bophana Audiovisual Resource Center

NEWSLETTER
MAY- JUNE 2010
25

A delegation from the Bophana Center traveled to the Cannes Film Festival to present the organization's activities at the pavilion « Les Cinémas du Monde » on May 16. This event was organized by Culturesfrance, of which Rithy Panh and Sandrine Bonnaire were the patrons this year. Sopheap Chea and Leak Nuth were the two research analysts in charge of this important presentation. The Pavilion « Les Cinémas du Monde » is a space where cinematographers, field actors, and institutions can meet, share perspectives, and collaborate. In addition to the Bophana Center's successful presentation, Cambodia was strongly represented at the festival. Honors included the presentation of the Cambodia Film Commission (CFC) on May 18, the signing of a cooperative agreement with the French National Center for Cinema (CNC) on May 19, and the screening of the documentary film *About My Father* by Guillaume P. Suon on May 20.

WHERE ARE WE?

■ **A big thanks to all enthusiasts that responded to our "All-points bulletin" on Cambodian musical heritage.** Your responses are already producing beautiful discoveries. If you own any recording, or even a collection, please do not hesitate to contact us! (archives@bophana.org)

■ **The Bophana Center has been greatly honored to welcome Elizabeth Becker, a former war correspondent at the Washington Post** and the author of " *When the War was Over, The Voices of Cambodia's Revolution and its People* ". Mrs Becker is also the author of the biography of Bophana, the young women who inspired the Center's name. Overwhelmed by the Center's accomplishments, she wrote in the Gold book: "Bophana, she changed our lives. Thank you."

■ **During the first quarter of 2010, 22,709 people have directly benefited from the Bophana Center's activities,** especially its successful touring screenings. The Center now seeks funding for a second screening unit, a project inspired by the demands of the public. The Center also continues to raise awareness regarding the ECCC, the court in charge of the trails of the former Khmer Rouge leaders. Finally, the Center is working towards a new project of screening films in schools in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

■ **On World Environment Day (June 5), the Bophana Center will screen four wildlife films,** including a series of thirteen films by Christophe Gargiulo. This piece discusses endangered species in Cambodia and has been broadcasted on CTN. Discussions with the filmmakers will follow the screenings.

■ **Since April, the Bophana Center has welcomed lecturers Sok Lim Srorn and Im Lim and 26 students from the department of Francophone Studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.** On Saturday mornings they gather at the Center to transcribe archives and translate descriptive notes from French to Khmer for dubbing.

64 street 200, Phnom Penh

Drawing by Kou Dalin, depicting Duch at his trial

FOCUS

First exhibit for the Tribunal sketcher

Kou Dalin is a nineteen-year-old student at the Royal University of Fine Arts. Though she aspires to become an architect, she has received much attention for her fine figure drawings. This shy and serious Cambodian woman first sat in the audience of the ECCC, the court responsible for the former Khmer Rouge leaders, one year ago. An intern from the instruction office that knew of her talent brought her into the audience, suggesting that she artistically represent her impressions of the trials. Here she sketched an audience for the first time. "It's difficult to draw because it's always moving, there's no break", she explained at the time.

Focused and determined to enjoy this new experience, Dalin sketched only with pencils and white sheets. Her portraits were inspired by close attention to the broadcast screens in the courtroom that featured close-ups of hands and wide-angle shots of the court. She also visited the judicial compound where Duch, former Khmer Rouge director of S21, was tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Bophana Center has chosen to display Dalin's works, first outlined in the courtroom and later refined and completed. Her pieces depict each individual that has appeared before the court. The exhibition also documents the trial's events. The verdict against the former director of S21 is expected by the end of June.

Along with the twenty featured sketches, the Bophana Center plans to collect accounts from lawyers, civil parties, artists and journalists regarding Duch's trial. Their written comments will accompany the exhibition, as well as a press review in Khmer, French, and English.

This is also an opportunity for the Bophana Center to showcase some of the Khmer Rouge documents that have been collected and archived in the database, freely available to the public, since 2006. These materials include collections from the Cambodian Cinema Department, documentaries, revolutionary songs, photos, and also the video captions written by the court's technicians. A series of film screenings and conferences is also planned.

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.

IN CAMBODIA
Tel : +855 (0) 92 605 127
Email : arpaa@bophana.org
www.bophana.org

IN FRANCE
Email : aadac@bophana.org