

BRISBANE POWERHOUSE PRESENTS

# HANUMAN SPACEMAN

THE CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT

PRODUCED BY INTIMATE SPECTACLE



WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE  
**THURS 26 FEB 9PM FREE**  
**TURBINE PLATFORM, BRISBANE POWERHOUSE**

A trippy tropical rock opera. A psychedelic sci-fi fairytale.

# HANUMAN SPACEMAN

## THE CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT

CAMBODIA/AUSTRALIA

### CREATIVE TEAM

#### Conceived by

Julien Poulson & Channthy Kak

#### Director & Designer

Carlos Gomes

#### Producer

Harley Stumm (Intimate Spectacle)

#### Video & Animation

Samuel James

#### Sound Design

Mute Speaker (Rob O'Hara)

### PERFORMERS

#### The Cambodian Space Project

##### Vocal

Channthy Kak

##### Guitar

Jason Shaw

##### Bass

Bun Sophea

##### Drums

Yus Sak

##### Keyboard

Julien Poulson

##### Dancers

The Spacettes (Khen Vanthy, Khen Vanthum)

##### Chapei Dong Veng

Master Kong Nay

##### Young Channthy (on film)

Isabella Nagatsuka

### PRODUCTION TEAM

#### Lighting Design & Production

Mark Haslam

#### Sound Engineer

Phil Downing

#### Master Kong Nay footage

Marc Eberle

### THANK YOU

Lisa Nagatsuka, Deborah Pollard

*Hanuman Spaceman* was assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by Creative Partnerships Australia, through the Match: Crowdfunding for the Independent Arts Sector initiative. It was developed with the support of Khmer Cultural Development Institute in Kampot, Cambodia; Khmer Community of NSW Inc.; Casula Powerhouse, and Arts Centre Melbourne.

### ABOUT HANUMAN SPACEMAN

Welcome to *Hanuman Spaceman*: a trippy tropical rock opera... a psychedelic sci-fi fairy-tale fusing ancient epic tales with a funky, feisty take on contemporary Cambodia.

*Hanuman Spaceman* tells the story of singer Srey Channthy Kak, tired of selling pancakes in the village. Channelling the trickster monkey god Hanuman, she builds a rocket to travel to the moon.

It's also a re-imagining of the haunted 'Golden Era' of Khmer rock 'n' roll in the liberal 60s and 70s of Prince Sihanouk, when waves of popular sounds washed through the music scene: French chanson, soul, surf guitar and psychedelia, as young Khmer danced to stars like Pan Ron, Ros Sereysothea & Sinn Sisamouth, and their hundreds of records, some of which you'll hear reinterpreted tonight.

But this creative explosion ended with the Khmer Rouge takeover. They killed the artists, they broke the records, but they couldn't stop the music. Songs persisted in memory, and eventually resurfaced after three decades of civil war.

*Hanuman Spaceman* has come from an extraordinary six year creative relationship between Cambodian and Australian artists. The story begins in 2009, when singer Channthy Kak and guitarist Julien Poulson met in a Phnom Penh karaoke bar, and formed the band The Cambodian Space Project, to sing the lost divas and rock legends back to life – and write new songs for a 21st century Cambodia.

They were soon touring Cambodia, Asia, Australia and Europe, with a sound spanning Khmer tradition, psychedelia, and soul, and a trippy tropical spacejunk visual aesthetic. Dancers, The Spacettes, are regular collaborators, fusing their very precise Khmer classical dance with the exuberance of 60s go-go.

For *Hanuman Spaceman*, CSP has teamed up with Australian theatre makers, producer Harley Stumm, director Carlos Gomes, and audio-visual artist Sam James, to make a show telling a story in song, images and dreams. It draws on all our traditions: classical dance, epic tales both east and west, Khmer pop, rock'n'roll, science fiction, blaxploitation films, shadow puppetry and digital image. A story of escape, adventure, dreaming big things, and most of all, celebrating life.

The show has been made in two stages, between Kampot in Cambodia, and at Casula Powerhouse in southwest Sydney. In late 2014, we were privileged to work in a wonderful cultural exchange with Khmer Cultural Development Institute in Kampot, a school teaching traditional music and dance to orphaned and disabled children.

We were also fortunate to work with Master Kong Nay, one of 17 artists designated as intangible treasures by the Royal Government of Cambodia, for his lifetime devoted to the Chapei Dong Veng (long-necked two-string guitar). He wrote and recorded two characteristically witty, growly songs especially for this production, duets performed with Srey Channthy, with Kong Nay seen on screen.

Last year, we were hosted in residency by Casula Powerhouse, and welcomed warmly by Khmer Community of NSW Inc and the Khmemara Angkor Dance & Traditional Music Group, who contributed much to the show you see tonight.

So this show spans Phnom Penh to Sydney, Kampot to Bonnyrigg, Pray Veng to the moon! And all via Detroit. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed making it.

**Harley Stumm (Producer)**  
is here at APAM

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intimate  
spectacle

The Cambodian  
Space Project

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KHMER COMMUNITY OF NSW INC

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