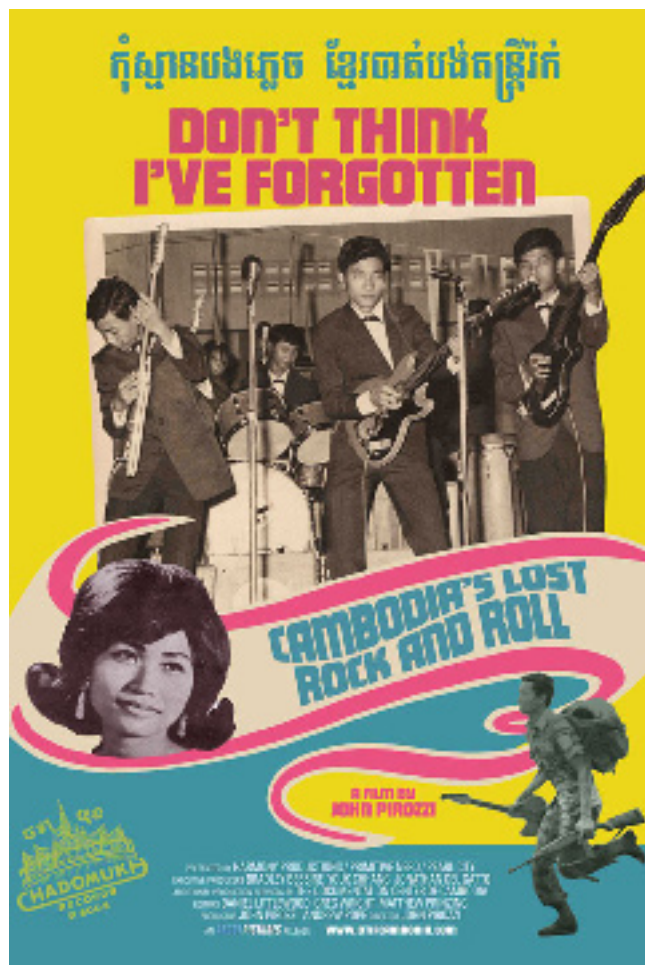


ARGOT PICTURES

PRESENTS

DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL



Directed by John Pirozzi, USA/Cambodia, 2014, 106 minutes,
In English, Khmer, and French with English Subtitles

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DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL

Through the eyes, words and songs of its popular music stars of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL examines and unravels Cambodia's tragic past. Combining interviews with surviving musicians and never-before-seen archival material and rare songs, the film tracks the winding course of Cambodian music as it morphs into a unique style of rock and roll. A vibrant musical culture that was nearly lost forever under the brutal Khmer Rouge regime is revived and celebrated.





ABOUT THE FILM:

During the 60's and early 70's, as the war in Vietnam threatened its borders, a new music scene emerged in Cambodia that took Western rock and roll and stood it on its head – creating a sound like no other.

Cambodian musicians crafted this sound from the various rock music styles sweeping America, England, and France, adding the unique melodies and hypnotic rhythms of their traditional music. The beautiful singing of their renowned female vocalists became the final touch that made this mix so enticing.

But as Cambodian society - young creative musicians in particular - embraced western culture and flourished under its influence, the rest of the country was rapidly moving to war. On the left, Prince Sihanouk joined forces with the Khmer Rouge and rallied the rural population to take up arms against the government that deposed him. On the right, the Cambodian military, with American military support, waged a war that involved a massive aerial bombing campaign on the countryside. In the end, after winning the civil war, the Khmer Rouge turned their deadly focus to the culture of Cambodia.

After taking over the country on April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge began wiping out all traces of modernity and Western influence. Intellectuals, artists and musicians were specifically and systematically targeted and eliminated. Thus began one of the most brutal genocides in history, killing an estimated two million people – a quarter of the Cambodian population.

DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL tracks the twists and turns of Cambodian music as it morphs into rock and roll, blossoms, and is nearly destroyed along with the rest of the country. This documentary film provides a new perspective on a country usually associated with only war and genocide.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I knew from the beginning that I wanted the film to reflect the wide range of artists/music that was Cambodia's popular music scene during the 60's and 70's. As we began collecting music it became apparent that there were many artists with their own unique styles making large quantities of high quality music. The problem was there was nowhere to turn for information about them - no books, no magazine articles, no primary research material. Nothing.

I started with a handful of singers' names and began interviewing people whose recollections were foggy at best. They had gone through incredible hardships, suffering through a harsh civil war and then the brutal Khmer Rouge era where their very identities had nearly been erased. It took shooting 75 interviews in 4 countries to be able to piece this story together.

On the surface there was very little visual representation of Cambodia's golden era, as it has come to be known, to be found. It's astounding to think that most of the archival material detailing this crucial period of Cambodian history had been destroyed.

So finding the necessary materials needed to tell this story became a daunting challenge. Many people, who care deeply about Cambodia and its popular music, began to surface with bits and pieces of the puzzle. Meeting so many of these generous people and collaborating with them became a big part of the process. It's something that I feel very fortunate to have experienced.

- John Pirozzi, 2014





TIMELINE OF MODERN CAMBODIA AND THE ARTISTS OF *DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN*

- 1932/5 - Sinn Sisamouth is born in Stung Treng Province.
- 1941 - Prince Norodom Sihanouk is coronated King. Japan occupies Cambodia during WWII.
- 1945 - Japanese occupation ends.
- 1946 - French protectorate is reestablished.
- 1948 - Ros Serey Sothea is born.
- 1949 - Sinn Sisamouth moves to Phnom Penh to enter medical school. Baksey Cham Krong forms with the elder Mol brothers.
- 1951 - Sinn Sisamouth enters the Royal Palace orchestra with Sos Matt.
- 1953 - Sihanouk gains independence for Cambodia from France. Sinn Sisamouth is a regular performer on the National Radio.
- 1955 - Sihanouk abdicates in favor of his father. Sihanouk wins the election for Prime Minister with his Sangkum Reastr Niyum party.
- 1959 - Baksey Cham Krong starts Cambodia's first guitar band. Mao Sareth records her first songs.
- 1960 - Sinn Sisamouth records with famous female leading singers: Chuon Malay, Mao Sareth, Chunn Vanna, and Keo Setha.
- 1962 - Baksey Cham Krong starts to perform as a three-guitar band. Ouk Sam Art performs at Kolab Bar with Ros Serey Sothea in Battambang.
- 1963 - Sinn Sisamouth signs with the Vatt Phnom label and recorded his famous song "Champa Battambang." [Flower of Battambang] Ros Serey Sothea wins a singing contest. Pen Ron releases her hit song "Phkar Kabass."
- 1964 - Mao Sareth joins the National Military band.
- 1965 - Sihanouk breaks relations with the U.S. Ros Serey Sothea moves to Phnom Penh. Huy Meas wins first prize in a singing contest.
- 1966 - Sihanouk starts political repression against the Communist Party. Pen Ron and Ros Serey Sothea record duo songs with Sinn Sisamouth.
- 1967 - "Peou Choouk Sar" [White Lotus], directed by Tea Lim Kun, is released with Sinn Sisamouth performing for the soundtrack. Ros Serey Sothea releases her hit song "Stung Khieu" [Blue River] and records duets with Sinn Sisamouth. Ros Serey Sothea's first soundtrack is in the film "Preah Leak Sinnnavong Neang Pream Kesor" [Laskhmana & Urmila].
- 1969 - The U.S. begins secret bombing of Cambodian territory. Cambodia is able to produce vinyl records locally.
- 1970 - General Lon Nol establishes a republic by overthrowing Sihanouk, who goes into exile in China. Yol Aularang and Pov Vannary are new rising stars. Drakkar Band is heavily influenced by Carlos Santana.
- 1972 - Cambodia adopts a constitution. The Khmer Republic loses territorial control to the North Vietnamese and communist Khmer Rouge guerillas. The Khmer Republic bans romantic songs for two years, allowing only patriotic music. Sinn Sisamouth directs the film "Jomreang Et Preang Thok" [The Unfinished Song] featuring Ros Serey Sothea as an actress.
- 1973 - Singers and musicians join the army. The new regime allows only propaganda songs and patriotic songs.
- 1974 - Sinn Sisamouth records his "Memory of Battambang" as a special cassette tape. Romantic songs are allowed again.
- 1975 - The Khmer Rouge takes over Phnom Penh and the country. Under this authoritarian regime an estimated 1.7 to 2 million people die from exhaustion or hunger, or were executed at torture centers such as S-21. Sihanouk becomes a prisoner in his own palace. Pov Vannary dies of cancer.
- 1976 - Sinn Sisamouth and Mao Sareth are executed by the Khmer Rouge.
- 1977 - Ros Serey Sothea dies under the Khmer Rouge.
- 1979 - Vietnamese troops end the Khmer Rouge regime.
- 1985 - Hun Sen becomes prime minister.
- 1989 - Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia.
- 1991 - The peace agreement known as the United Nations Transitional authority (UNTAC.) is established
- 1993 - General election.
- 1997 - Hun Sen stages a coup. The Cambodian People's Party take power and remain in power as of 2015. The Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia is created to conduct trials for Khmer Rouge crimes.
- 2012 - Norodom Sihanouk dies in Beijing.



DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL

Director John Pirozzi

Producers John Pirozzi and Andrew Pope

Cinematography John Pirozzi

Executive Producers Bradley Bessire, Youk Chhang,
Jonathan Del Gatto

Editing Daniel Littlewood, Matt Prinzing & Greg Wright

Original Music Score Scot Stafford

Featuring

Sinn Sisamouth, Ros Serey Sothea, Bayon Band, Baksey Cham Krong,
Liv Tek, Drakkar, Pen Ran, Huoy Meas, Yol Aularong, Pou Vannary



Filmmaker John Pirozzi at Phnom Penh's historic Chaktomuk Theater.

Directed and Photographed by

John Pirozzi

Produced by

John Pirozzi

Andrew Pope

Film Editing

Daniel Littlewood

Matthew Prinzing

Greg Wright

Paintings

Nhek Dim

Graphic Design

Craig Lowy

Original Musical Score

Scot Stafford

Executive Producers

Bradley Bessire

Youk Chhang

Jonathan Del Gatto

Associate Producers

Amy J. Boyd

Sovannet Nate Hun

Daniel Littlewood

LinDa Saphan

Additional Editing

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Edmund Carson

Deborah Dickson

Perri B. Frank

Camille Reysset

Assistant Editor

Edmund Carson

Editorial Consultant

David Greenwald

Additional Production Services Provided by

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-CAM)

Executive Director

Youk Chhang

Staff

So Farina, Sa Fatily, Ysa Osam, Vanthan Peoudara, Prum Phalla, Phat Piseth, Phoung Chan Pranith, Phat Rachana, Nhean Socheat, Chey Sophearum, Chyterith

Crew – Cambodia

Production Manager

Kanitha Tith

Vesna Tith

Camera Assistant

Cheap Sovichea

Nick Hahn

Lighting Technician

David Anderson

Top Sothea

Sur Vissal

Location Sound

Toun Vannak

Sear Vissal

Location Manager

Kem Sereyvuth

Wardrobe

Melanie Brew

Make-up/Hair

Srey Sar

Khann Sophors

Production Assistant

Chorm Chan Boromey

Chorm Chan Leakhena

Maisy Metrix

Suon Bun Rith

Penh Samang

Crew – USA

Additional Camera

Toshiaki Ozawa

Antonion Rossi

Jeff Warrin

Gaffer

Ted Hayash

Curt Jentsch

Grip

Kevin Chickanis

Matt Horochowski

Location Sound

Hugh Scott

Carpenter

Bob Thurneau

Crew – France

Production Manager

Ilya Chorfas

Camera Assistant

Sylvain Grolleau

Production Assistant

Aurore Marechal

Locations

Christine Bouteiller

Original Music Performed by

Cello

Joey Burns

Drums and Bowed Percussion

John Convertino

Electric Chapey

Zac Holtzman

Srolei, Pei Au, Pei Pu, Snaeng, Smot

Dorivan Keol

Roneat Aik Chromatique

Sonankavey Keo

Gong Thom Chromatique

Scot Stafford

Tro Khmer, Tro Ou, Tro Sao

Theara Yun

Trumpet

Martin Wenk

Recording Engineers

Fen Ikner

Maya Jade

Peter Mayer

Cheng Samath

Chuon Sarin

Scot Stafford

Singer's Portraits

Ok Bunnarath

Puppet Designer

Matt Posey

Master Puppeteer

Prak Siphannarath

Cambodian Film Clips

“PHEAK KDEY SNAE”

Directed by Yvon Hem

“PEL DEL TROVYOUUM”

Directed by Uong Kanthuok

“TAVERY MEAS BONG”

Directed by Uong Kanthuok

Research

LinDa Saphan

Music Research

Sovannet Nate Hun

Additional Research

Jason Jones

Production Assistant

Mark Rusconi

Rights and Clearances

Amy J. Boyd

Post Supervisor

Jessica Wolfson

Post Consultant

Samara Levenstein

Digital Imaging Specialist

Ariel Garcia

Music Editor

Dan Evans Farkas

Music Supervisor

Anthony Roman

ADR Recording

Michael Letho

Re-recording Mixer

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Supervising Sound Editor

Evan Benjamin

Studio Coordinator for Sound Lounge

Rob Browning

Digital Intermediate Services Provided by

Goldcrest Post

Colorist

Scot Olive

Online Editors

Boon Shin Ng
Katie Hinsen

Digital Intermediate Technical Supervisor

Timothy Spitzer

Digital Intermediate Producer

Jeanne Sison

Translation Song Lyrics

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Youk Chhang, Phoung Chan Pranith

English Subtitles

Pyramid Translation Service, LIM Ratha

French Translation

Pia Wallgren

English Subtitle Editor

Leo Sacks

Interview Interpreters

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Veronica Bauer, Ashley Blewer, Ryan Cadrette, Lauri Lawton, Jimmy Rodriguez, Hilary Walker

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Robert Seigel, Esq.

Additional Legal

Andrew Lewis, Esq.

Drew Patrick, Esq.

Production Interns

Maaik Holvast

Tanushree Sekhri

Archival Sources

ABC Newsvideo Source

AP Archive

Gerald Bastelica

BBC News Archive/T3Media
Bophana Audiovisual Center
British Pathe
Barry Broman
Bettmann/Corbis Images
OK Bunnarath
Buyout Footage
Cambodian Vintage Music Archive
CBS News Archive/T3Media
Srey Channaret
Korngvann Chhy
Critical Past
DC-CAM
E-Footage
Getty Images
Ho Chi Minh Cinema Department
Ho Chi Minh Television
Sovannet Nate Hun
IMMF
INA
Monash University
NBC News Archive
Roland Neveu
Oddball Film + Video
Sublime Frequencies
Token Media
U.S. National Archives
Vanderbilt Television News Archive
Chhorvuthi

We wish to thank His Majesty, the late King Norodom Sihanouk, for the use of his films.

Cambodge 65
Joie De Vivre
Enchanted Forest
Apsara
Shadow Over Angkor
Crepecule
Prachea Komar Pal

Thanks

Sara Alexander
Porter Anderson

Stephane Arrii
Drew Bertola
Kirsten Bodensteiner
Gary Bowden
Kor Borin
Jim Browne
Greg Cahill
Darren Campbell
Xan Cassavetes
Dave Catching and
The Rancho De La Luna
John Chapman
Beni Chhun
Davy Chou
Cecily Cook
Gaetan Crespel
Seng Dara
Jim Denault
Matt Dillon
Valerie Dumagnieux
Stuart Ellis
Cedric Eloy
Roland Eng
Joe Foley
Peter Freeman
Mark Gergis
Gia Giasullo
Michael Grenadier
Michael Hayes
Frank Huffman
Ethan Holtzman
Crystal Hul
Hutch
Don and Narin Jameson
Adriene Jenik
Rick Kaplan
Michael Krause
Bun Leng
Paul Lovelance
Dan Ly
Kan Lyna
Mark Maloof

Ruben Martinez
Jeff Mase
Aline Scott-Maxwell
Johnny McGinley
Rachel Melman
Roselinda Nhem
Rossel R. Nhem
Chhom Nimol
Kong Nai
Carl Off
Tim Page
Rithy Panh
Sopheha Pel
Sopheap Pich
Arn Chorn Pond
Sally Pope
Rick Ross
Mike S. Ryan
Chorvy Saphan
Taun Sarath
Hurley Scroggins
Steven Sebring
Sambo Sek
Paul Smith
Kov Sochea
Mu Sochua
Hok Sokol
Chhang Song
Chea Sopheap
Kulikar Sotho
Sarada Taing
Ian White
Senon Williams
Victoria Williams
Cate Wilson
Chi-Hui Yang
Peng Uy
Dickon Verey
Qudy Xu

Asian Cultural Council
Aspeca Orphanage

Cambodian Film Commission
Cambodia Living Arts
Kapko Restaurant
Kolab Sor Hotel
Le Lezard Bleu Art and Design
Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Cambodia
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
National Radio of Cambodia
The Sleuk Rith Institute
The United States Embassy in Phnom Penh
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Songs

“Waiting Wedding”

Performed by Huoy Meas

Composed by Mer Bun

“Dance”

Performed by Pen Ran &

Dara Chhomchan

“First Dance Khmer Dance”

Performed by Pen Ran

Composed by Voy Ho

Arrangement by Has Salon

“Enchanted Forest”

Written and Performed by

Prince Norodom Sihanouk

“Hopeless”

Performed by Sieng Di

Composed by Has Salon

“Phnom Penh”

Written by Prince Norodom Sihanouk

“Sound of the Rain”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“The Night We Met”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

& Siengi Di

Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Waiting For You Everyday”

Performed and Composed by

Sinn Sisamouth

“I Kiss to Dry Your Tears”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“J’Attendrai”

Written by Dino Oliveri,

Bernard Poterat and Niño Rastelli (ASCAP)

Appears Courtesy of Southern Music Publishing/

Peer Southern Organization

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Souvenir Souvenir”

Written by Cy Coben

Published by Delmore Music Company (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Universal Music Publishing

Performed by Johnny Hallyday

“Pepito”

Performed by Keo Montha &

Cambodian National Military Orchestra

Written by Art Truscott and Carmen Taylor

“Champa Battambang”

Performed and Composed by

Sinn Sisamouth

“S.K.D.”

Performed by Baksei Cham Krung

Composed by Mol Samim

“We Say Yeah”

Written by Peter Gormley

Bruce Welch and Hank Brian Marin

WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

Performed by Cliff Richard and the Shadows

“Pleine Lune”

Performed by Baksei Cham Krung

Composed by Mol Samel

“Mini A Go-Go”

Performed by Pen Ron

Arranged by Oum Dara

Lyrics by Siv Son

“A Go-Go”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Navy”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Thavary”

Performed and Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

Arranged by Mer Bon

“Adios Maman Cherie”

Performed by Baksei Cham Krung

Composed by Mol Samel

“The Story of My Love”

Performed by Chhuon Malai

“The Sound of Music at Midnight”

Performed by Mao Sareth

“Unique Child”

Performed by Huoy Meas

“Love Only You”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth &

Ros Serey Sothea

“Sohka’s Song”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

“Batear Hill”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

Arrangement by Has Salon

Lyrics by Ma Laopi

“Offering To Your Satisfaction”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

“New Life”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

Composed by Voy Ho
Arranged by Has Salon

“Agnn Chergn Roim Sa Ravann”
Performed by Sos Math

“Kom Ken Tver Avey (Don’t Be Angry)”
Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

“Tevy Changes Her Mind”
Performed by Sinn Sisamouth
& Ros Serey Sothea

“Hand in Hand, Eyes on Eyes”
Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Good Evening Sekang”
Performed by Huoy Meas
Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Everybody Needs Somebody to Love”
Written by Bert Berns (BMI), Jerry Wexler, and Solomon Burke
Published by Sony/ATV Songs LLC (BMI), FLM, and Sloopy II Music
Performed by Wilson Pickett

Song Title Unknown
Performed by Liv Tek

“Oye Como Va”
Written by Tito Puente
Published by EMI Full Keel Music (ASCAP)
Performed by Chea Soveun

“The Betrayal”
Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

“Crazy Loving You”
Performed by Drakkar
Written by Touch Tana

“Do You No Wrong Again”
Performed by Drakkar
Written by Touch Tana

“Monkey Doing The Monkiss”
Performed by Pen Ran
Composed by Has Salon

“Pa’em Nas Snaeha”
Performed by Pen Ran

“Rather Die Under the Woman’s Sword”
Performed and Composed by
Yol Aularong

“Navany”
Performed and Composed by
Yol Aularong

“Jis Siklo”
Performed and Composed by
Yol Aularong

“Chase Out the Vietcong Leeches”
Performed by Thet Sombath

“I’m 16”
Performed by Ros Serey Sothea
Composed by Voy Ho

“You’ve Got a Friend”
Written by Carole King
Published by Colgems-EMI Music Inc. (ASCAP)
Performed by James Taylor

“You’ve Got a Friend”
Performed by Pou Vannary

“Svay Chanti”
Performed by Chhuon Vanna

“Whiskey, Whiskey”
Performed by Yol Aularong

“Pka Reek Ler Maeyk”
Performed by Ros Serey Sothea
Composed by Voy Ho

“Chan Reastngai Trong”
Performed and Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Workers of the Salt Field”
Performed Unkown

“Khmer Rouge National Anthem”
Performer Unknown

“Luang Laom Oun Pong”

Performed by Sieng Vanthy

Composed by Voy Ho

“Ga Oun Neang Rom”

Performed and Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

Arrangements by Has Salon

“Kraumom Thang Bey”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea,

Pen Ran & Huoy Meas

“A Jar of Alcohol”

Performed by Meas Samon

“Don’t Believe Him”

Performed by Meas Samon &

Sinn Sisamouth

“Oh Phnom Pehn”

Performed by Cheam Chansovannary

Composed by Keo Chenda

“Formations Fade Away”

Performed by Keout Ran

“Khmer Youth”

Performed by Rock Star Team

Composed by Soun Piseth

“Rocking The Heart”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Kom Smang Bong Plech

(Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten)”

Performed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Tomorrow is Sunday”

Performed and Composed by Sinn Sisamouth

“Bong Ban Jet”

Performed by Ros Serey Sothea

“Dance A Go-Go”

Performed by Sieng Di

“The Engagement”

Performed by Meas Samon

“Baae Bong Meun Netta”

Performed by Maos Sareth

& Drakkar

Don't Think I've Forgotten
is dedicated to the resiliency
of the Cambodian people.

For Sothea