

ສົມຈຽນີສຸກເລີກາລອຸກຮັ

Chant of the desert flower

PRESS KIT

WHERE PAIN ENDS,
LOVE BEGINS...





LOGLINE

A young man journeys to meet his mother for the first time, confronting the painful origins of his birth and opening a fragile path toward healing...

A young man with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and a blue hoodie, sits in a brown patterned armchair. He has a thoughtful or slightly sad expression. In the foreground, the hands of a woman are visible, reaching towards him. The background shows a window with curtains.

SYNOPSIS

A young man prepares to meet his mother for the first time, a woman shaped by a traumatic past and the circumstances of his birth. As they come face to face, an awkward and fragile conversation unfolds, revealing unspoken pain, longing, and questions carried for years. Through hesitant words and shared silences, mother and son begin a quiet journey toward understanding and healing, choosing connection over the weight of the past.

DIRECTED BY SOPHEA KIM

Sophea Kim is a Cambodian filmmaker who has been working in film since 2007. Passionate about storytelling through the cinematic form, she brings Cambodian culture and perspectives into a globally resonant language. Her work, spanning short and feature films, explores contemporary Cambodia at the intersection of tradition and modernity.



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DIRECTOR STATEMENT

In 2013, I encountered "Stormmaker "by Guillaume Suon, a documentary film tracing the fragile lives shaped by human trafficking. Among its many faces, one image stayed with me: a young boy, born from rape, his eyes bright and unknowing, holding a future already marked by pain. I saw myself in that silence.

Having lived through a similar shadow navigating trauma within the weight of tradition and judgment. I first turned to poetry. Words became a refuge, then a bridge. That poem slowly transformed into a film.

This project is my offering: a quiet love letter, reaching beyond borders, toward those who carry unseen wounds an attempt to soothe, to hold, and to remind them they are not alone.

This story is not confined to one place. It exists quietly across the world, often unspoken, carried in heavy silence.

"Chant of the Desert Flower" leans toward love rather than pain. It unfolds like a lullaby; gentle, intimate, following a mother and son bound by trauma, yet reaching for tenderness and resilience. Through still, lingering frames and unhurried movement, the film holds both distance and connection. Soft hues of pink and green wash the screen, inviting peace, compassion, and empathy.

Nature and music breathe alongside the characters, while the grandmother's voice echoes tradition and memory.

At its center, Borith embodies a quiet strength challenging how we see survivors. Through his journey, the film becomes an invitation to reflect, to soften, and to believe that even in the shadow of violence, love can still grow.



RITHY PANH, PRODUCER

Throughout my career, I have sought to mentor the next generation, helping young artists grasp the profound power of images and the art of storytelling both on the page and through the lens. Today, I can say with complete confidence that Ms. Sophea Kim has reached that level of maturity. She now possesses the vision, skill, and emotional depth to create universally resonant and deeply moving stories of her own.

Her latest project, *Chant Of The Desert Flower*, confronts one of humanity's most harrowing realities: the enduring trauma of rape and its devastating aftermath. At its core, the film is a fierce indictment of a world in which victims are forced to suffer twice first at the hands of their perpetrators, and again under the weight of societal judgment and silence. The mask that appears throughout the film serves as a haunting poetic symbol: it conceals the victim's face from the gaze of others, yet it also represents the suffocating roles that society imposes on those who have been abused. One may learn to bear one's own pain, but changing how the world looks at you is infinitely harder.

As a humanist, I find it intolerable that, in far too many countries today, perpetrators walk free while survivors are shamed and ostracised. *Chant Of The Desert Flower* lays bare this global injustice with unflinching clarity and poetic force. I have always believed that the truest power of cinema lies in its poetry the capacity to help human beings rise above atrocity, reclaim their dignity, and imagine a more just world.

A STORY WITH A STRONG ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

Sarita Reth

Delegate Producer

I believe in using film to speak for those who have been silenced. As a delegate producer of Chant of the Desert Flower, being part of Sophea's story is more than a project it is a mission to bring truth, empathy, and understanding to the screen.



Rynet Ma Main Actress

It has been an honor to portray a woman whose voice was never heard, one who carries what so many are unable to express. Through her silence, I found a truth that belongs to more than just one story.



Setsochhata Sin

Vocal Artist

My goal for "Lotus Lullaby" was to honor that inspiration while scoring the emotional reunion between a mother and her long-lost son. I hope you can feel the story and the heart behind every note.



Sopheap Nhem Painting Artist

The encounter with Sophea Kim's film project « Chant Of The Desert Flower » creates a perfect combination that shall provide a powerful voice to women's perspectives on contemporary society's issues.





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Chant of the desert flower

NARRATIVE SHORT

Release date: March 2026

15 min, Drama Fiction, Color, DCP 5.1, 24fps, 16:9

Original Voice: Khmer

Subtitles available: English, French

Written and Directed by: Sophea Kim

Production: Anupheap Production (Cambodia)

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Ser Chhay Tan

STARRING

Rynet Ma
Norak Satya Vong

PRODUCERS

Rithy Panh
Credic Eloy
Sarita Reth

ORIGINAL ARTWORK

Sopheap Nhem

ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE

Sin Setsochhata
& Euan Gray

PRINCIPLE CREW

Cinematography: **Pilarski Aymerick**
Assistant Director: **Phong Sopheaktra**
Image Editor: **Socheat Cheng & Aulissa Ty**
Sound Engineer: **Nicolas Volte**



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FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

Cambodia International Film Festival (24-29th March 2026, Cambodia) - Official Selection

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2026 (May 25th - June 10th, 2026, Japan) - Live-Action Asia International Competition

54th Huesca International Short Film Festival (June 5-10th, 2026, Spain) - International Competition

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

ATTWOOD

OXFAM in Cambodia

Fonds Image de la Francophonie

(Jury Congratulations)

ANUPHEAP
PRESENTS

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Chant of the desert flower

A FILM BY
SOPHEA KIM



ANUPHEAP PRODUCTION A SOPHEA KIM FILM PRODUCERS RITHY PANH SARITA RETH CEDRIC ELOY FRESHWATER SER CHHAY TAN
STARRING RYNET MA NORAKSATYA VONG CO PRODUCER BANDINI FILMS ASSOCIATE SOVANDARA LY JEAN-CLAUDE BOELENS BENJAMIN RIGLEY
PARTICIPATION OF OXFAM CAMBODIA IMAGE BY PILARSKI AYMERICK, A.F.C. ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY SOPHEA NHEM ORIGINAL SCORE BY SETSOCHHATA SIN AND EUAN GRAY PRODUCER BOLUNY ROS
PRODUCTION SOPHY RIN POST-PRODUCTION BY RACHANA BUON SOUND BY NICOLAS VOLTE EDITOR SOCHEAT CHENG MANAGER CHAMRONG CHEL DIRECTOR SOPHEAKTRA PHONG



GET IN TOUCH

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Social media (Instagram)

Chant of The Desert Flower

<https://www.instagram.com/chantofthedesertflower2025/>

Production

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Phnom Penh, Cambodia

<https://anupheapproduction.com/>