



Cambodian Coordinating Council (Cam-CC)
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To Whom It May Concern

Cambodian Coordinating Council (Cam-CC) was founded as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization IN 1999. Cam-CC seeks to advocate for Cambodian Americans, to preserve Cambodian culture and to communicate this with the world.

The film production, Surviving Bokator, is imperative for the preservation of the Cambodian culture and how it was impacted by the cultural revolution and genocide in Cambodia at the hands of the Khmer Rouge (1975-1979). The film clearly brings to light the relationship of the old and new generations through the Cambodian traditional martial art, Bokator. Through this martial art, that nearly died out with the Cambodian people, this documentary is crucial and strategic into bringing back hope that the Cambodian people can and will survive, as will the Bokator art. This film is a strategic and exceptional tool to raise awareness of Cambodian history and the Bokator.

On behalf of Cam-CC, I proudly and enthusiastically endorse the production of Surviving Bokator documentary. I believe your backing of the production team for Suviving Bokator will help bring this project to completion. They have almost completed this production but are in need of your generous support to be able to deliver this message to the world.

Sincerely,

Very truly yours,

Rev. Sopheak Kheng
PRESIDENT
Cambodian Coordinating Council
www.cam-cc.org



P.O. Box 4601 Lakewood, CA 90711 Tel. 562-372-3788, www.khmertv.com, contact@khmertv.com

November 13, 2017

Dear Mark and Sandra,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity for a prescreening of the near-completed documentary ***Surviving Bokator***.

I found this film very intriguing. I expected a film about the revival of the Cambodian martial art of Bokator which in itself would have been interesting and important, but it is so much more.

It showed the importance of reviving Cambodian culture, introduces Bokator to the audiences and the reasons why it is nearly extinct. And all through a deeply personal journey of Grandmaster and his students, including their intergenerational struggle, all playing out on screen by real people.

The documentary will have an important social impact on Cambodian families everywhere who are experiencing similar challenges as their youth come of age. It is a common theme that parents who don't speak about their trauma yet continue to be governed by it, and the youth who are trying to understand their own place in the world while fighting for a stake in it. *Surviving Bokator* takes us to deeper levels of the human relationships and their evolution as for example Grand Master towards the end admits that even he can make mistakes.

Surviving Bokator represents Cambodia very positive, and displays beautiful visuals and cultural nuances. It will spark positive dialogues among generations. I give it two thumbs up ;-).

I want to thank you both very much for taking the time to create this historic movie. I will promote this film and the importance to get this completed among my Cambodian in order to help you find sponsors.

Best regards,

Tony Lai
Khmer TV USA.

Beautiful response from Randy Kim, board member of the Cambodian Museum in Chicago. I will ask him if we can quote him in our press release and website. Anything else you would like from him at this time?

M

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Randy Kim** <randy@cambodianmuseum.org>

Date: Fri, Nov 10, 2017 at 10:35 AM

Subject: Re: Surviving Bokator film - sneak peek

To: maya bastian <maya.cam.bastian@gmail.com>

Hi Maya,

I was able to watch the film late last night, and I was blown away. The cinematography was excellent as was the background, music, and visuals. I never knew anything about Cambodia's martial arts history, and it was greatly moving to hear it talk about the genocide and its impact on this art (while without spending too much time on the Khmer Rouge but only doing it when in context with Bokator). I was especially moved hearing the journey of the grandmaster who brought it back to life, and the painstaking labor of trying to get it recognized in Cambodia, and how he had fostered his own relationships with his students which has been one of triumph and conflict. It speaks to the generational divide between pre and post generation Khmer Rouge folks that is felt in our community today. I thoroughly enjoyed the film. My colleague Lyk who is a board member also enjoyed it, and felt it was important that the film had a message between our generational gaps. She mentioned how she heard of the Bokator school and wanted to make a visit there, and had the same sentiments as I did. I'm awaiting a few more responses, but so far, I'm glad I got to watch it, and I would honestly be honored and privileged to have that film screened for the museum.

Randy

CAMBODIA

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The work in progress documentary *Surviving Bokator* was chosen as an official selection this year for the fifth annual Cambodia Town Films Festival (CTFF) in Long Beach, California. It was selected from among a competitive pool of submissions as one of the films with the greatest artistic merit, cultural value, and potential to resonate with the Cambodian Town community.

In its rough-cut version, *Surviving Bokator*, was well-received by our committee members and later our festival participants, particularly for its compelling character development and timely content. As an international community, Cambodians are currently experiencing a cultural revival of the many artistic traditions devastated by the Khmer Rouge during the genocide (1975-1979). This film follows members of both the old and new generations as they learn to work together to build a future for one such art with deep historical roots, the traditional Cambodian martial art Bokator.

After the festival screening, the filmmakers requested feedback from the audience and CTFF committee members to inform their final edits and the ultimate vision for their documentary. Committee members who have seen revisions already in progress are pleased to see that these perspectives and insights have been taken to heart, giving the Cambodian-American community a meaningful voice in how the final cut will take shape.

We hope that you will support the ongoing work of the *Surviving Bokator* filmmakers as they complete this project. This documentary is a unique piece that highlights a valuable part of Cambodian cultural heritage and spotlights hope for its future.

Sincerely,



Cambodia Town Film Festival Committee

Co-Directors Caylee So and praCh Ly

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my pleasure to watch the film *Surviving Bokator* take shape over the last several months, and I look forward to screening the final cut in years to come. This documentary is about two generations of Cambodian people struggling to build their lives in a post-genocide community by embracing and renewing the Bokator martial arts tradition. As a scholar of genocide film, I recognize this to be the first documentary of its kind. Avoiding a didactic narrative arch, over-simplified conclusions, or stereotyped representations of subjects, it depicts the challenges, hopes, histories, and future potential of real people. This is timely and vital because the Cambodian and Cambodian-American communities are finally openly grappling with the historical legacy of the genocide and its lingering consequences.

One of the most engaging elements of this film is the tension and misunderstanding between generations. While generational conflict is a universal experience to which many viewers might connect, this film is compelling in its narration of the specific Cambodian experience of the genocide and decades of silence about the atrocities afterwards. I expect it to be well-received because, unlike many other films, *Surviving Bokator* effectively balances recognition of history with a focus on how Cambodians are building hope for the future.

Beyond its artistic entertainment value, *Surviving Bokator*, has potential as a community and educational resource. Shown at venues such as the Cambodia Town Film Festival, I believe it can contribute to community healing by opening lines of dialogue between generations, a socially valuable outcome. It's also possible that the documentary could increase awareness and interest in Bokator, supporting the subjects' goal of keeping the art alive. As an educator in multiple academic fields, and a teaching and learning specialist, I find this film is attractive because it allows for meaningful consideration of a wide variety of questions about the Cambodian experience, leadership, genocide, and the human condition.

Sincerely,

Shawna M. Lesseur

Web: shawnalesseur.com

From: Kenya prachmuaythai@yahoo.com
Subject: From Kenya Prach
Date: November 14, 2017 at 2:26 PM
To: leubasandra@cineboxx.net

Thank you so much for making this film. Surviving Bokator is not a film about fighting but bring to the world an awareness about our ancient tradition of Bokator, a very important part of Cambodian identity, heritage and pride. Bokator was given to us by our ancestors of the great Khmer empire who learned it by watching animals fighting and defending.

This film is very valuable to the people of Cambodia because it is an ancient art that is part of our heritage. It is also very important for the many young Cambodians who do not know about many Cambodian traditions including Bokator.

It is important for Cambodians that this movie is internationally seen as it will allow spreading our proud and fascinating Cambodian culture to other.....that Cambodia was one a very strong country and Bokator is on of the main reasons why. But the film will also allow people understand the hardship and struggle our people had to go through and the difficulties to reconcile now, even decades after the Genocide.

This film unique because it shows the root of Cambodian martial arts. Many please do not know that Bokator is the father of muaythai.

Kenya Prach

650-438-2794

Sent from my iPhone