

KHMER ARTS ENSEMBLE
SUMMER INSTITUTE 2008



*Do you want to learn
to dance like an
angel?*

**Khmer Arts Academy
Summer Institute
in Takhmao, Cambodia**

An Immersion Program
in Cambodian Dance and Culture

Now enrolling for
1-19 July 2008

For more information contact:
Ms. Serey Tep
serey@khmerartsacademy.org
562.472.0090 (USA)
www.khmerartsacademy.org



KHMER ARTS ACADEMY

KHMER ARTS ENSEMBLE

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THE KHMER ARTS ENSEMBLE & THEATER

The Khmer Arts Ensemble's breathtaking pavilion-style theater is situated on the bucolic campus of the Center for Culture & Vipassana along the Preakhou River about seven miles south of Central Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. It is a magnificent and lush setting for the 31 classical dancers and musicians who practice and perform here year-round and a base from which they tour throughout the world.



The Ensemble is led by award-winning Artistic Director SOPHILINE CHEAM SHAPIRO, whose groundbreaking choreography has graced stages on three continents, including such prominent venues as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, Berkeley's Zellerbach Auditorium, New York's Joyce Theater, the Venice Biennale and Vienna's Schonbrunn Palace Theater.



Highlights of the 2007-2008 season include a five-city USA tour in September and October, a presentation as part of l'Nuits d'Angkor Festival at the famed Angkor Wat in February, and Amsterdam's Het Musiektheater in May.

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CAMBODIAN CLASSICAL DANCE

Classical dance is one of Cambodia's most enduring performing arts forms – a living testimony of a potent and significant cultural heritage. Originally a vehicle for worship in the temples of ancient Angkor, this world-renowned and highly stylized aesthetic is a repository of history and belief. Transferred from generation to generation, it is a form primarily set on women and remains a powerful source of identity, rebirth and vitality today.

In the 20th century, Cambodia's classical performance forms were under extreme stress, first as one of the few instruments of indigenous power under colonial rule, then as a despised scapegoat of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime of the late 1970's, and then as a pawn in the civil war of the 1980s.

During the Khmer Rouge era (1975-1979) classical dance was banned. Alongside Cambodia's intellectuals, artisans and teachers, as many as 90 percent of the dance's practitioners perished from disease, overwork, starvation and slaughter.

In the immediate aftermath of this devastation, a small number of survivors returned to Phnom Penh to eagerly train a new generation of performers that was soon touring the country and abroad. This was a bold declaration that Cambodian culture would be known for more enduring legacies than auto-genocide.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Cambodians fled war and poverty for teeming refugee camps along the Thai border. Under the *ad hoc* leadership of surviving teachers, dancers and musicians there, each camp formed a dance troupe (or troupes) and performances became an important part of camp life. When Cambodian refugees were resettled abroad, these new practitioners formed dance troupes in their adopted communities. Dance that until recently had been performed rarely outside royal palace walls now became a powerful expression for all Cambodians as they sought to embrace the positive aspects of their culture and affirm and transmit their identity.



Following democratic elections in 1993, Cambodia emerged from more than two decades of war, terror and cultural and political isolation. As a result, dancers and musicians from Cambodia were once again free to share the rich and ancient performing arts forms with the entire world. Ease of travel, communications technologies and the need to share scarce resources have combined to create a new cultural paradigm. Cambodia's contemporary performing arts are now made and shared across national borders, combining living traditions with contemporary concerns, forms and methods.

Photo of Kheiv Sotheavy and Sam Sathya in *Samritechak* by Michael Burr. Photo of Sophiline Cheam Shapiro teaching dancer Sam Savin by James Wasserman.

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WHAT IS THE SUMMER INSTITUTE?



The Khmer Arts Ensemble Summer Institute is a three-week intensive training program in Cambodian classical dance and a cultural immersion program taking place at the Khmer Arts Ensemble Theater in Takhmao and throughout Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Institute includes:

- 18 mornings of studio training in classical dance with some of the form's finest master teachers
- Practice with and demonstrations by the renowned Khmer Arts Ensemble
- Talks with some of Cambodia's leading artists
- Workshops in costume dressing and rituals associated with the tradition
- Immersion in Phnom Penh's booming contemporary and traditional arts scene, including field trips to museums, galleries, studios, significant architectural sites and performance spaces

Photo of rehearsal courtesy of Khmer Arts Ensemble.

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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Men and Women, Boys and Girls 12 years old and up welcome
- All experience levels welcome
- Some ability to communicate in English or Khmer required
- A passion for learning and discovery a must



FEES

- Tuition USD \$1,800 + international travel, health insurance and visa fees, as appropriate
- All participants must bring a *kben*, belt and *ao lakhaon*, or purchase a practice costume from the program
- Separate fees for accompanying adults
- Registration deadline: 1 April 2008
- Tuition deadline: 1 May 2008
- For more information contact:
Ms. Serey Tep
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562.472.0090 (USA)

ACCOMMODATIONS

All participants will be provided shared rooms in private accommodations. Fees include housing, meals, local transportation and entry fees to performances, museums and other cultural facilities.



DATES

The 2008 Summer Institute begins 1 July and concludes 18 July 2008.

Photo of Pheng Sarannorin in *Samritechak* (top) and Meas Phirum in *Seasons of Migration* (bottom) by James Wasserman. Photo of Chao Socheta in *Pamina Devi* courtesy Khmer Arts Ensemble.

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Registration Form

Family Name _____

Given (First) Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Postal Code _____

Country or Residence _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth _____

Gender (please circle) F M

Country of Citizenship _____

Do you speak Khmer? Y N Do you speak English Y N

Are you a student? Y N Accompanying Adult? Y N

Please describe your classical dance training, if any _____

Who is/was your teacher? _____

Send your completed registration form before 1 April 2008 to:

Ms. Serey Tep
Khmer Arts Academy
375 Redondo Avenue, Suite 156
Long Beach, CA 90814
USA

Tuition deadline: 1 May 2008