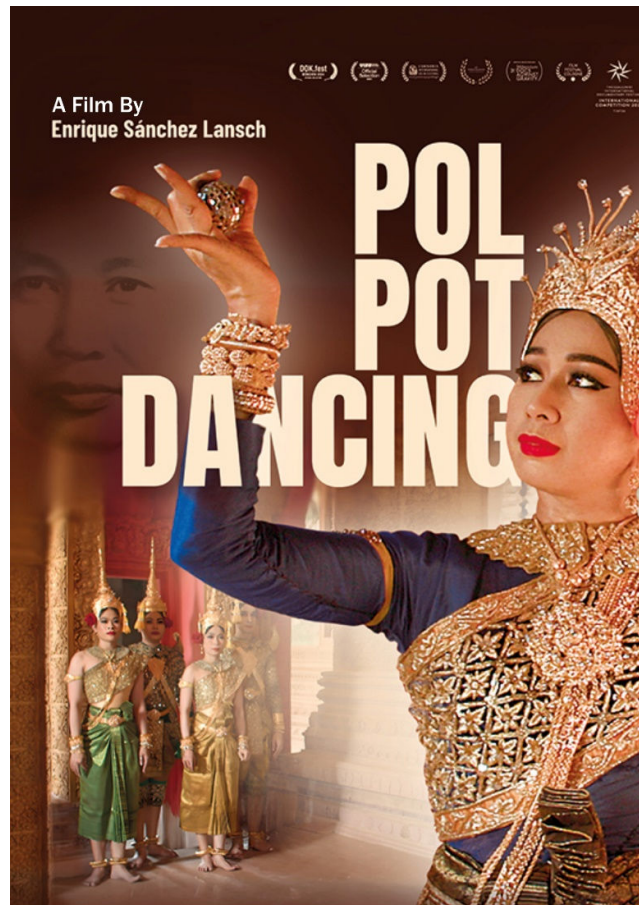


POL POT DANCING



A FILM BY
ENRIQUE SÁNCHEZ LANSCH

101 mins / 2024 / Khmer, English, English Subtitles / Germany & Norway



EPF MEDIA GROUP, LLC
324 S. Beverly Drive, PMB 437
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(323) 301-3663
Website: www.epfmedia.com
Email: larry@epfmedia.com

FILM FESTIVALS

**BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – SAN FRANCISCO DANCE FILM FESTIVAL, USA
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CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, CAMBODIA
EBS INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL (EIDF), SOUTH KOREA
INDONESIAN BERTUTUR DANCE FILM PROGRAM, INDONESIA
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, CANADA
GIJÓN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, SPAIN
FILM FESTIVAL COLOGNE, GERMANY
DOCUTAH INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL, USA**

SYNOPSIS

Chea Samy was a renowned soloist in Cambodia's royal dance ensemble in the 1930s—and Pol Pot's foster mother. After marrying his older brother, she raised him as her own until he vanished into the underground. In 1975, like millions of Cambodians, she was forced into labor, only realizing years later that the boy she raised was the Khmer Rouge leader. One of the few dancers to survive, she returned to Phnom Penh to teach, preserving traditional dance. Her student, Sophiline Cheam, now a successful choreographer, explores Cambodia's past, including Pol Pot's little-known connection to classical dance.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"He would sort of advertise his upbringing and he would not give away that he was in any way connected to the dance or in any way connected to the Royal Palace. His version was a very modest one anybody could have had in any province, this kind of upbringing. If there are two basic pillars of Cambodian culture that everybody relates to, it's the dance and it's Angkor [Wat], the ruins of the temples of Angkor. Even the people who don't go to see shows regularly or never practice the dance, they really cherish this kind of dance and really look up to it and really look up to the persons who devote their time to performing this kind of dance. So, to destroy this dance was really destroying part of the identity of the country. [Samy] particularly liked him, so he was practically the son she always wanted to have. And, so, she put all her love into him, but also took care that he had every possibility that otherwise only children from a high bourgeois family would have in terms of education. Some Cambodians [in that era] might've heard him occasionally on the radio, but people were rarely exposed to his face. It's totally believable that three years into the Khmer Rouge regime, many people would not know what he looked like. This was never written down. There was never like a bible, how you do this dance training. It was really given from one teacher to the next teacher. So, if you break that oral tradition by killing everybody involved, then it's gone."

Enrique Sánchez Lansch
Deadline March 12, 2024

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

A trained singer himself, Spanish-German director Enrique Sánchez Lansch often deals with music in his films. His award-winning documentary films include *The Reichsorchester* on the Berlin Philharmonic in Nazi Germany, *Piano Encounters* on a childhood at the piano, *Rhythm Is It!* about 250 dancing teenagers which sold 650,000 tickets in German theatres and recently *A Symphony of Noise* about musician, music producer and activist Matthew Herbert.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Concept Writer & Director
Producers

Co-Producers

Editor
Director of Photography
Colorist
Sound
Sound Design & Re-Recording Mixer
Music and All Instruments
Additional Music
Choreography
Additional Choreography
Assistant Director
Camera Assistant
Assistant Editors

Line Producer
Production Manager
Production Manager
Unit Manager
Production Coordinator
Production Assistant
Production Assistant
Film Management and Accounting
Accounting Assistant
Intern
Interpreter
Costume & Make-Up
Hair Dresser
Musician Ceremony

Helper
Additional Sound
Additional Camera Assistant
Archive Pre-Edit
Additional Music
Drum Set

Enrique Sánchez Lansch
Arne Birkenstock
Laryssa Stone
Christian Aune Falch
Torstein Parelius
Ingrid Galadriel Aune Falch
Julia Oehring (BFS)
Marcus Winterbauer
Tom Chr. Lilletvedt
Patrick Veigel
Sølve Huse-Amundsen
Christoph M. Kaiser & Julian Maas
Marthe Belsvik Stavrum
Sophiline Cheam Shapiro
Ok Prumsodun
Annika Franke
Elisabeth Sophie Caic
Gary Feuerhake
Stephan Lentzsch
Marlon Wenzel
Robin Müller-Paulus
Anke Trojan
Arne Birkenstock
Laryssa Stone
Snorre Hovdal
Rattanak Dyna
Victoria Herzog
Maike Carstensen
Janna Lichter
Kirsten Schauries
Jochen Langer
Paul Ulmer
Vireak Hoeung
Nim Kakada
Pin Bros.
Kem Rithy
Phat Sophat
Nil Sinoeun
Pov Sovann
Sieng Sophamarady
Pascal Capitolin BVFT
Jacqueline Hochmuth
Mechthild Barth

Stian Lundberg

Viola
Jigsaw, Percussion
Music Mixing
Archive Producer
Commissioning Editor ZDF / Arte
Post Production Manager
Office Manager
Additional Sound Effects and Foley

Additional Ambience Recording
Post Production
Graphic and Title Design

Inhouse Producing
Project Manager
Managing Directors

Translation

Subtitles

Karoline Vik Hegge
Marthe Belsvik Stavrum
Jørgen Meyer/Ambolt Audio
Sharon Hammou
Kathrin Brinkmann
Manh Tung Pham
Oddleiv Vik
Sander Stedenfeldt Olsen/Syncpoint
Sigurd Ekle
Bjørnar Hopeland
Act HeadQuarter Media GmbH
Nico Cronau
Helen Kingate
Svenja Bender
Arne van Lessen
Andreas Fröhlich
Robert Groß
Rattanak Dyna
Annika Franke
Srey Pech
Textimbild Köln