

**TO SEE ANGKOR
AGAIN ...
AND DIE**

**A VIDEO-FILM
BY NORODOM SIHANOUK
OF CAMBODIA**

**CAMBODIA, NOVEMBER
1994**

TO SEE HINGKOR

... AGAIN

AND DIE

A VIDEO FILM
BY NORDOM SEANKOR
OF CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA, NOVEMBER

1975



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SOMMAIRE

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SHORT EXPLANATORY NOTE

BY NORODOM SIHANOUK

I have chosen to present the incomparably beautiful temples and forests of Angkor in the framework of a "romantic" and "sad" story.

ANGKOR at the time of its splendor (Xth, XIth and XIIth centuries) was the setting of a conquering and triumphant Khmer Monarchy.

If "film maker" Norodom Sihanouk had lived at that time, he would not have certainly had the idea to place in the middle of the brand new stone monuments a sad and desperate "story of fiction".

But the ANGKOR of the XXth century, whose Empire disappeared several centuries ago, whose stones have aged considerably, where certain parts have caved in and are covered by an invading tropical vegetation, seems to me to be more moving and captivating in the context of a story in harmony with our national decay of the black years 1970-1990.

I conceived the personality of my Hero (the writer PHURISSA) as a result of this almost desperate situation.

PHURISSA derives from "PHURISSARA", name of one of my cousins, a great patriot, who was, with his family, killed by the Polpotists (Khmer Rouge) sometime in 1977.

Besides, I remain profoundly influenced, at the literary level, by the French writers of the XIXth century (period of the Romanticism) who in their novels have presented certain Heroes, who are cultured and well bred, but whose destinies are sad.

Finally, this video-film "TO SEE ANGKOR AGAIN ... AND DIE" came out of the inspiration given to me by a beautifully illustrated book, whose author (writer-photographer) is my French friend MARC RIBOUD.

In my film-video "TO SEE ANGKOR AGAIN ... AND DIE", I have given words to be spoken by PHURISSA from quotes of very instructive and well written texts by the famous French writer-journalist JEAN LACOUTURE.

These texts are, in effect, extremely useful to the understanding of or to the acquaintance with the far-off and glorious past, of the recent very tragic and bloody past and of the still uncertain present of Cambodia, whose immortal and irreplaceable symbol is ANGKOR.



Norodom Sihanouk
November 1994

**La Société Nationale de Cinématographie
KHEMARA PICTURES
(Fondateur : NORODOM SIHANOUK)**

Vous présente

REVOIR ANGKOR... ET MOURIR

Un film-vidéo de
NORODOM SIHANOUK

DISTRIBUTION

PHURISSA.....ROLAND ENG
SOPHEAP.....MAM KANIKA
MALAY.....SAN CHARIYA
POLEAK.....SINA THAN
Mme SAVATH.....ME MEUN
Prof. Dr. SAMETH.....TRUONG MEALY
Politiciens.....KE KIM SE
CHHORN HAY
KHEK LERANG
(Mme) KE KIM SE
Mme LEAKHA.....SOK SAM ON
Un Etudiant.....MY THOU
Une Etudiante.....CHUON SAN
Un Chanteur-vedette.....PHOK SOM ON

Participation artistique et technique, figuration, etc... :

Des compatriotes du P.P.C., du FUNCINPEC et du
Cabinet/Secrétariat de Sa Majesté NORODOM SIHANOUK

**Synopsis, Scénario & Dialogue en Français de
NORODOM SIHANOUK**

Traduction en Khmer
du synopsis, du dialogue, des citations d'auteurs français, etc...
par TRUONG MEALY

Z. J. V. P.

+

Textes (cités dans ce vidéo-film) de
JEAN LACOUTURE et de MARC RIBOUD

Directeur Général et Régisseur Général :
KONG SOM OL

Directeur technique et artistique :
IEU PANNAKAR

Metteur-en-Scène :
SENG SETHA

Cinéastes-Techniciens :
PROM MESA (Cameraman-en-Chef)
HUY PUTH
YIN PRASITH

Musique de NORODOM SIHANOUK
Musique d'autres Compositeurs khmers
anciens et contemporains

Orchestre : MACCHIM SILAPA
du Ministère de la Culture
(Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge)

Chargée des costumes de MAM KANIKA et de ME MEUN :
SOK SOPHAY

Robes portées par SAN CHARIYA :
de "MONIQUE BAGELA", Paris
(robes offertes par S.M. la Reine NORODOM MONINEATH SIHANOUK)

Je dédie ce film-vidéo au respecté et bien-aimé Peuple khmer.
Je le dédie également à l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient qui a tant fait
pour la renaissance d'ANGKOR.



NORODOM SIHANOUK

Phnom Penh, Cambodge, Octobre 1994

Translated from the French

"REVOIR ANGKOR ... ET MOURIR"

("TO SEE ANGKOR ONCE AGAIN BEFORE DYING")

A FILM BY NORODOM SIHANOUK

SYNOPSIS

- 1- PHURISSA is a very successful author. When he is just about to turn forty, he comes down with an incurable illness . His doctor sadly told him that he only has one year left to live.
- 2 - MALAY, PHURISSA'S beautiful wife, comes from a very rich family. PHURISSA lives at her house, but there is not any true marital bliss, since MALAY has fallen in love with an ambitious politician.

PHURISSA tells MALAY that, according to his doctor, he only has one year left to live, and that before dying, he would like to see ANGKOR one last time.

MALAY approves of his plan, but does not go with him to ANGKOR. She claims that she must stay in PHNOM PENH for business reasons and because of her elderly mother, who is also very ill.

- 3 - SOPHEAP, MALAY's young cousin, has just graduated from medical school. MALAY asks her to help and treat PHURISSA in SIEMREAP-ANGKOR.
- 4 - PHURISSA, once he is back in ANGKOR, is very happy and at peace.

G. J. V. P.

G. Cill

He reads books written by French authors to SOPHEAP, describing the history of the Khmers of ANGKOR and their ancient civilization.

SOPHEAP admires PHURISSA very much.

- 5 - In PHNOM PENH, MALAY and the ambitious politician very much wish to get married. However, since PHURISSA is going to die within one year, they bide their time and hide their "romance" from him.
- 6 - In SIEMREAP, PHURISSA receives a letter from MALAY, who apologizes for not being able to come see him since, according to her, her mother's condition is getting worse and worse by the day.

SOPHEAP admits to PHURISSA that she is hopelessly in love with him.

She takes him to a pagoda, where the monks grant their blessing to PHURISSA.

- 7 - In PHNOM PENH, the general parliamentary elections took place from May 23-28, 1993.

MALAY is very unhappy with her lover and his political party, since she spent a fortune on them and they only managed to win two seats in Parliament.

Since lightning never fails to strike twice, MALAY's mother then dies.

After this, MALAY decides to travel to SIEMREAP-ANGKOR to see her husband, PHURISSA. However, he politely asks her to go back to PHNOM PENH to live without him.

- 8- In ANGKOR, PHURISSA, embracing the sweet and devoted SOPHEAP in his arms, takes one last look at ANGKOR, and then appears to fall asleep. However, he has actually died.

SOPHEAP cries her heart out.

EPILOGUE

Exactly one year after the death of the author PHURISSA, her one true love, Dr. SOPHEAP returns to ANGKOR-VATT to piously visit the places where PHURISSA, accompanied by SOPHEAP, had spend the last few

moments of his life. In ANGKOR-VATT, SOPHEAP revisits the ancient statues of BUDDHA, where she and PHURISSA had fervently prayed. She also sees once again the small, cute boy who played the flute. Like the year before, this adorable boy plays heartrending notes on his flute, music which holds so many nostalgic memories for her. SOPHEAP prays for the happiness and tranquillity of her true love's soul, while the sun is setting.

END

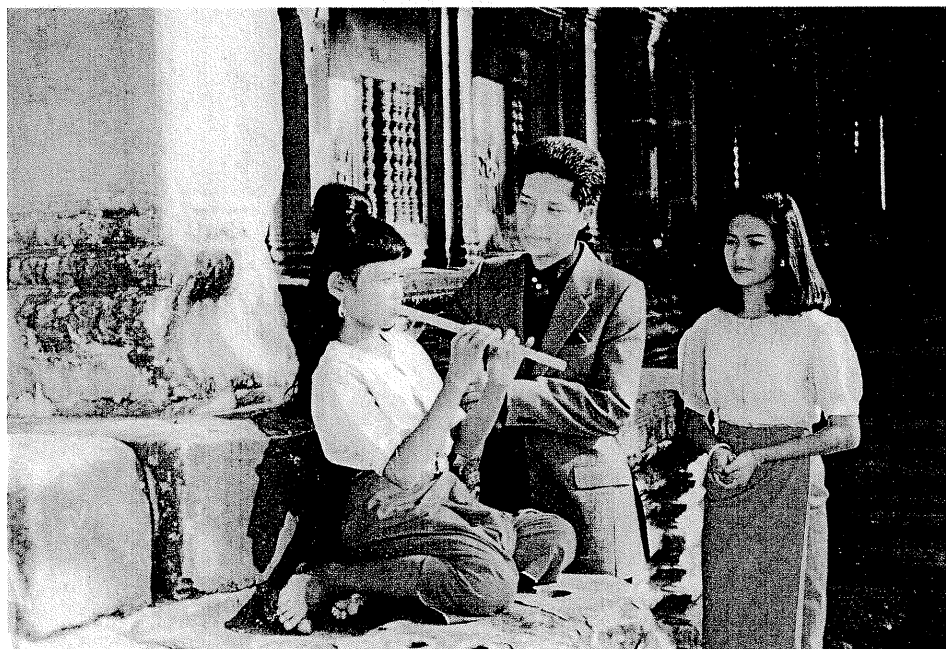
A. C. L.



Photos extraites
du film-vidéo

**"REVOIR ANGKOR
... ET MOURIR"**

de **NORODOM SIHANOUK**
du **CAMBODGE**



"TO SEE ANGKOR ... AND DIE"

* * *

English sub-titles

SCENE I

Prof. SAMET :

"I'm very saddened by this confirmation of Prof. Lemaire on the incurable character of your illness.

"I'm desperate.

PHURISSA :

"I have still one year to live.

"Before dying, I wish to see ANGKOR again, symbol of Cambodia's greatness.

Prof. SAMET :

"I admire your courage. My affection for you is immense.

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* *

SCENE II

A Student (girl) :

"We students love to read your books which give new value to our modern litterature.

A Student (boy) :

"What a chance for us to meet you! May I have your autograph?

An old Lady (Mme Leakha) :

"Mr PHURISSA I'm so happy to meet you.

"Please write some words for me.

"My name is LEAKHA.

PHURISSA :

"Madame, I'm very honoured.

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SCENE III

PHURISSA :

"Darling, I have only one year to live...

"I would like to spend the remainder of my life at Angkor ...

MALAY :

"You don't like Phnom Penh nor my so-called too luxurious

house.

"ANGKOR is your only love.

PHURISSA :

"I love you.

"But what Khmer does not wish to see or see again ANGKOR before leaving this world?

MALAY :

"I have my bank, hotel, supermaket to run...

"and must take care of my seriously ill mother ...

PHURISSA :

"I understand the need you have to remain in PPenh.

"Please care well of your mother".

MALAY :

"My cousin SOPHEAP your admirer has completed her medical studies.

"She will be at your service in Siemreap Angkor.

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SCENE IV

SOPHEAP :

"Surrounded by this tranquillity my life shall be happy.

"With you I shall admire ANGKOR to the fullest.

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* *

SCENE V

PHURISSA :

"Thank you, Aunty, for having taken so good care of my villa...

Mme OUN :

"SOPHEAP, I'm so happy to see you again...

Mme OUN :

"Could I offer a drink?

SOPHEAP :

"Mineral water for both of us.

Mme OUN :

"Before, PHURISSA did not refuse a glass of whisky.

PHURISSA :

"Our compatriots like to read my mediocre books.

"Thank to them I could undertake the renovation of this house.

SOPHEAP :

"Your books are remarkable.

"I like to read them so much that I almost failed my exam...

PHURISSA :

"Your cousin my wife MALAY has reason to say that I lack patriotism.

"I should have taken up teaching to educate our students.

SOPHEAP :

"Cambodia is proud to have in you a writer worthy of such name...

PHURISSA :

"You should not sacrifice yourself to take care of an incurable sick man.

SOPHEAP :

"I shall make everything possible for you to live still long time.

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* *

SCENE VI

Mme SAVATH :

"PHURISSA in his letter wishes that I may live 100 years!

"He and I will soon meet in the hereafter.

"You'll be able to marry Mr POLAK.

"POLAK will be a Député... then a Minister.

"Power and wealth will be for you two the ideal formula...

MALAY :

"Mother, Mr POLAK and I will let you sleep.

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* *

SCENE VII

POLAK :

"My love, I want to marry you ...

"PHURISSA shall die soon ...

MALAY :

"I want to become your wife without delay.

"But we must be patient ...

POLAK :

"If the public finds out that I have stolen PHURISSA's beautiful wife, my political ambitions will be buried.

MALAY :

"You'll certainly be a winner in the political field

"... with my fortune at your disposal.

*
* *

SCENE VIII

PHURISSA :

"JEAN LACOUTURE has written a beautiful text about ANGKOR...

"At the beginning there was the forest

"... which man entered to impose the stone,...

"... build sanctuaries and suscite the gods...

"The forest tried to take its revenge...

"Man saved the stone ...

"But has he gained the Gods' good will?

"Crowds come to Angkor in quest of Buddhist serenity...

"But they experience anguish...

"The history of Cambodia is so tragic...

"Behind these smooth faces and soft gestures ...

"... there is so much fury ...

"... so recent horrors.

"Visitors to Cambodia of the years of honey ask foolish questions...

"How could war, violence trouble this Khmer Bouddhist paradise?

"PAUL MUS responded:

"... Do you believe that the Khmer people who has built gigantic temples, dug canals, dominated Indochina, only knew how to smile?

"It's necessary to be violent to built and conquest.

"BERNARD GROSLIER wrote:

"Within the depth of the Khmer lie the terrors of man in front of a hostile nature...

"... Could spurt out ferocious violences, cruelties...

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PHURISSA :

"You're an admirable artist-musician.

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* *

SCENE IX

MALAY :

"Your Party will certainly win at the next elections.

"My fortune will contribute to your success.

A Politician :

"Our Party expresses to you its deepest gratitude.

MALAY :

"I drink to your victory.

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SCENE X

PHURISSA :

"JEAN LACOUTURE wrote :

"At the end of the first millennium of our era SURYAVARMAN II built ANGKOR VATT

"... masterpiece of the Khmer architecture and sculpture...

"... royal sanctuary and tomb, never a palace.

"ANGKOR VATT, BAYON ... mountain-temples dedicated to the inhumation of the God-Kings...

"The immense faces of BAYON's Lokeçvara ...

"... the ABU-SIMBEL colossus... two super-human greatnesses.

"JAYAVARMAN VII, builder of Bayon, is the most bewitching personality of Khmer history...

"... Compassion and violence whose synthesis makes the character of the Khmers.

"... year 1200 JAYAVARMAN VII dominant sovereign in the region between India and China ...

"He died towards 1220 aged 80 years...

"The Buddhist King did not suffer of his own illnesses but from those of his subjects.

"At the center of ANGKOR THOM, his Capital, BAYON is the masterpiece of Jayavarman VII ...

"... and the most exuberant demonstration of the Khmer genius.

"Its four faces on the towers symbolise the royal power blessing the "four Easts" of the country.

"A Portuguese Capuchin friar will see BAYON in "ruins" but "royal in its ornaments..."

"The Portuguese insists on the extraordinary system of irrigation...

"moat, canals, bridges ...

"... the wealth of the Khmer country in rice, bovinds, buffaloes..."

"Two centuries still, a young French diplomat draws an impression of "anguish"...

"ANGKOR THOM... only the walls are intact..."

"The doors are guarded by fifty giants in stone..."

"joined by the coils of a monstrous serpent..."

"Sadness... the dense forest fills the vast precincts..."

"...It is necessary to go through the inextricable bushes to reach the ruins..."

"... Power, conflicts, 'symbols,' magic, anguish.. and beauty..."

"... The genius of BARAI's water..."

"... Country born from a gigantic river, a phenomenal lake and the neighbouring seas..."

"...Unimaginable twisted ligneous trees, roots..."

"... make one thinks of a giant's legs..."

"A virulence of which only the Amazonian forest gives an idea..."

"Bewitching is the epic copulation of the couple nature and culture.

"The feeling of unity: nothing more Buddhist certainly!"

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* *

T. J. V. P.

H. C. L.

"But how is it that the shadow of the compassionate Buddha

"the rustle of these sacred slabs touched by the saffron-coloured frocks of the monks...

"the softness of the gestures of these women ...

"have not yet brought men's peace to these places?

PHURISSA :

"After 22 bloody years, peace in Cambodia is still imperfect...

"National reconciliation is still an empty word ...

"What interest do I have to live?

SOPHEAP :

"Since our first meeting, I have not ceased to admire and love you ...

"If medicine can not cure you, turn towards Buddhism ...

"Long or short, our life has a meaning in the bosom of Buddha Dhamma Sangha ...

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SCENE XI

MALAY :

"I worry about the results of the forthcoming elections.

A Politician :

"Do not worry!

A Politician :

"Let us drink to our success at the next elections!

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SCENE XII

PHURISSA :

"My love, this injection relieves my physical pain.

SOPHEAP :

"My darling, today please have a complete rest.

"Tomorrow, you will receive the blessing of the monks...

PHURISSA :

"Here is a letter from your cousin my wife MALAY.

"Her mother is more and more ill.

"MALAY can not come to see me in Siemreap.

SOPHEAP :

"MALAY has also written to me ...

"She tells me to take very good care of you ...

"Her mother is dying. Our family's life is sad.

PHURISSA :

"Sad, yes! But you're the "Sun" of my happiness.

"When I saw you for the first time at MALAY's, I knew that
...
"...I was making a serious error in my matrimonial choice...

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* *

SCENE XV

MALAY :

"Today I lose my mother and I am ruined...
"...At the elections you have won but 2 seats of 120 seats
for deputies.
"I have shame.
"The heavens punished me ...
"I deceived and abandoned my loyal husband
"... who has never accepted to profit of my fortune.

POLAK :

"Darling, I love you passionately.
"It's not your money which attaches me to you.
"I'm still hoping to marry you so adorable.
"My Party has certainly collapsed...
"But the people love me.
"... They have chosen me as one of their deputies.

MALAY :

"Mr POLAK, I leave you.
"I'm going to take care of my husband.

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SCENE XVI

MALAY :

"How is my husband?

SOK :

"His health declines day by day.

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SCENE XVII

PHURISSA :

"I don't dream, isn't it?

MALAY :

"No, you don't dream. It's me MALAY your wife.
"My mother is dead. Henceforth I will live with you.

MALAY :

"I thank you for having given so much to Phurissa...

PHURISSA :

"MALAY, I don't have longer to live.

"You betrayed me ...

"In coming here you're not led by love nor affection nor pity.

"I ask you not to darken the last days of my existence.

"Please go back to PPenh...

SOPHEAP :

"Cousin, please don't torment him!

"Give him your understanding.

MALAY :

"I understand.

"I give you this poor Phurissa.

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SCENE XVIII

PHURISSA :

"My love, look these beautiful APSARAS.

"But when I go into the other world...

"even if I meet them I will have loving thoughts only for you.

SOPHEAP :

"My darling, I will also remain loyal to you for ever.

PHURISSA :

"When I have died, think of taking a husband worthy of your qualities.

SOPHEAP :

"I will give all my passion to the sick who will have need of me.

SOPHEAP :

"My darling, you probably want to quote from a text by a French scholar on the Apsaras...

PHURISSA :

"MARC RIBOUD in his book "ANGKOR, BUDDHIST SERENITY" wrote:

"No other person better than BERNARD GROSLIER ...

"... sang the sensuality of these divine dancers...

"... the exquisite softness of their attitude...

"... the rythm of their gestures...

"... the ravishing fantasy of their hair styles, their tiaras ...

"Creatures of dream ...

"One Angkor stele sings their sensuality:

"Drawn by the flower of her glory on the mango-fruit of the beauty ...

"...of her body...

"the bee of man's eye ...

"... could not even get loose.

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"EPILOGUE

"Exactly one year after the death of PHURISSA her only love, Dr SOPHEAP returns to **ANGKOR-VATT**.

"SOPHEAP finds the spots where PHURISSA lived the last moments of his life ...

"... the venerable statues of Lord BUDDHA ...

"... the charming child playing the flute ...

"... nostalgic melodies ...

"SOPHEAP prays for the happiness ...

"... of the soul of her beloved ...

"... while the sun is setting.

"THE END"

W. C. C.

