



27th Annual Cambodian New Year

YEAR OF THE RABBIT 2567

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

AUDITORIUM

5:00 Opening Remarks

5:15 Cultural Performances

កម្មវិធីសម្តែង ងសិល្បៈ

LARGE CULTURAL HALL

6:45 Dinner

បរិភោគវិភោគអាហារពេលល្ងាច

7:15 Cultural Games & Raffles

លេង ងល្បែង ងប្រជានិយម

8:00 Music & Social Dancing

វាកំសាន្តជាមួយតន្ត្រី សម័យ





Cambodian New Year or Bon Chol Chnam Thmei Year of the Rabbit 2023

Cambodian New Year, or Bon Chhnam Thmei, is Cambodia's most important traditional festival and national holiday. This year's festivity is celebrated April 14 to 16. In preparation of the New Year, Cambodian people usually clean and decorate their house, prepare special meals, build a mini shrine for the New Year angels, buy new outfits, and more importantly they speak kindly to each other, especially to the elderly.

Cambodians also offer food, fruits, money, etc to their parents on the morning of the New Year and in return, the parents pronounce blessings on their head. The New Year is usually celebrated in the Buddhist traditions. The celebration is a way to pay respect to the Buddha and parents, blessing them with good health and long life, and seeking their forgiveness for past sins or wrong deeds. In addition to bringing our best cooked food to the temple, Cambodians bring fresh fruits, flowers, and treats to the pagoda as an offering to their ancestors. It is necessary for

Khmer people to perform the last ceremony of the New Year festival, called "Pithi Srang Preah", which means giving Buddha statues a special bath or a special shower as a gesture of an apology for any mistake they have made toward their parents and grandparents. During the New Year, Cambodians spend time with their families and friends, feasting, going out with family and friends as well as visiting pagodas to pay respects for the dead and bring food offerings to Buddhist monks. In the evening, families celebrate the new year by going out for a family dinner and young adolescents typically go out to parties or concerts.

Robam June Por or The Blessing Dance—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Daisy Ban

Dancer: Sierra, Kaylene, Kalliyani, Khloe, Kayla

This dance welcomes our respected and lovely guests. This dance is normally performed at an official opening ceremony offering greetings and wishes to the audience. In this classical piece the lyrics and gestures describe the wishes of happiness. Flower petals are tossed gently from small golden trays as a way of blessing the audience and the event.

The Umbrella Dance Robahm Tang-yu—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Neary Neou

Dancer: Madison, Kiyah, Major, Alana, Leelah, Leanna, Sora, Nolan, Evelyn, Zulmie, Nova

The Umbrella Dance or Robam Tang-Yu. This next performance is called, The Umbrella Dance. This dance contains subtle flirtations between young male and female during the New Year but instead of adults dancing, we have our young girls and boys dancing away.

Coconut Shell Dance or Robam Kuos Tralok—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Ethan Hang

Dancer: Brigette, Jason, Joshua, Nhykhaely, Tommy, Allison, Christopher, Chanavy, Kienne, Moragaut, Ethan, Lekhana, Junior, Lelyon

Originating from Svay Rieng Province, this dance was inspired from a coconut shell game previously played in wedding ceremonies. Well-polished coconut shells are used as musical instruments by dancers, bringing live animation and flirtatious moves to enhance the festivity. It is highly rhythmic and punctuated with shouts and the rapping of coconuts, expressing happiness and harmony in life. Popular and loved by Cambodian people.

Neary Chea Chour—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Brigette N. Hang

Dancer: Elise, Sothea, Pheona, Valerie, Jade, Zoey, Leyah, Ava, Milyna

Robam Neary Chea Chour is a traditional Khmer dance performed by young women in beautiful and colorful costumes and jewelry. The dance reminds the Khmer people of their rich cultural heritage that has been carried forward and nurtured through generations. This dance form is very prominent in the neighboring South-East Asian countries.

Ta Yae Dance or “Calling of the Ancestors” Dance—Morodok Khmer Performing Arts(Guest Performance)

Instructor: Morrison Chea

Dancer: Timothy, Morrison, Sophany, Lon, Savy

Robam Ta'yae was one of the most sacred dance pieces in modern repertoire. The piece is performed for highly ranked events and serves as a bridge between human and heaven, often in prayer for rain, prosperity and protection over the land. The piece is not commonly performed due to the difficulty level of the dance and only being used for blessings and offerings during events.

Robam Trot—Khmer Youth of Modesto(Guest Performance)

Instructor: Pholy Meas, Vanarith Thach, Jonah Peko

Dancer: Vanarith, Sophan, Pholy, Socheat, Sambo, Jonah, Xaiyennith, Songha, Ethan, Devlin, Lucky, Chanthou, Remy, Pov Pov, Sokha, Vichara, Allyson, Salena, Rosalena

The term Trot comes from Sanskrit meaning 'to end'. The Trot Dance is performed prominently during the Khmer New Year to send off the back luck and negativity from the previous year and welcome the new year with positivity and celebrations.

The dance represents a popular folktale of a hunter who received great fortune by the virtue of a deer. The hunter then created the Trot Dance as an ode to the forest spirits who brought him this prosperity. This animalistic celebration is presented by dancers dressed as peacocks wearing peacock feathers, oxens wearing horns and hunters.

Tum Teav Skit—Khmer Youth of Modesto (Guest Performance) Instructor: Socheat Meas and Sambo Sun Cast: Naveck, Kalandie, Aliany, Meas, Alyssa, Marlina, Laylanni

Then we have a Skit called Tum Teav, a classical literature play in Cambodia. Tum Teav is a mid-19th century Cambodian romantic tragedy folk tale. It is originally based on a poem and is considered the "Cambodian Romeo and Juliet".

Khmer Clothes Fashion Show—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe
Coordinator—Neary Hang

Khmer Empire 802-1531— Model: Christina and Jordan. Christina is dressed as an Apsara Dancer and Jordan is dressed as an Angkor Warrior

Lung Vek time 1526-1603—Model: Sadie and Jason

Oudung Era 1620-1862—Model: Pich and Poamrong.

Farmer Attire—Model: Chanavy & Christopher. Chanavy is wearing a wrapped skirt aka sarong with a beautiful blouse top. Chris is wearing baggy pants *aka kaw Jaev* with a button shirt. Both are wearing a popular Cambodian scarf called krama to help protect their skin from the hot sun.

Khmer Leur or Indigenous People—Model: Lekhana and Lelyon. Both are wearing a cotton dress with stripe pattern top.

Traditional Khmer swimsuit—Model: Allison & Tommy . Allison is wearing a sampot chang pong, which is a sarong fabric, covering her chest for bathing. Tommy is wearing a krama wrap around his waist. Krama is very useful for many things, even used as a towel after bathing.

wedding attire—Model: Isabel & Jr wearing. Isabel and Jr. are wearing elegant outfit, made from silk and have a lot of intricate designs

Bridesmaid and best man—Model: Sopheap and Souphoen dress for a traditional wedding. The bridesmaid and groomsmen are wearing something similar to the bride and groom but not as elaborate.

Evening Wear—Model: Moragaut and Kiyon They are both dressed and ready for a wedding banquet.

Temple Wear—Model: Navi and Thy dress ready to go to the temple for khmer new year.

The Love Moon Dance or Robam Reaksmeay Duong Chan — Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe.
Instructor: Sam Thom & Khmer Angkor Youth Collaboration
Dancer: Navi Je, Makayla, Mia, Michaela, December, Tia, Jayda, Kaylanah, Julina, Ellen

This dance is a new creation based on Khmer classical dance. This dance is a traditional dance about an expression of a man expressing his love for a woman and comparing it to the lovely moon.

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To learn more about Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe or if you're interested in performing in the New Year Program 2024, please email sovandy@me.com. Provide name and contact info.

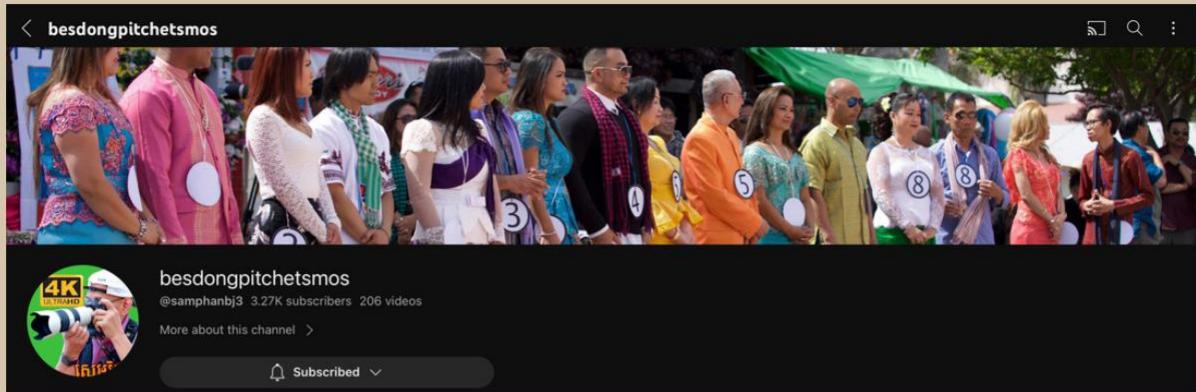
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សូមផ្ញើ អ៊ីមែល លមក sovandy@me.com ។ ផ្តល់ឈ្មោះ
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Photography and videography for tonight's event is provided by



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