

Story of Preah Ket Mea Lea

The Story of Preah Ket Mealea is a dance drama that was created based on The Poem of Angkor Wat "ល្បើកអង្គរវត្ត." This dance drama was last performed in the 1960s. It was revived by Massachusetts resident Kennis Mor, a senior vocalist for the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, Yann Borin, and his successor, Seiha Oudom. This dance drama has three scenes—the Heavenly Gardens, Exiled By Indra, and The Coronation.

In the Heavenly Gardens, a place of unparalleled beauty, the Queen had just woken up from a beautiful dream about bearing a great and powerful son. She soon arrived with her maids at the gardens near her quarters. They heard a noise approaching from the skies and were frightened. As they looked closer, they realized it was Indra coming from the heavens. Indra bestowed her flowers of blessings, and she was gifted Indra's Son, Preah Ket Mealea.

In the next scene is Tep Soda Chan, a heavenly being from Indra's court. She came down to Earth to bathe. She saw beautiful flowers grown with precious care and picked 5 flowers to bring back to Indras Palace. Indra realized that she stole these flowers without asking the owner and was exiled from the heavens for five years and was forced to marry the owner of the flowers as well. They fell in love, a love transcending the sky, and had a son named Preah Pisonka, who would later be Indras' architect.

In the last scene, Preah Ket Mealea and Preah Pisonka are grown adults. Preah Pisonka helped build Preah Ket Mealea Palace, which we see now in Cambodia (Angkor Wat). During this Holy day, Preah Ket Mealea will be attending his coronation to be the great and powerful king of the land called Kampuchea (Cambodia)

Project Timeline

Starts From April to August

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Overview of Dance, Pick and choose what parts of the story to showcase	Practice and review the story	Practice and review the story	Practice and review the story
Prepare the songbook for the story	Record music in Cambodia	Use the new recording and develop a layout for dance	Costume and fitting
Look in Costume inventory & see what's needed for this project	Use music from archives to practice	Finalize the show minutes and other technical	Walkthrough of performance
Connect with musicians and singers in Cambodia to record the dance audio	Start making accessories and needed items for project	Find a venue or event to showcase the performance	

Proposed Performance Venues

Southeast Asian Water Festival (August)

Vatt Khmer Lowell Temple (October)

Number of Dancers

1. Preah Ket Mea Lea
2. Preah Indra (King of Gods)
3. Preah Pisoka (Indras Architect)
4. Queen Preah Bat Te Vong
5. Tep Soda Chan (Angel)
6. Servants Qty (6)
7. King Coronation Dancers (8)
8. Chinese Farmer

Cost

Recording Music (Break Down)

The music will be recorded in Cambodia by Officials and students at the School of Fine Arts

- Musicians **Total \$900**
 - o Qty (9) will receive \$100 each for their service from 8 AM – 5 PM
- Sound and Recording **Total \$500**
 - o The whole package is \$500; this includes final MP3 audio and editorial files
- Singers **Total \$600**
 - o Yann Borin, Professor of Khmer Vocals and retired singer of the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, will receive \$300 for his service
 - o Qty (2) other singers will receive \$150 each for their service
- Lunch and Food **Total \$100**
 - o An allocation of \$150 will be used to serve lunch and dinner to 20 artists, including musicians and singers.
- Rental of the Hall **Total \$300**
 - o Recording Hall is \$300 from 8 AM – 5 PM
 - o Includes stage, lower stage, bathroom, lighting, and electrical

Recording Music Total Cost \$2400 USD

Dance Embellishments (Break Down)

Embellishments will be produced both in Cambodia and the USA

- Crowns **Total \$800**
 - o Qty (8) cost \$3100 each (Paper Crowns) will be needed to fulfill the character's needs
- Skirts **Total \$420**
 - o Qty (8) cost \$52.50 each to produce
- Male Costumes **Total \$1400**
 - o Qty (4) cost \$350 each, made in Cambodia.
- Female Costumes **Total \$900**
 - o Qty (6) cost \$150 each, made in Cambodia

Dance Embellishments Total Cost \$3520 USD

Teaching and Class and Food (Break Down)

- All teachers are volunteer-based
 - (no cost)
- Class Location (temple space)
 - (no cost)
- Food **Total \$2000**
 - \$100 per class (4 classes a month* 5 months)

Teaching and Class Total Cost \$2000 USD

Total Cost of Project \$7920 USD

Outcomes of Project

Please view the link below to watch the dance drama of Preah Ket Mea Lea

<https://youtu.be/sW06DVe2DaI?si=xF4kRr3-DNb7bRoe>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ElkbNEK3EM&t=885s>

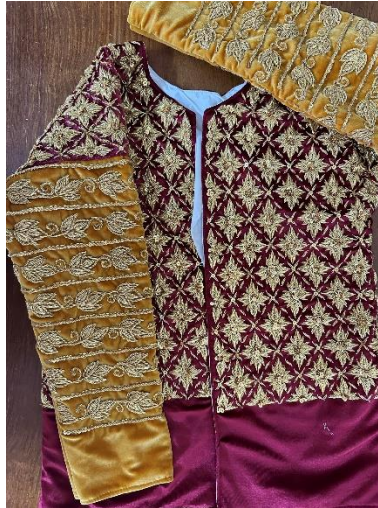
(last performed in this document) (speed to 2:00)

Picture of Story

(Recorded at the boarding house Lowell)



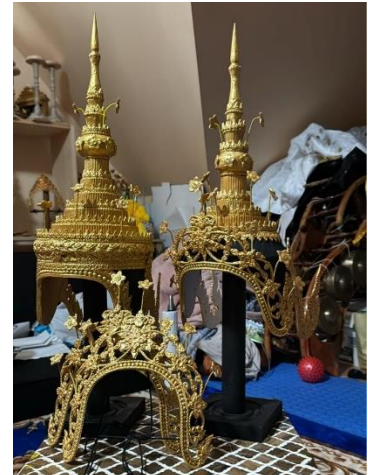
Costumes and Crowns produced for Project



Male costumes matching the Documentation from the 1960s



Female Costume (Skirt and Chest Wrap)



Crowns made in-house by IAC students

Recording in Cambodia

