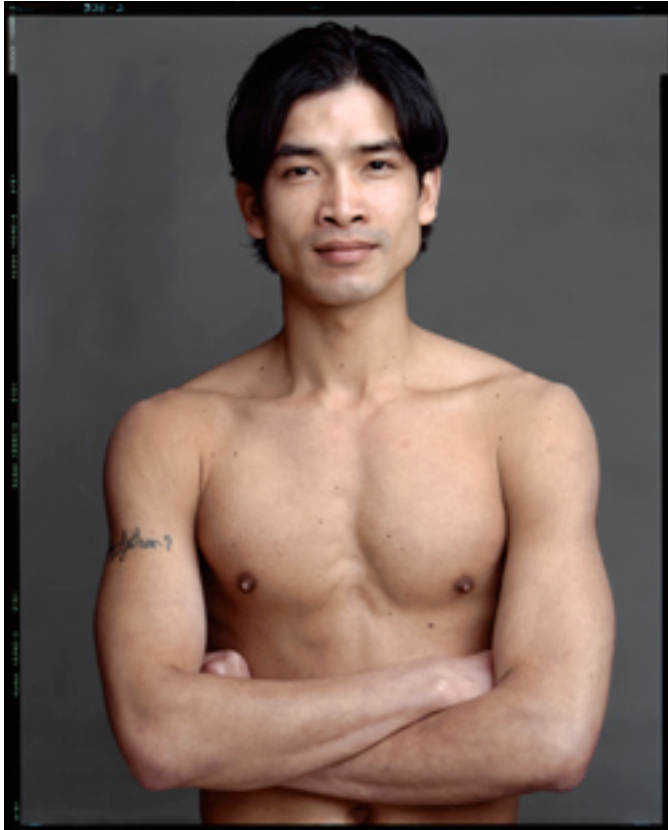


## Los Angeles Times Magazine

### Truth and Beauty

Mayer Rus-April 16, 2010

Sometimes even a bitter cynic such as yours truly likes to take a day off from misanthropy. And that's just what I did the other night when I attended a screening of *Dancing Across Borders*, a documentary by Anne Bass that chronicles the journey of a young Cambodian dancer, Sokvannara Sar, as he leaves his impoverished homeland and makes his way through the elite world of American (and international) ballet.



Faithful readers of this journal know this sort of thing is not my usual fare, but I have to admit I found the film incredibly poignant and beautiful. I've always had a soft spot for tales of adversity, dedication and triumph—whether it be *Sixteen Candles* or something of a more elevated nature—and this film certainly fits the bill. Young Mr. Sar's winning personality and winning smile didn't hurt either. Plus, there's a caricatured Russian ballet instructor, Olga Kostritzky, whose thick accent, tough love and bejeweled sunglasses reminded me of my late mother.

*Dancing Across Borders* is playing through April 22 at the Landmark Nuart on Santa Monica Boulevard. Anne Bass and Sokvannara Sar will appear in person for a Q&A at the 7:30 p.m. showings tonight and tomorrow. Trust me, you'll find it more rewarding than *Hot Tub Time Machine*.

*Photos, from top: , Timothy Greenfield-Sanders*



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**Mayer Rus, Design & Culture Editor**

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