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Student Filmmakers Spotlight Cambodian Dance Outreach; Screening is
Nov. 24

FILM SCREENING

Monday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.

Folino Theater, Marion Knott Studios

Giant Steps: Courage, Hope and the Power of Dance Help Bring War-Torn Cambodia Back to Life

This documentary was produced by students in Chapman's new interdisciplinary International Documentary program, led by Professor Jeff Swimmer, which sends students around the world with cameras to profile leading human rights and development organizations. Thanks to a \$1 million anonymous gift, participating students traveled to Cambodia this past summer with Professor Swimmer and School of Law Professor John Hall. They represented Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, the School of Law and Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences. While in Cambodia, they filmed two non-governmental organizations that use dance in their outreach. This completed film will be submitted to festivals and distributed to TV networks to raise awareness, and will be made available to the dance companies for their promotional needs.

The Tiny Toones dancers are led by Tuy "Kay-Kay" Sobil, who grew up in Long Beach but now teaches hip-hop dance to Cambodian street kids, providing support and self-esteem to children who otherwise lack role models and are at risk to become drug users, dropouts or sex workers. The second part of the Chapman film project features Sopheline Cheam Shapiro, who emigrated from Cambodia to Long Beach in 1991 and opened the Khmer Arts Academy there in 2002. She offers a dance immersion program in Takhmao, Cambodia in the summers. In the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge "killing fields," most Cambodian master dancers were either dead or had fled the country, so Shapiro's efforts have helped develop a whole new generation of classical dancers in her native country.

There will be a Q&A with the student filmmakers following the screening, and a reception with live Cambodian music.

Admission is free and open to the public. Information: 714-997-6766 or
tvgraham@chapman.edu.