

CAMBODIA

T O W N F I L M F E S T I V A L

FRIDAY 9/11 • SATURDAY 9/12 • SUNDAY 9/13



WWW.CAMBODIATOWNFILMFESTIVAL.COM

Film is a powerful force that preserves culture, fosters understanding and experiences outside our own. We thank the filmmakers and storytellers who bring these narratives to life, the sponsors who support this important work, and the audiences who stay engaged and committed. All your voices keep the history and imagination alive.

We also extend our gratitude to the volunteers who return each year, making this event possible, and to the sponsors whose support sustains us and allows CTFF to highlight our communities. As we celebrate this 12th year together, we are still grateful and honored to share this journey with you, creating stories and memories that will last for years to come.

LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

Caylee So and praCh Ly

AMBASSADOR

Angelina Jolie

CTFF MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Rithy Hanh and Soup Pha

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Vibol Hou	Daron Ker
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Tony Te	Herman Askew
Andy Eap	
Sophin Zoe Pruong-McCreery	
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VOLUNTEERS

Brooklyn Kiep	Khemarith Em
Chan Lori Tagudar	Makkasen Em
Chanmealea Thou	Makkasen Has
Dahlynn Roeun	Marc Robinson
Demetrius Tien	Maurice Yim
Elijah Frank	Chimnazaekpere Nwala
Elizabeth Keo	Nirorth Chhan
Emme Kiep	Nisah Tep
Heidi Hou	Patricio Tagudar
Hritu Barua	Phirin Keo
Jaerith Pel	Safeara Ny
Kathie Ny Hach	Socheata Has
Sinara Sagn	Soup Pha
Boreth Saron	Angel Bermudez Vong
Vanny Vong	Thommanon Thach

BLESSING DANCE: MODERN APSARA COMPANY - FEATURING

Chakra Sokhomsan , Sariah Sum , Baron Lim, Rane Prak

CLOSING PERFORMANCES FEATURING

Shelly Than, Nite Samneang, Maryann Than, Khanongsak Phaiboon

CTFF 2026 Opening Reception:

Reflections of Time



 **FRI, SEPT, 11**  **7: PM / 6:30** Red Carpet



Sophy's: Cambodia Town Food & Music
3240 E Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach, CA



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FOUNDATION OF LONG BEACH



CAMBODIA TOWN
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CAMBODIA TOWN FILM FESTIVAL.COM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH 2026

12 - 3 PM | "The Stories We Tell" + Opening Ceremoney



"The Stories We Tell" (Short Narratives) (123 Minutes)

Child of The Rouge (14:36 min) Director: Taz F. Stark	We Belong Here (15:32 min) Director: Anna Lian Tes
Homecoming Waves (24min) Director: Sothea Ines	Ran Som (12:16 min) Director: Richard Dang
Canvassing (11:02 min) Director: Matty Chang	Khmerican (19:45 min) Director: Jimmy Chhiu
The Last Revision (23.32 min) Director: Sivthong Ung	

Q&A Moderated by **Kathryn Lejuene**

4 - 6 PM | The Old Man

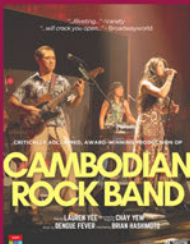


The Old Man (Feature) (98 Minutes)

When a lonely widower realizes his grown children have phased him out of their lives, he stages an elaborate deception to lure them back to their childhood home, forcing a confrontation with the family's fractured past.

Director	Producer	Starring	
Somchanrith Chap	Leak Lyna	Tep Rindaro Som Sary Taing Meng Bella Danith Bella Danith	Lucci Lucci, Hailey Pheng, Som Sary, Kim Vandysonanea Kim Vandysonanuth

6:45 - 10 PM | Cambodian Rock Band



Cambodian Rock Band (Feature) (140 Minutes)

The archived filming of their last show from the East West Players theatre performance. This play, written by American playwright Lauren Yee, follows the Cambodian genocide through the perspective of a musician father during the regime and his daughter in present-day. The production features original music by the band Dengue Fever.

Q&A Moderated by **Munika Lay**

Director	Music Direction	Video Production	Starring	
Chay Yew	Matt MacNelly Jane Lui	Brian Hashimoto	Kelsey Baehrens Abraham Kim Tim Liu	Jane Lui Joe Ngo, Daisuke Tsuji

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 2026

12 PM - 2 PM | Southeast Asian American Journeys



Directors

Quyen Nguyen-Le
Jova Lee Grande
Oanh-Nhi Nguyen

Southeast Asian American Journeys (Feature Doc) (70 minutes)

Presented as a feature documentary with five chapters, SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNEYS follows different refugee communities across the US, from Montagnard in North Carolina to the Lu Mien in Oregon. Interviews with California Vietnamese mamas with queer kids, a collective of Southeast Asian vendors at FDR Park, canvassing youth, and Hmong farmers who trade crops with their neighbors, unearth untold unique refugee stories.

Q&A Moderated by Kanica Suy

3 PM - 6 PM | Freedom Writers | Awkun



Awkun (Short Doc) (12:21 min)

A fisherman navigates to the reservoir in his boat before dawn. A merchant woman barbecues skewered fish from the same waters. A group of young monks accepts offerings, eats, prays, swims, and takes a boat out to the temple. Through everyday moments, Awkun draws attention to the often-overlooked relationships that bridge sacred and urban spaces, from past to present.

Director: praCh Ly

Produced by: The Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art for 'Vishnu's Cosmic Ocean' exhibit.

Freedom Writers (Feature) (125 min)

Erin Gruwell, a young teacher in a racially divided Los Angeles school, inspires her class of at-risk students, deemed incapable of learning, to learn tolerance, apply themselves, and pursue education beyond high school.

Director

Richard LaGravenese

Writers

Richard LaGravenese
Freedom Writers
Erin Gruwell

Starring

Hilary Swank,
Patrick Dempsey
Jaclyn Ngan

Q&A Moderated by Marc Robinson

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM | "The Stories We Told" + Closing Ceremoney



"The Stories We Told" (Short Docs) (138 minutes)

Next Up, Lin Sun (20:55 mins)

Director: Jane Alcala

Cat's Tale (21:17 min)

Director: Em Butler

God Also Like Donuts (9:32 mins)

Directors: Mood Infinite, Kelsey Tang

Broken Courage (75 min)

Directors: David Peck,
Nathanael Draper

Q&A Moderated by Julia Huynh

Filmmaker Highlights



Sothea Ines

Director: Homecoming Waves

Sothea Ines is a Cambodian filmmaker and screenwriter with over a decade of experience in narrative and educational media. She specializes in compelling stories addressing social issues like sexual health, human trafficking, and cultural heritage. Recognized with the Woman of The Future Award (Art & Culture, Southeast Asia, 2025), her notable works include the short film RICE (Best Film, Tropfest SEA 2014), Love Bliss Life (First Prize, Cambodian National Short Film Festival 2021), and Homecoming Waves (Winner, International Film Camp, Hong Kong International Film Festival 2024). She has also participated in prestigious international labs, such as Locarno Open Doors.



Jane Alcala

Director: Next Up, Lin Sun

Jane Alcala is a Los Angeles writer and filmmaker drawn to stories that highlight life's comic and tragic absurdities. She produced two independent feature films before directing her debut documentary, "Next Up, Lin Sun," which follows a stand-up comedian's story of reinvention. Jane is currently collaborating with several award-winning writers and filmmakers.



David Peck

Co-Director: Broken Courage

David Peck is the founder and director of SoChange, a social enterprise focused on leadership development, innovation, and entrepreneurship for the corporate and NGO sectors. A professional magician, he also created the award-winning children's television show Spellz and launched the Mosquitoes Suck Tour in 2008, a global youth initiative that entertains, educates, and advocates.



Nathanael Draper

Co-Director/Editor/Cinematographer: Broken Courage

Nathanael Draper is a B.C.-based filmmaker passionate about telling stories that challenge perspectives. His film Shiraz, inspired by his journey to Iran in 2014. He believes engaging stories not only entertain but also encourage audiences to reframe their perceptions of others in the world around them.

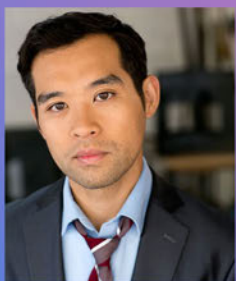
Filmmaker Highlights



Erin Gruwell

Writer: Freedom Writers

Erin Gruwell has earned an award-winning reputation for her steadfast commitment to the future of education. Her impact as a teacher attracted Hollywood's attention, and in 2007, Paramount Pictures released *Freedom Writers*, starring two-time Academy Award winner Hilary Swank as Erin. The film is based on *The Freedom Writers Diary*, the New York Times Bestseller that chronicles Erin's extraordinary journey with her 150 high school students who dubbed themselves the Freedom Writers in homage to the Freedom Riders of the Civil Rights Movement. Erin later founded the Freedom Writers Foundation.



Joe Ngo

Actor: Cambodian Rock Band

Joe Ngo is a Khmer-Chinese American actor/writer/musician who most notably originated and developed the role of Chum in Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band*, with productions at South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Off-Broadway at the Signature Theatre in NYC for which he received an OBIE award for his performance.

Speaker Highlight



Charya Burt

Charya Burt is a master dancer, choreographer, vocalist, and teacher of Classical Cambodian Dance. After the Khmer Rouge genocide, she trained with Cambodia's foremost surviving dance masters, toured with the Royal Dance Troupe, and served on the dance faculty of Cambodia's Royal University of Fine Arts before emigrating to the U.S. in 1993. She has devoted her life to reviving classical Cambodian dance, preserving its movements, gestures, and repertory, and strengthening cultural identity for Cambodian-Americans, training thousands of students nationwide through residencies in cities including Chicago, Stockton, and Long Beach. Her honors include being an inaugural Dance/USA Fellow, a 2022 Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellow, and an Isadora Duncan Award recipient.



Celebrating the Arts

The Port of Long Beach is proud to help bring the creative visions of the Cambodian community to Long Beach at the Cambodia Town Film Festival.

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Traditional Arts
(ACTA)

**MODERN APSARA
Company**

Founded in 2022 by Mea Lath, the Modern Apsara Company (MAC) is the premier Cambodian performing arts company based in Long Beach, California dedicated to connecting the modern world to the magic of Cambodian classical dance. From performances, training, and workshops, MAC approaches each occasion as a unique opportunity to showcase the beauty and resiliency of Cambodian art and traditions.

MAC OFFERS

Transcendent Performances
Authentic & Intentional Training
Interactive Workshops

CONTACT US

(562) 810-1219
info@modernapsaraca.com
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Save the *Date*

CAMBODIA TOWN PARADE & CULTURE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2027
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The Cambodian Family

www.cambodianfamily.org

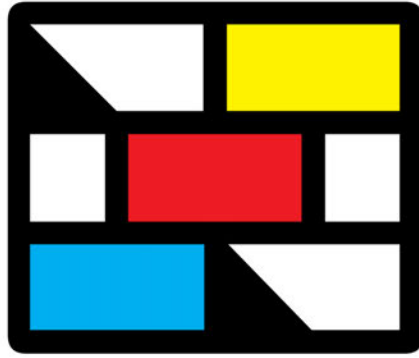


Vibol Hou

Genocide refugee to 2x Emmy Award-winning Chief Product and Technology Officer, Pioneered and scaled free ad-supported TV tech from \$0 to \$1B ARR.

Twelve years shows that the Cambodia Town Film Festival is a cultural cornerstone of the Long Beach community. Storytelling is vital to our Cambodian ethos: it creates a shared memory, allowing future generations to be inheritors of history and authors of what comes next. What makes this festival meaningful is that it brings together filmmakers, families, students, artists, and the broader community around Cambodian stories that might otherwise go unseen. Kudos to Prach, Caylee and all the volunteers that make this magical festival happen year after year.

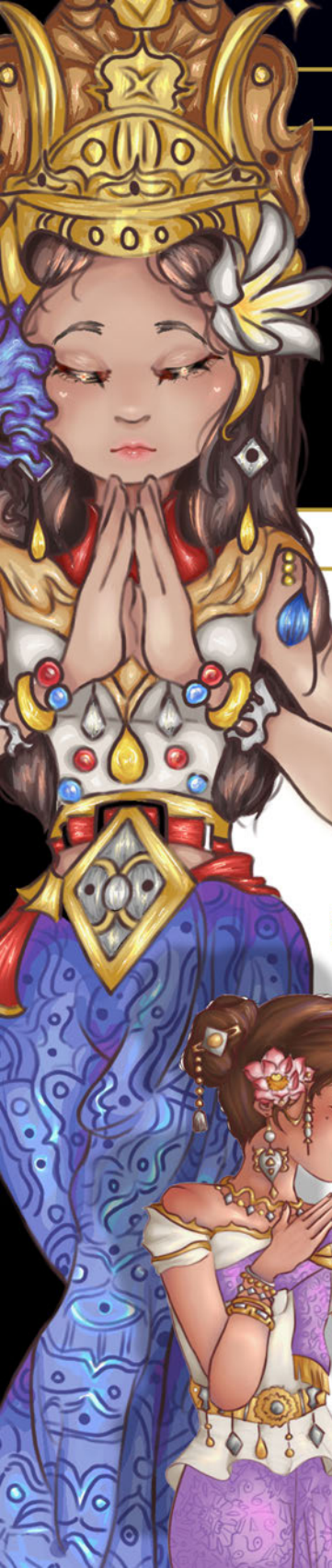




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