

Our mission is  
to be a catalyst  
in a vibrant arts sector,  
inspiring new  
generations

## Press Release

From Cambodian Living Arts



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEW DANCE SHOW BLENDS CREATION MYTHS, CLASSICAL AND FOLK DANCE, AND STORIES OF CAMBODIA TODAY

The new piece, created by former star of the Royal Ballet  
**VOAN Savay**, will premiere on April 19

**Press Preview this Thursday 5 April**

**Phnom Penh, 2 April 2018** – Cambodian

Living Arts is excited to present a new dance show mixing classical dance, folk dance and storytelling. Created under the direction of VOAN Savay, former prima ballerina in the Cambodian Royal Ballet, and with support from Prince SISOWATH Tesso, current Director of the Royal Ballet, the hour-long show takes the audience on a journey from the creation of the universe and the birth



of Apsara to village life in rural Cambodia today. The premiere takes place on 19 April at 7pm, at the CLA Theater inside the grounds of the National Museum of Cambodia. It will then be on stage 6 nights per week, at 7pm from Monday to Saturday.

The artists behind this unique show belong to a troupe created and nurtured by Cambodian Living Arts especially for this performance. In January 2018 over 70 dancers, musicians and singers auditioned for a chance to be a part of this new troupe. The 30 successful artists have now taken part in two months of intensive rehearsals with *neak kru* (teacher) Savay.

As well as regular employment, the troupe benefit from working with top directors, access to networking opportunities, and regular personal and professional development training provided by Cambodian Living Arts. This is a new model for dance troupes, designed to

maximize the members' personal growth and professional development, as well as the long-term sustainability of the troupe itself.



The show is a program of Experience Cambodian Living Arts, CLA's cultural enterprise. Experience CLA has the mission to provide local and international audiences with captivating and enriching experiences of Cambodian arts and culture, while also creating uplifting employment opportunities for artists. The Dance Show is their flagship program, giving over 20,000 audience members each year a taste of Cambodia's

rich cultural and artistic living heritage.

Artistic Director VOAN Savay said,

*"This is the first step, and I have a hope that this troupe will bring a great performance to the stage – we will get there if everyone has the same hope that I do! For me, I always try to be the best at something, and that is the goal I want to reach...My biggest hope for the future is to see Cambodian arts become as good, as varied, and as valued as they were before."*

Dancer RITH Daro said,

*"I am very excited and a little bit nervous for the new show at the National Museum! There are many things that have been pushing me to keep on going. The love and confidence of the team had helped me to push through all obstacles, and the training has made me strong and also make me know who I am, what I want and what I need. "*

Jean-Baptiste PHOU, Head of Creative Programs at Cambodian Living Arts said,

*"Cambodian Living Arts' new 5-year strategy includes presenting, commissioning and producing original artistic work; and supporting artists to tell the stories of Cambodia today. This new performance has been a great opportunity to do this – it creates meaningful employment for 30 artists, while presenting an original dance show we are sure will delight audiences. We are very fortunate to be working with neak kru Savay and Prince Tesso, and we are truly grateful for their dedication and artistic vision."*

The Press Preview of the new show will be 7-8pm on **Thursday 5 April**. You are invited to come and take photographs/video as required – you are also welcome to bring friends and family, free of charge. Please confirm your attendance to [hermione@cambodianlivingarts.org](mailto:hermione@cambodianlivingarts.org).

The show's soft launch will be on April 6-7 and 9-11. It will break for Khmer New Year and **the official launch will be on April 19**.

For more information, high resolution photographs, and interview opportunities please contact [hermione@cambodianlivingarts.org](mailto:hermione@cambodianlivingarts.org).

## **Cambodian Living Arts**

- Cambodian Living Arts was founded by Arn Chorn-Pond in 1998.
- Cambodian Living Arts is an independent not-for profit organization, based in Phnom Penh.
- Cambodian Living Arts' mission is to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. Cambodian Living Arts believes that are at the heart of a vital society, and envisions the arts and cultural expression as essential to a thriving future for Cambodia.

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