



Epic Encounters Performance Repertoire 2016

'COME BACK BRIGHTER' (30mins) – A performance about the effect of the Khmer Rouge Regime on the artists of Cambodia and the current explosion of creativity sweeping the country.

In the 1960s, Cambodia was called the “Pearl of Asia” and was full of music, fashion and creativity. But this all came to an end on the 7th April 1975 when the Khmer Rouge took over the cities and killed teachers, intellectuals and artists. Cambodia's vibrant arts scene was destroyed in an instant and only now is it starting to emerge from the ashes. This piece explores the effects of the regime on the arts in Cambodia, by looking at events before, during and after the Khmer Rouge. *(Created in partnership with Amrita Performing Arts)*

'KRAMA' (30 mins) A contemporary dance piece exploring the complex relationship between national pride and national symbol.

The latest piece from Epic Encounters is a direct response to feelings evoked by Cambodia's national symbol, the Krama (a checked scarf). Dancers are pushed and pulled, thrown and thrust – each struggling to find their voice in the midst of its impenetrable force. The piece explores the intertwined and conflicting narratives of a country and a culture torn apart during decades of political turmoil and unrest. It not only explores what this humble yet versatile chequered garment means to Cambodia and its people, but also how it is made. It looks at the rebuilding and remaking of Cambodia, and the bonds formed once the threads interlace.

'THE FOUR FOOTED DOCTOR' (40 mins) is a multi-layered performance piece combining dance, acrobatics, puppetry and shadow theatre based on a traditional Cambodian folktale.

Evoking a time when mythology and superstition were real and believable, The 'Four Footed Doctor' tells the tale of a boy born with no

legs whose story is one of triumph over adversity. Rejected by his family and tossed into the river like a dirty pebble his inspiring journey from boy to man is told in a piece filled with an evocative visual mix of music, shadow puppetry and movement. It is a tale of reconciliation and perseverance that still speaks loudly today. (Choreography by Westside Circus Artistic Director, Susan Broadway.)

'MOTO MOTO' (20mins) - An educational performance piece that raises awareness of road safety in Cambodia and the importance of wearing helmets.

Everyday four people die in Cambodia because of a motorbike related accident. People drive without helmets and also drink and then drive home. Epic Encounters created 'Moto Moto' to make people more aware of these issues and therefore aims to encourage people to think about their own safety and to wear a helmet and drive carefully.

'SAMATAPHEAB' (15mins) – A performance piece that explores disability in Cambodia and celebrates the ability of all people regardless of their physicality.

Epic Arts believes in seeing the ability in someone and not the disability. The organisation celebrates the total inclusion of everyone whether they have a disability or not. Epic Arts does not see disability as something to be pitied, it sees those with disabilities as unique and aims to celebrate their ability through the arts. Many people with disabilities experience discrimination and isolation in Cambodia and 'Samatapheab' aims to challenge the ideas of disability and to encourage people in Cambodia to see the ability in those around them.

'TEACH ME' (15 mins) - A fun and playful performance piece aimed at children and their families in rural villages in Cambodia. (Commissioned by ChumKriel Language School)

'Teach Me' highlights the importance and benefits of education for children. Many children from rural areas in Cambodia do not go to school regularly, if at all, but stay at home to earn money working in the rice and salt fields and help their parents. This means they are not educated and do not develop any skills and cannot find work when they grow up. Eventually they end up with no prospects for a better future and have children of their own and the story repeats. This performance hopes to make children and their families think differently about school.

'TOUCH' (20mins) - An educational performance piece that raises awareness and starts discussion on the issues surrounding child abuse in Cambodia. (Commissioned by LOVE 146)

'Touch' aims is to raise awareness of child sexual abuse in Cambodia and aims to help vulnerable people, especially school-aged children by educating them about what to do if sexual abuse occurs. We hope 'Touch' will help young people and those who work with them to understand about these issues. Because this performance is about child sexual abuse, some scenes may be difficult or embarrassing to watch. This piece is sensitive in its portrayal of abuse and is designed for young children to engage with.

'SAFE LOVE' (20 Mins) – An educational theatre performance commissioned by a German health organisation that teaches young Cambodians about the importance of sexual health.

'Safe Love' follows the story of a young couple in Cambodia. The story teaches the audience about the importance of visiting health centers to get advice and contraception. A light-hearted piece about an important issue for young people in the country. (Commissioned by GIZ)