bophana Audiovisual Resource Center

NEWSLETTER
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Bophana teaming up for Cambodia

In its new edition, the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center newsletter highlights the work of its enthusiastic staff dedicated to revive memory of Cambodia.
Each archive or document displayed at the Bophana Center is the result of the work of a team of young, dynamic and skilled Cambodians: archivists, digitalization technicians, sound engineers, post-production engineers,… **In total, thirty-two people work there, gathering and sharing priceless historical documents.**

■ Since its opening in December 2006, the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center has collected **more than 20,000 archives, a quarter of which is available for the public in Khmer, English and French.** Thanks to the creation of a tailored database (see opposite focus), thousands of Cambodians have benefited free and easy access to their national heritage.
In the **Archive Department,** there are **five archivists and one translator: Ratana, Sopheap, Leak, Sokthida, Sophorn, Vary.** They have gathered, reviewed and indexed documents and provided guidance for students, researchers, foreign journalists, curious children,… As French writer Daniel Pennac puts it, « You don't force curiosity, you awaken it. »

■ Supporting the making of « tomorrow's archives », the **Audiovisual Department** of the Bophana Center has designed a training scheme to help the structure of the reviving Cambodian film industry. **In two years full of projects and workshops, the Bophana Center has trained a dozen of young Cambodians who are now skilled and highly demanded audiovisual professionals.** They have designed, shot, edited, dubbed and even recorded forgotten songs! They have taken part in the creation of musical records, documentaries, … which will be enjoyed by Cambodian future generations.

■ All these documents have been displayed to the public in the Bophana Center and all over Cambodia, **the mobile movie screening program of the Cultural Events Department.** Its creative team has organized not only open-air movie sessions **but also exhibitions, conferences, debates and living arts.**

Coming events :

October 20-24: Cambodia International Film Festival.

Tickets on sale at the Bophana Center.
More infomation on *www.cambodia-iff.com*

October 27: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
in partnership with UNESCO and the Cambodian Living Arts

Exhibition, Conference, Movies, Concert with musicians from Ratanakiri and shadow puppet show are programmed at the Bophana Center.
More information on *www.bophana.org* in the "News" page

For any request concerning archives and visits (groups or individuals) at the Bophana Center, please send an e-mail respectively to *archives@bophana.org* and *communication@bophana.org*

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Bunchheang at Bophana Center

FOCUS

Bunchheang Chhuoy is an IT engineer from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia and the Institut de la Francophonie pour l'Informatique. He joined the Bophana Center in 2006 and worked at first with two French IT volunteers: Joseph Schwarzbach and Frédéric Rodas. Eighteen months later, he became Head of the IT Department and he is managing the IT staff since then.

The Bophana Center benefited at first from the support of the French Audiovisual National Institute (INA) to get the database Opsis Media (with the Opsomaï technology) and then decided to design its own database. In collaboration with the heads of Archives Department Samia Gest, Sabine Didier and Gaëtan Crespel, Bunchheang had worked with Frédéric Rodas on the creation of Hanuman 2, a brand new database tailored to the needs of the Archives Department.

Bunchheang loves his job. He keeps improving the performance of the database. In 2009, with the partnership between the Bophana Center and the « Imagine » Institute, he went to Burkina Faso to implement there a Hanuman-like database. Always willing to fulfill the needs of the Archives team, Bunchheang just achieved a third version of the Hanuman database. Here is how he presented last July this new version:

« The new interface of the Hanuman database is designed as a gate. It is the gateway to a place full of memory, knowledge and teachings. Like in Angkor temples, when you go through the first door, you access to a place which represents a certain level of knowledge. This place leads to other doors, giving access to extra knowledge, and so on. Hanuman makes you travel into history and into our heritage. »

Talented and very imaginative, Bunchheang has made Bophana's vision a reality: « Giving access to memory ».

If you would like to support our efforts, or if you are in possession of or have knowledge of the existence of documents (video, audio, photo) pertaining not only to the political history of Cambodia but also to its culture, environment, daily life, health, sports, or religion, please do not hesitate to contact our team in Phnom Penh or in Paris.

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