



## SIEM REAP

### BALLET BEYOND BORDERS

A documentary by dance patron and New York socialite Anne Bass,

**Dancing Across Borders**, chronicles the intimate and triumphant story of Sokvannaara 'Sy' Sar – the first Cambodian to become a professional ballet dancer in America.

Discovered by the millionaire philanthropist on a trip to a Khmer dance performance in Angkor Wat in 2000, Sy was granted a dance scholarship in the US, where he was privately taught by legendary ballet teacher Olga Kostritzky.

The inspirational film charts 16-year-old Sy's progress from a traditional Khmer dancer to the semi-finals of the world-famous International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria (an Olympic level ballet competition), within just eight years. The documentary was initially

pieced together from clips of footage taken by Bass and sent back to Sy's family, but quickly evolved into a film once she realised the potential of the young dancer. Khmer dance is slow, whereas modern Western ballet demands muscular strength, agility and flexibility. "It is very difficult to achieve what he has done especially considering the short time period," Bass says proudly. **Dancing Across Borders** is as much about assimilation

into a foreign culture, sense of belonging and the challenges of linguistic and cultural isolation as about dance and the triumph of one individual.

[www.dancing-acrossborders.net](http://www.dancing-acrossborders.net)



COUNTRY CODE: +855

CURRENCY: RIEL

FLIGHT (FROM/TO BKK): APPROX. 1 HR 10 MINS. FIVE FLIGHTS DAILY (ONE FLIGHT DAILY TO PHUKET)

