

POINTE MAGAZINE

February 1, 2010: e-newsletter



PNB's Sokvannara Sar, Star of *Dancing Across Borders*, Speaks Out

It's hard to believe that Pacific Northwest Ballet corps member Sokvannara (Sy) Sar, with his clean, unaffected technique, has only been studying ballet for a few years. In fact, the 26-year-old didn't even know that ballet *existed* 10 years ago, when he was discovered by filmmaker Anne Bass while performing with a traditional dance group in his native Cambodia. Bass was struck by Sar's natural ability, and arranged for him to study at the School of American Ballet--thus beginning a remarkable new chapter in Sar's life.

Bass's documentary film *Dancing Across Borders*, which is showing as part of the Dance on Camera festival on Jan 29th and 31st in NYC, chronicles Sar's journey from Cambodia to PNB. ClubPointe spoke with Sar about his transformational journey.

What was your reaction when you first saw the finished film?

Watching myself was a strange and unfamiliar experience--partly unsettling and partly a pleasure. It brought back memories and emotions, and made me think about how much things have changed and how fast time goes.

How do you think you've progressed as an artist since 2007, where the film leaves off?

Working with different dancers and choreographers at PNB has allowed me to grow as a dancer, to mature. But there are still so many things for me to work on. I want to make sure that I can be trusted when I'm onstage.

Do you think you'll ever return to Cambodia?

I have not thought enough about that. Time will tell. But I am Cambodian and Cambodia will always remain important to me.

Pictured: Sokvannara Sar dancing Oberon in Pacific Northwest Ballet's Midsummer Night's Dream. Photo courtesy Rex Tranter.