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28th Annual Cambodian New Year

YEAR OF THE DRAGON 2568

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

AUDITORIUM

4:30 Opening Remarks

4:45 Cultural Performances

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LARGE CULTURAL HALL

6:45 Dinner

បរិភោគអាហារពេលល្ងាច

7:15 Cultural Games & Raffles

លេងល្បែងប្រជាប្រិយ

8:00 Music & Social Dancing

រាំកំសាន្តជាមួយតន្ត្រីសម័យ



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Cambodian New Year or Bon Chol Chnam Thmei Year of the Dragon BE 2568

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 Cambodia, it marks the end of the harvest before the beginning of the rainy season.

Like most New Year holidays, Khmer New Year is full of tradition and rituals. The three days of celebration each have their own name and associated traditions:

First Day - Maha Songkran

The first day of the Khmer New Year is called 'Maha Songkran'. Similar to the Tamil tradition, it is believed that this was the day of creation. In Khmer tradition, the world was created by God's angels and to welcome the angels, people will clean their houses and illuminate them with candles. Families will place an idol of Buddha on an altar.

Second Day - Vanabot

Also known as Virak Wanabat, the second day of Khmer New Year is a time to think of the less fortunate. People offer charity by helping the poor, servants and homeless. Families may go to monasteries to pay respect to their ancestors, and it also a time for family members to exchange gifts.

Third Day - Leang Saka

On the third day of New Year celebrations, Buddhists wash and clean statues of Lord Buddha with scented water. This cleansing is done to ensure that Cambodia will receive all the water it needs in the coming year. Another tradition is that children wash and bathe their parents and grandparents in return for blessing and good advice for the future.

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

Instructor: Neary Neou

Dancer: Chanly Sor-Sieng, Danish Shaw, Julina Chea, Jade Mey, Kaliyah Shaw, Kaylie Saechao, Michaela Washington, Navi Je Love, Niveah Rogers

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.

Coconut Shell dance—Oakland Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Stephany Pheng

Dancer: Alana Luangraj, Benjamin Moeuth, Carrie Moeuth, Chauncey Tran, Kayla Nong, Liam Saechao, Tesla Thlang, Mason Thlang, Nolan Oeur, Easton Mey, Elise Mey, Soleeta Len.

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.

Flute Dance—Oakland Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Ethan Hang

Dancer: Aiyana Sapak, Alex Lonh, Anthony Lonh, Jordon Saechao, Adrian Aguilar, Lelyon Mey, Lekhana Donnies, Miracle Pak, Tia La, Jonathan Pho

Neary Chea Chour—United Khmer Cultural Preservation Fresno

Instructor: Chariya Sam & Monzima Mian

Dancer: Sumatra Presley, Monzima Mian, Alexandra Hysell, Kaylan Hysell

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.

Love Moon Dance—Oakland Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe

Instructor: Brigitte N. Hang

Dancer: Alyssa Chanthay, Ava Luangraj, Leyah Luangraj, Rateda Noeun, Rateyna Noeun, Sadie Turk, Valerie Saeteun

This dance is about a prince unrequited love of Princess Chomchuen of Chiangmai. His love for the princess is compared to the lovely moon he sees every night and hopes the princess sees the moon every night too. 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.

Fan Dance—Morodok Khmer Performing Arts Stockton

Instructor: Savy Yinn & Morrison Chea

Dancer: Morrison Chea, Lon Chan, Timothy Oum, Sophany Bodine

Robam Phlett or Fan Dance was inspired by a very old dance. Originally this dance was performed with bunches of flowers instead of fans. Robam Phlett was however reshaped in the 1950s created in order to glorify the king for all the glory and grace in governing his kingdom (Cambodia). Sometimes people confused Robam Phlett with Robam Mekar, however there is no direct link between the two dances. Robam Phlett is one of the most often performed dances at the Chhom Khar Mon Palace in the 1960s..

Krama or Checkered-Scarf Dance—United Khmer Cultural Preservation Fresno

Instructor: Chariya Sam & Monzima Mian

This dance demonstrates the many ways Cambodians use their scarf in their daily lives. Aside showing you how we wear it, we use it for other things such as a fan, a shower or bath towel, a mat for the floor, a hammock, a swing for a baby, and so much more!

Khmer Traditional Clothing—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe
Coordinator—Neary M. Hang

Khmer Angkor Empire 802-1431—Model: Ariya and Jason
Chaktomok Era 1432-1525—Model: Pich and David
Lungeek Era 1526-1603—Model: Christina, Elder Pha, Little Irene
Oudung Era 1620-1862—Model: Isabel and Elder Pen
Khmer Traditional Swim Wear—Sanny and Sutra

Khmer Leur or Indigenous People—Model: Stephany and Jayden
Evening Attire—Model: Macy and Poamrong
Bridesmaid and Groomsman Traditional Attire—Model: Lelyon and Elder Stark
Bride-groom wedding attire—Model: Lekhana and Elder Chritoferson

Flower Dance or Robam Pka Meas Pka Prak—Oakland Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe
Instructor: Theary Len

Dancer: Alexa Thlang, Aniya Kong, Carrie Moeuth, Chandavy Fuller, Jayda Moeuth, Soleeta Len, Kisha McCan Thean, Leelah Vongphachanh, Mikayla Thlang, Moniereaksmey Ouk, Scarlett's In, Sora Kim

This dance is a classical piece that portray the symbolic significance of the golden and silver flowers. In this piece, the gold and silver flowers were used as an offering to the gods and kings and in return asking them for blessings of peace and prosperity.

Apsara Dance(short segment)—Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe
Instructor: December Saeteun

Dancer: December Saeteun, Ellen Rith, Kalliyani West, Khloe West, Sierra Kang, Julina Chea

The Apsara Dance, based on the sculptures at Angkor Wat, was created to honor ancient traditions. It portrays Mera, dressed in white for purity, dancing in a garden with her attendants. The golden flowers she carries symbolize the happiness and well being of the Cambodian people.

Robam Chhour Chhay—San Jose Cambodian Cultural Dance
Instructor: Ryan Boun and Savary Dean

Dancer: Ryan Boun, Savary Dean, and a student performer, 2 singers, 2 live musicians

Chhouy Chhay is a dance that describes a young girl preparing herself for a prayer to the gods, asking for peace and prosperity

Stick Dance or Robam Kous Angre—Khmer Youth of Modesto
Instructor: Pholy Meas, Jonah Peko

Dancer: Naveck, Aliany, Meas, Reaksa, Alencia, Kalanie, Alyssa, Adilee, Kaylee, Laylanni, Emjay, Eli, Bunsak, Malin, Mulana

This dance is a celebratory dance, usually performed during the end of the harvest season, which aligns with Cambodian New Year. In the dance, two people would pound the pestle or stick, alternately in a constant rhythm, an action that provides the basis for the dance. The dancers clapped their hands along with the beat of the stick. This is a very fun dance, so feel free to clap along!

Tum Teav Skit—Khmer Youth of Modesto (Guest Performance)
Instructor: Socheat Meas and Aliany Meas Vann

Cast: Naveck, Aliany, Meas, Reaksa, Alencia, Kalanie, Alyssa, Adilee, Kaylee, Laylanni, Emjay

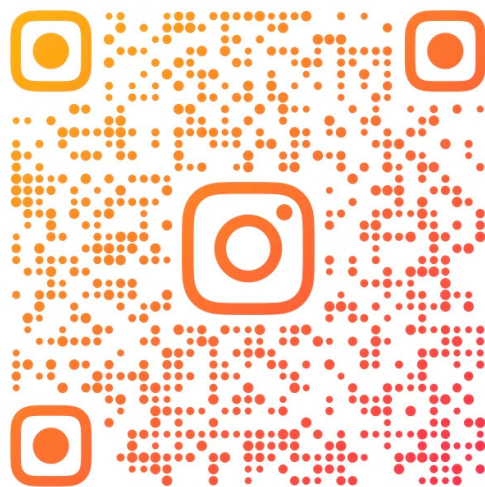
Tum Teav is a classical literature play in Cambodia, a mid-19th century Cambodian romantic tragedy folk tale. It is originally based on a poem and is considered the "Cambodian Romeo and Juliet"

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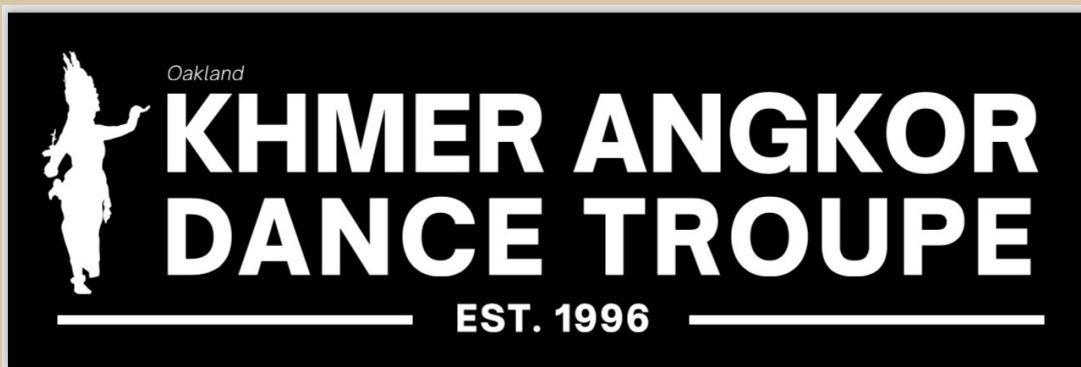
To learn more about Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe or if you're interested in performing in the New Year Program 2025, please email sovandy@me.com. Provide name and contact info.

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sovandy@me.com ។ ផ្តល់ឈ្មោះ និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

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