



Dance, and the arts in general, were all but destroyed in Cambodia in the 1970s under Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime. Around 90% of artists perished, taking with them the knowledge previously passed verbally from master to student.

Amrita was founded in 2003 with a mission to help revive and preserve Cambodia's traditional performing arts.

As a reflection of observed shifts in the country's artistic climate, the focus shifted to creating opportunities for young Cambodian dancers, fully trained in Cambodia's classical dance, to explore and define contemporary Cambodian dance.

Today the sector is recovering, but funding for the arts is very limited.

Your support can help ensure the future development of Cambodian dance.

Invest in the Future

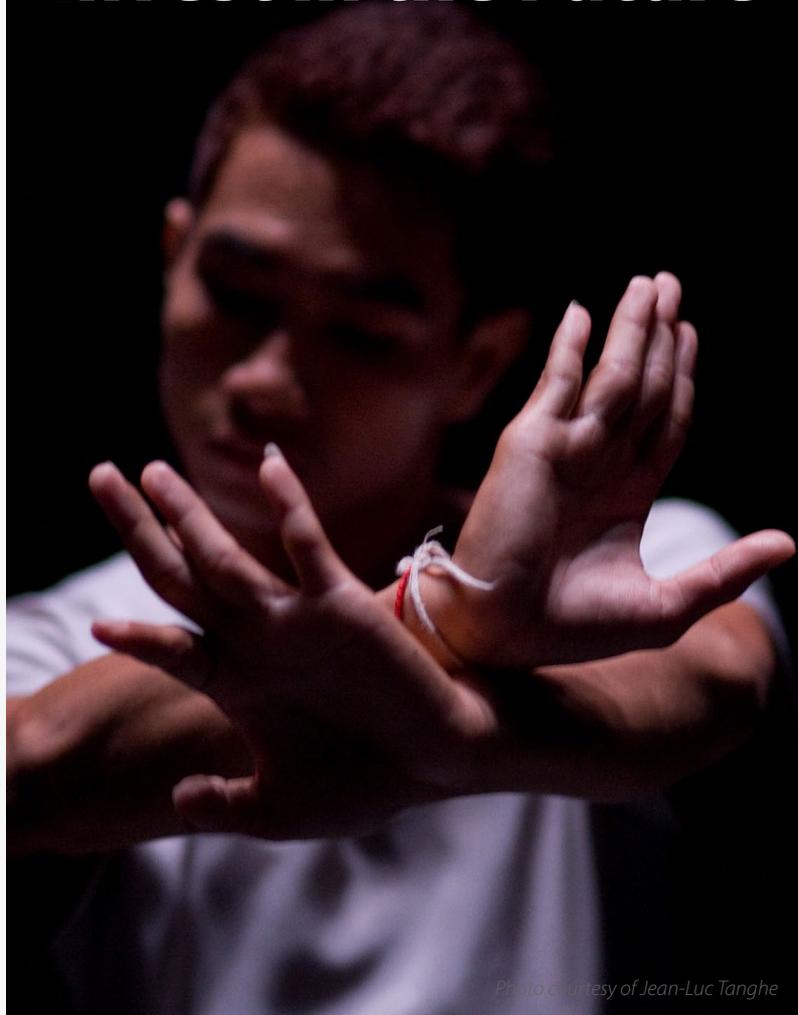


Photo courtesy of Jean-Luc Tanghe

Invest in the Future is a professional development program for Amrita's 16 dancers and choreographers.



Photo courtesy of Anders Ili

- ◆ We support our dancers to earn a real living, allowing them to develop as artists without the worry that so many other Cambodian artists face of having to perform seven days a week.
- ◆ We provide development opportunities for the dancers by bringing established choreographers, carefully chosen for their understanding and respect of our vision, from around the world.
- ◆ We put time and money back into the creative process providing small grants to our artists, to cover rental costs and artists' fees, to allow them to develop their choreographic skills, work together in the studio and explore their practice.
- ◆ We introduce our dancers to international dance companies and facilitate logistics when they are invited to perform abroad. Previous tours have gone to the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, Africa and Asia.
- ◆ For dancers, a healthy, well-functioning and fit body is crucial. Insurance is a relatively new concept in Cambodia and there is a very real fear of health issues causing bankruptcy. We provide our dancers with comprehensive insurance allowing them to continue to dance in the knowledge their bodies are protected.
- ◆ We provide opportunities for our artists to create new work and perform it in public through our Contemporary Dance Platform. Just as importantly, we invite regional dance professionals to attend the Platform, share their experience and offer crucial feedback and critique of the newly created works.

Kethya's story

Kethya is one of Cambodia's top classical dancers and has performed nationally and internationally with the Royal Ballet of Cambodia under the direction of HRH Princess Norodom Buppha Devi.

In 2008, Kethya began working with Amrita which introduced her to contemporary dance, leading to a new appreciation of her artistry and the capacity for expression within it. Contemporary dance gave her a new direction and Amrita encouraged and supported her in all her artistic initiatives and endeavors. Kethya choreographed her new work, *My Mother and I*, which had its world premiere at the Abrons Arts Center, New York in April 2013.

Kethya is currently a Fulbright / Asian Cultural Council fellow pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Choreography at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without the love, support and encouragement of the Amrita family. Amrita Performing Arts introduced me to contemporary dance and has since supported me to follow my dream and develop my career as a contemporary dancer and choreographer."

Chey Chankethya

In July 2014 Kethya will return to Cambodia and become the Artistic Director of Amrita.

This underpins our belief that local leadership is key to the future of this work and places Kethya at the forefront of the contemporary dance movement in Cambodia.



Photo courtesy of Isaac Oboka

How you can help

You can help Amrita's dancers, and our vision to develop and support the arts in Cambodia, by supporting the **Invest in the Future** program.

- \$120** provides health insurance to one dancer for one year
- \$500** funds a one week choreographic workshop
- \$1000** covers international travel to attend regional and international workshops and conferences
- \$3750** supports one dancer through the artist development program for one year
- \$6000** funds a public showcase of work created by emerging Cambodian choreographers
- \$10,000** funds one full Dance Platform including performance, critical discussions with invited dance professionals from the region and professional development for all associated artists.

You can donate via Paypal, direct deposit via your bank, or by check. All donations, large or small, are very gratefully received.

Finally, if you are thinking of visiting Cambodia, we would love to help organize a trip specially tailored to you. Please get in touch.

For more information please contact Hannah Stevens, Associate Director:
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Amrita Performing Arts is incorporated in the United States as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible for US tax payers.



Photo courtesy of Pete Pin