambodian people.

3) Tep Monorom Dance (The Happiness of the Gods)

Dancers: Linda Sou, Sophy Leng, Khakhada Horn, Elizabeth Yim
Monica Veth, Sandra Proeung, Rancia Phin, Sopharl Ngin

This dance, often considered the most beautiful in the classical repertory, embodies the well-being, friendship, and prosperity of the Cambodian people.

4) The Khen Dance

Dancers: Rathanee Yean, Paulina Srey, Sodany Krouch, Channa Sath, Povtda Pech
Sanny Meas, Peter Veth, Vyrik Eng, Steve Horn, Vandary Moeun

The Khen Dance from a province of Cambodia located in the northeastern part on the Cambodia-Loas border. Many young men from that part of the country play a musical instrument, a mouth organ called Khen, which is made of bamboo and decorated with a garland flowers. Men play their Khen to attract young passing by. The women can't resist so they touch the flowers and fall in love.

5) Mini Mekhala & Giant

Dancers: Heng Noeuk, Linda Sou

Moni Mekhala and Ream Eyso were at one time students of the same teacher and both strived very hard to be his best favorite. In the end, the teacher favored the goddess, Moni Mekhala, and rewarded her with a beautiful and very powerful crystal made fro the morning dew. The storm demon, Ream Eyso, was given an ax as a consolation prize. As the dance begins, we see Moni Mekhala preparing to go out and dance with other Gods and goddesses in the heavens. But on her way, she is accosted by Ream Eyso, who is quite jealous and craves the powering glittering ball.

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Mini Mekhala teases him by holding the ball out very close. Then she tosses the crystal, momentarily blinding him. This ends Ream Eyso to his knees, giving her just enough time to glide away. It is said that the flash of Moni Mekhala's crystal is what we know as lighting, and the crashing of Ream Eyso's ax is thunder. This is one of the most sacred dances in the Cambodian Classical repertoire and is still performed in Cambodia in ceremonies to pray for rain.

6) The Fishing Dance

Dancers: Khakhada Horn, Sopharl Ngin, Sophy Leng, Monica Veth, Elizabeth Yim
Samnang Hor, Vyrik Eng, Peter Veth, Jamie Rin, Steve Horn

There's saying in Cambodia "Where there is water, there are fish."
In this dance you will see two traditional methods of catching fish, using braided bamboo baskets Called CHHNEANG In this dance you'll see young women scoop up water from the river into their Chhneng. The baskets act as strainers—the water drains out through the bamboo leaving small fish in the basket. And the guys use bell-shaped traps called ANGKUT For catching large fish in shallow water. Love and romance and favorite themes in Khmer stories and dance. In traditional Cambodian society, young people are careful watched and don't have many opportunities to get to know one another. But the fishing quarter is one place they had the chance to meet.

7) The Pestle Dance

Dancers: Sophy Leng, Vyrik Eng, Linda Hong, Paulina Srey, Sokhoeum Khim, Zenith Rith
Povtda Pech, Sandra Proeung, Sodany Krouch, Rathna Mao, Channa Sath, Peter Veth

The pestle dance is depicted that celebrated the hard work of the harvest season.

8) The Swva Pol with DNC Dance

Dancers: Samnang Hor, Vyrik Eng, Jamie Rin, Steve Horn

In Cambodian legend, monkeys always fight evil; in fact they are army soldiers. And these soldiers are celebrating a bid win. They're gathering food for a feast. The monkey dance is lively and acrobatic, always performed by young boys, who you will see also capture the spirit and quick mannerisms of monkeys. Following the original dance, the Troupe will feature some new choreography with elements of modern dance. But if you watch carefully, you will see the dancers remain, throughout it all, Swva Pol, the monkeys.