

His Dream. Their Destiny.



SURVIVING BOKATOR



CINEBOXX FILM & TELEVISION INC. PRESENTS A MARK BOCHSLER FILM "SURVIVING BOKATOR" FEATURING SAN KIM SEAN THAROTH "LITTLE FROG" SAM DARITH UNG BUNTHA LENG AND VATH CHAMROEUN
SOKKOUNG CHEA SOU MALA ENG REACHVAN ANGKOR SAN PRODUCED BY SANDRA LEUBA SENIOR EDITOR KEVIN SCHJERNING DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BOCHSLER EDITORS FAISAL LUTCHMEDIAL TAMARA SCHERBAK AND JOSEPH JOHNSON-CAMI
WRITTEN BY KEVIN SCHJERNING FERNANDA ROSSI FAISAL LUTCHMEDIAL TAMARA SCHERBAK COMPOSED BY ADRIAN ELLIS MUSIC BY CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARK BOCHSLER

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Cineboxx



WHAT STARTED AS A GENOCIDE SURVIVOR'S DREAM TO REVIVE AN ANCIENT SPORT BECOMES AN INSPIRING MISSION TO HEAL A NATION

“This documentary is a unique piece that highlights a valuable part of Cambodian cultural heritage and spotlights hope for its future.”

-- Prach Li, CEO, Cambodia Town Film Festival

“The documentary will have an important social impact on Cambodian families everywhere who are experiencing similar challenges”

-- Tony Lai, CEO, Khmer TV USA

“It speaks to the generational divide between pre- and post-Khmer Rouge people that is felt in our community today. We would honestly be honored and privileged to have that film screened for the museum.”

-- Randy Kim, National Cambodian Heritage Museum, Chicago

“We are grateful to the filmmakers Mark and Sandra to invest much of their own time and resources to document this important journey for Cambodians and the world”

-- Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General, National Olympic Committee of Cambodia

“I know nothing about the world of martial arts, but I truly fell in love with your film. You get to the absolute root of who a person is and what they're about.”

-- Rosalyn Kahn, Author, TED Speaker

“Finding out the real story of how Bokator came back to life is very touching and very meaningful to the Cambodian people”

-- Loy Te, Cambodian Film Producer “Jailbreak”



ABOUT THE FILM

SURVIVING BOKATOR is a heartfelt story about reclaiming cultural identity and building bridges between generations.

Filed over 5 years, the documentary follows the journey of Grand Master San Kim Sean, a survivor of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, as he struggles to revive Cambodia's traditional martial art of Bokator, and preserve it in the nation's youth.

BACKGROUND

Forty years ago, Bokator and other traditions were nearly eradicated by the Khmer Rouge who set out to 'purify' Cambodia of its past and usher in a new society. Teachers and cultural leaders were put to death. Martial art masters were also hunted down and killed.

Bokator was a uniquely Cambodian martial art which mimicked animal fighting styles. It was borne of the great empire which built the famous World Heritage Site of Angkor, and for generations remained a symbol of Cambodia's strength and pride until its decimation. An estimated 2 million people perished in the 'Killing Fields', the devastating effects can still be felt today.



Surviving Bokator gets to the very heart of the generational fracture happening in Cambodian communities around the world today, between genocide survivors determined to revive and maintain traditional ways and Cambodia's millennials looking to forge anew.

“I believe this film can contribute to community healing by opening lines of dialogue between generations, a socially valuable outcome.”

-- Shawna M. Lesseur, University of Connecticut

SOCIAL RELEVANCE



THEMES IN THE FILM

- Importance of culture and identity from the direct account of those who have lost it.
- The collective national trauma that impairs survivors forty years after the genocide. Suspicion, anxiety and anger continues to affect relationships and personal success.
- The rise of Cambodia's youth and their determination to break from traditional power and gender roles and modernize the nation.

Inspired by the determination of Cambodians and the grassroots movement to save their threatened heritage, I initially set out to make the film to capture this unique moment in Cambodian history, a new cultural renaissance.

Yet, a couple of years into this story, unexpected events happened putting Bokator's revival mission at risk. The reasons behind this were important to explore in order to provide context. And through that discovery, deeper themes emerged giving the film greater scope and purpose.

Surviving Bokator is the only feature documentary capturing Bokator's revival, a real account of the challenges Cambodians face as they struggle to reclaim their fading past from the genocide generation now passing away. In this way, the film will serve as a national and world cultural heritage record, promoting Cambodian culture internationally.

Universally, the film has great social relevance and potential for impact. It illustrates directly the critical value culture and identity hold to us all. In today's global climate of war and conflict, it is also an inspiring catalyst for the healing that we wish to see worldwide, the ability of a people to steer through adversity and to recover from devastating loss.

-- Mark Bochslor, Filmmaker

“This is our culture, our tradition and documenting its revival in modern time is of true value to us, the Cambodian society”

-- Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General

National Olympic Committee of Cambodia

10K FOLLOWERS

on SOCIAL MEDIA ahead of our release



OUR AUDIENCE

GROWING OUR BASE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Continuing to identify and REACH OUT TO KHMER COMMUNITIES outside Cambodia.
USA: California, New Hampshire, Texas, Boston, Chicago, etc.
Canada: Toronto GTA, Montreal, Vancouver.
Europe: France & Germany.
- ACTIVELY ENGAGE these primary Khmer stakeholders through awareness campaigns, speaking engagements, local screenings and public discussion forums.
- Globally PROMOTE BOKATOR through the film to martial arts leaders and organizations like the Martial Arts Museum, USA.
- BRIDGE TO OTHER PEOPLES affected by conflict, genocide and Holocaust. In particular the Jewish community who have approached us about screenings.
- MUSEUMS focusing on Asian culture or Genocide, as most have theatres and a committed community of patrons and philanthropists.
- COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY cultural groups

SINCE WE BEGAN FILMING *SURVIVING BOKATOR*, we have been steadily building a community of supporters. In Cambodia, many of the youth featured in the film or part of our crew, have grown to become celebrities and cultural leaders, influential advocates for *Surviving Bokator*.

Internationally, we continue to build relationships within Cambodian communities abroad, as well as martial artists and organizations who are discovering Bokator as an art form for the first time.

Now the interest in *Surviving Bokator* is reaching far further, into other communities who have experienced culture loss or trauma.

Watch what our demographically diverse test audience near Los Angeles, California have to say. Many found their own family stories in the character journeys of the film.

<https://tinyurl.com/BokatorAudience>

FOR CAMBODIANS

Our successful test screening and community networking campaign in Cambodiatown, Long Beach, CA revealed to us greater value and impact of the film for Cambodians.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Help to bridge the gap between survivors of the genocide and their children born after, using the film to facilitate discussions to promote healing.

EMPOWERING YOUTH SEEKING SELF-IDENTITY

Foreign-born Cambodian youth of refugee families that grew up in the culture of their host country, are now coming of age and seeking self-identity through a discovery of the rich cultural heritage of their parents.

CHALLENGE NEGATIVE STIGMAS ABOUT CAMBODIA

The film provides a fresh, inspired and hopeful perspective on the Cambodian experience in a news and media environment which continues to enforce the negative associations of genocide, corruption, poverty, etc.



DISTRIBUTION PLAN

In addition to maximizing our reach with our niche audience, we are partnering with established distribution and outreach companies utilizing their expertise in marketing, distribution, and publicity.

We expect to reach more than 3 million viewers across all major channels, from theatrical to grassroots screenings, national and international television broadcast and online platforms.

PHASE ONE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

Commencing Spring 2018

- Cambodian Premiere March 2018. Cambodian International Film Festival
- World and International Premieres at tier one film festivals in North America, Europe and Asia.
- Screenings at mid-range and niche film festivals across all continents to increase exposure and receive awards.

PHASE TWO THEATRICAL

Commencing Fall 2018

- Following the festival season, screenings at indie and art-house theatres across major North-American cities focusing on core audience populations.
- European cities with large core audiences.
- Key Asian cities, specifically targeting Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan where there is a strong interest in Cambodian culture.

PHASE THREE BROADCAST TELEVISION

Late 2018 / Early 2019

- Wider coverage through broadcasters is in the works for first and second window airing. Broadcast agreements are still being worked out and details can be disclosed later.
- In discussions with CBC Documentary Channel (Canada), PBS (USA), NHK (Japan), Al Jazeera, CNEX (Taiwan), ZDF (Germany), BBC Storyville, (UK).

PHASE FOUR VOD / EDUCATIONAL

Early 2019

- Release the film commercially through iTunes, Amazon, Netflix, and Google Play
- DVD distribution
- Drive traffic through institutional partnerships, earned media, and web advertising
- Respond to request from Educators to use film in teaching curriculum. Create accompanying workbook for students.

OUR STORY



What began in April 2010 as a small film project to follow an unknown martial arts team from Cambodia to their first competition on the world stage, became a life changing journey taking us around the world to promote Cambodian culture.

MARK BOCHSLER - DIRECTOR

Mark is an accomplished Canadian cameraman & photographer, turned filmmaker. During his 25-year career, his work has been screened internationally at festivals including Cannes, and television (ARTE, Animal Planet, Discovery, CBC). Mark is fuelled by a passion to explore diverse stories about the human journey which can bring much needed empathy to today's fractured world. He lives in Toronto, Canada with his partner in life and adventure, Sandra Leuba.

SANDRA LEUBA - PRODUCER

Sandra has acquired experience in a wide range of roles in scripted and non-scripted film projects, and represented several film projects at international film markets. Over the last 7 years, she dedicated her focus to producing *Surviving Bokator*, which brought many unexpected challenges. When she's not exploring her passion for filmmaking, Sandra keeps one foot planted in the financial industry and is currently Senior Manager, Global Credit Project at RBC Wealth Management.

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Mark J. Bochsler

SOUND RECORDIST

Sandra Leuba

SENIOR EDITOR

Kevin Schjerning

EDITORS

Joseph Johnson-Cami

Faisal Lutchmedial

Tamara Scherbak

STORY CONSULTANTS

Ricardo Acosta

Fernanda Rossi

COMPOSER

Adrian Ellis

SONGS BY

Cambodian Space Project

Jan Mueller



GETTING INVOLVED

Surviving Bokator is thankful to its partners and is partly supported by organizations, corporations, educators and individuals passionate about Cambodia and the Cambodian cultural experience. Now we are in need to raise the final funds necessary to complete* the film on time for its Cambodian premier in March 2018.

Your support will go towards: archival footage, music rights, music composer, sound design and mix, color correction, and delivery requirements for theatrical screening.

We hope for your sponsorship or personal donation; we offer custom sponsorship packages to meet your needs and providing you with wide exposure. Please contact:

SANDRA LEUBA
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PRODUCTION COMPANY
CINEBOXX Film & Television Inc. Toronto, Canada

Length 48/52-min TV / 90-min Theatrical
Format Original HD1080 / Screening DCP
Language English and Khmer with subtitles
Completion March 2018

 @bokatorfilm

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