



CAMBODIAN MEMORY BANK

Cambodian Memory Bank

In line with 72-13's International Centre of Asian Arts (ICAA) and TheatreWorks enhancing Singapore's artistic reputation internationally, there will be collaborations between 72-13 and TheatreWorks. The first in 2006 will be the Cambodian Memory Bank.

In February, TheatreWorks turns the focus on Cambodia. Two programmes which examine the history and politics of Cambodia will allow audiences to delve into the heart of Cambodian history and society.

72-13 ICAA Presents

SEAMS OF CHANGE

CLOTHING AND THE CARE OF THE SELF
IN LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY CAMBODIA

**Talk by Ly Daravuth, Co-Founder and Co-Director
of Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture**

23 February 2006, Thursday

6.30pm - Exhibition opens

7.30pm - Talk by Ly Daravuth

Join us in this talk as Ly Daravuth provides an insight into the Cambodian Memory Bank project which Reyum Institute embarked on in 2002. Daravuth will also discuss about *Seams of Change* and its relationship with contemporary Cambodia.

Light refreshments will be served after the talk.

Free admission. Please RSVP to nicole@theatreworks.org.sg by 20 February 2006.

Exhibition Hours

24 February – 19 March 2006

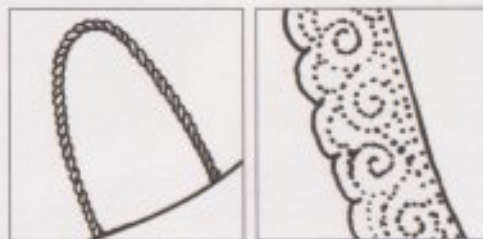
12pm – 8pm (Tue – Sat)

12pm – 5pm (Sun)

Close on Mon

Free admission

72-13



Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture, Cambodia embarked on a Cambodian Memory Bank project in 2002 where oral histories of elderly Cambodians were collected. This memory bank aimed to collect the memories of ordinary elderly Cambodians from the time they were young to the present. Through the recollection of each individual, an “unofficial history” of Cambodia presented itself.

By drawing from the data base collected and conducting more specific interviews (especially with women), the focus shifted to the theme of clothing and the care of the self. This resulted in an exhibition, *Seams of Change*, which showed what people wore, how they sewed clothes, and how they took care of their bodies more than one hundred years ago, before the arrival of “modern” commodities.

Seams of Change illuminates a time when people generally turned to their immediate environment for what they needed. The focus is on the clothing of ordinary people rather than on the special clothing of the rich or the royal.

Exhibits at this exhibition will include line drawings of the clothes the Cambodian people wore in the 19th and 20th century, photographs of these clothes as well as the different types of cosmetics used during that period. From the exhibition, we will begin to see the politics and history of Cambodia unfold.

Seams of Change was invited by Ong Keng Sen to be part of *The Flying Circus Project (Special Edition 2005, Yokohama)* which was presented at the *Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art*, (September – December 2005), in Yokohama, Japan.

THE CONTINUUM BEYOND THE KILLING FIELDS

TheatreWorks Presentation at

Dansens Hus, Stockholm, Sweden
10 & 11 February 2006
www.dansenshus.se

Dansens Hus, Oslo, Norway
17 & 18 February 2006
www.dansenshus.com

"Bright red blood which covers the towns and plains of Kampuchea, our motherland, sublime blood of workers and peasants, sublime blood of revolutionary men and women fighters!" - National anthem during Khmer Rouge bloodbath

Based on Pol Pot's massacre of the royal court dancers of Cambodia, this documentary performance is presented in Stockholm and Oslo after Yale University, Singapore, Berlin, Phnom Penh, Vienna, Rotterdam and London. This docu-performance looks at the real life story of seventy-five year old Em Theay, master dancer of royal classical dance in Cambodia. This is a unique form of dance where women cross-dress and dance in male roles. Em Theay has survived the scourge of the Khmer Rouge to live on, teaching her skills to the national troupe after the trauma.

Em Theay, often known as the tenth dancer – the one who survived (nine out of ten court dancers were killed as political prisoners), tells her story personally on stage. Persecuted for being an artist, she never falters, a conscience, a memory of the gash which tore Cambodia apart...after 25 years Cambodia still waits for its war crimes trials to come to fruition.

Conceived and directed by Ong Keng Sen

The Continuum: Beyond the Killing Fields in Stockholm and Oslo marks the second time that TheatreWorks is bringing her works to the Nordic countries after *Search: Hamlet* in Kronburg Castle, Denmark and Copenhagen.



About 72-13

72-13 is the new home of TheatreWorks. A converted rice warehouse, the space is flexible enough to be a gallery, a cinema and a theatre. Its primary purpose will be to foster collaborations, house residencies from creatives around the world and to encourage hybrid creative expressions from young Singaporeans. TheatreWorks, responding to the needs of the creative scene in Singapore, has consciously created 72-13 to have a wider and a more inclusive agenda. This is the first year of the soft opening of 72-13.

About International Centre of Asian Arts (ICAA)

ICAA is a R&D Centre, a performance centre, a forum and a platform for Asia's expression and its relationship to the rest of the world. It recognises the cultural diversity of Asia, and looks at the continuum that is Asia. In particular, the ICAA is about collaborations, research, networking, dialogues across cultures and disciplines. It is a site where individuals from around the world, through residencies and projects, develop the diverse perspectives of a global Asian urban metropolis, its continuities and disruptions with Asian tradition, the multiple contexts of everyday life and how they interact with the practices of Asian artists.

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THEATREWORKS

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