

# Where is Cambodia?



**Location:** Southeast Asia, between Thailand, Vietnam and Laos

**Full Country Name:** Kingdom of Cambodia

**Capital:** Phnom Penh

**Area:** 181,035 sq km

**Area Comparative:** slightly smaller than Oklahoma

**Population:** 13.12 million

**People:** 94% ethnic Khmers, 4% Chinese, 1% Vietnamese

**Language:** Khmer, English, French

**Religion:** 95% Buddhist, Cham Muslim and Roman Catholic

**Government:** multiparty democracy under a constitutional monarchy

**Head of State:** King Norodom Sihamoni

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Hun Sen

**Major Industries:** Timber, rubber, rice milling, textiles, fishing

**Natural Resources:** Timber, gemstones, manganese, phosphates

## Why should you care?

George Santayana once said, “*those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*” The Nazi Holocaust, Rwanda, East Timor and, most recently, the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, were all spurred by acts of hatred. Sadly, people are still needlessly killing people, unable to learn from the mistakes of the past. As the world continues to bare witness to genocide and barbaric acts of terrorism, today’s children are growing up surrounded by hatred and war. The goal of this film is to educate and inform so that these horrific events are finally put to an end. The more knowledge people have of extreme intolerance, the more fervent their convictions to end bigotry and violence for future generations.



## What's the film about?

*“If the Khmer Rouge told you that rain falls from the earth, not from the sky,  
you agreed, or you'd be killed for being an intellectual”*

On April 17, 1975, the face of Cambodia would be forever changed. As Khmer Rouge soldiers marched into the capital city of Phnom Penh, the unsuspecting people of Cambodia had little idea they would be forced into a living nightmare that would last nearly four years.

*Rain Falls from Earth* is a story of courage, a story of survival and a story of eventual triumph over the Communist regime that was responsible for the deaths of over 2 million people. The voices of many Cambodians are heard as they convey their thoughts, ideas and emotions—the very things they were forced to abandon in the “killing fields” of Cambodia. Their memoirs are an eyewitness account to genocide.

The film features exclusive, personal interviews with Cambodian holocaust survivors, as well as with former Khmer Rouge soldiers...some of whom are speaking out about the past events for the first time in almost 30 years.

The story is told through the hearts, memories and tears of the survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime. From the chaos of mass evacuations, where Thida remembers hearing her father say “if we leave this house, I don't think we'll ever return”...to forced labor and mass starvation, where Sophie recalls seeing “a lot of people starving to death, screaming until they don't scream anymore.”...to the inevitable feeling of hopelessness and despair, where Monirith thought, “If I'm gonna die, at least I'll die with my family in the same grave”....

...this film gives a voice to those whose lives were senselessly lost.  
It is a story that must be told. It is a story that *will* be told...



# Who's the production team?

## **Steve McClure – Writer/Director**

17 years experience in the television and film industry. Credits include Starz Entertainment Group, E! Entertainment Television & Sony Pictures Entertainment. Writer/Producer, *The Michelangelo Story*, a documentary distributed nationally by Service Merchandise. Numerous industry awards for cable television promotion. Co-founder, Ghost-2-Eleven Entertainment.

## **Kyle Kruger – Producer**

10 years experience in the film and television production arenas, most recently serving as Associate Producer with EMG, an independent studio entity, headed by 2-time Academy Award winning Producer John Daly (*Platoon, The Last Emperor, The Terminator, Hoosiers*). Experience includes production, marketing, releasing and home video distribution. Key Art Director, *Rain Falls from Earth*. Co-founder, Ghost-2-Eleven Entertainment.

## **Thida Mam - Advisor**

Cambodian Holocaust survivor. Member, Cambodian American Resource Agency. Story told in book, *To Destroy You is No Loss*.

## **Coy Melnick – Director of Photography**

16 years experience in the television and film industry. Credits include NFL Films, ABC, ESPN, Bravo, Discovery Channel & The History Channel. Director of Photography, *Living as a Legend: The Damon Bailey Story*

## **Chris Wilson – Director of Photography**

Feature films include, *A Christmas Too Many, The Drop and Seance*. Television credits include The Learning Channel, E! Entertainment Television, The Food Network, PBS, Sony Pictures Entertainment, New Line Cinema & Columbia Pictures.

## **Tom Linkiewicz – Editor**

Owner/Editor, Illusion Films. 12 time national award winner for editing, including the Crystal Reel Awards: Best Editing for a Short Film, *Filthy*

## **Chris Piorkowski – Composer**

Owner, Belle Music Film Trax, LLC. Credits include Compaq Europe, Deutsche Bank, Volkswagen & Hilton Hotels. Extensive training at Berlin Music College, Audio Institute of America and Music for the Media in London, England.

## Who were the Khmer Rouge?



Khmer Rouge literally means “Red Cambodian” and is the name of the communist guerilla movement which came to power in 1970s Cambodia.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1975, after years of fighting a brutal civil war, Khmer Rouge soldiers marched into the capital city of Phnom Penh and declared the day as “Year Zero”. Their goal, under leader Pol Pot, was to delete the past and restart the clock—to eradicate the entire capitalist society.

In an instant, entire cities were evacuated as the Khmer Rouge imposed a forced return to the land. Human life became expendable and rice production was the number one importance under Pol Pot’s plan to turn Cambodia into a self-sufficient land of farmers.

Cambodians were forced to work 12-14 hour days in the fields, rewarded only with a small amount of food to eat each day. Disease and malnutrition flourished as the country literally starved to death.

Mass murder spread as the educated, including doctors, lawyers, teachers and students were sought out and killed for their ability to “think”. Even wearing eyeglasses could mean death because the Khmer Rouge thought that glasses represented education.

To date, not one Khmer Rouge official has been held accountable for the deaths of over two million Cambodian people. Pol Pot died in 1998, saying his “conscience was clear.” Currently, plans are underway for a United Nations-backed tribunal, in hopes of finally bringing to justice former Khmer Rouge leaders.

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<b>Writer/Director:</b>	Steve McClure
<b>Anticipated Release Date:</b>	Early 2007
<b>Status:</b>	Currently in post-production, seeking finishing funds
<b>Country of Production:</b>	USA
<b>Shooting Locations:</b>	Cambodia, Vienna, Denver, Tampa Bay, San Jose, Chicago
<b>Language:</b>	English, Khmer (with English translations)
<b>Format:</b>	shot on BetaSP, 16mm and mini DV
<b>Master Format:</b>	Digital Betacam

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