



## Cambodia: Khmer Dances, The dancing voice of Nirvana



**Directed by Régis GHEZELBASH** A documentary of 52'

*French Version*  
*English Version*

High Definition  
Digital Betacam 16/9

©2010

The tradition of Theravâda or Small Vehicle, brings us the original doctrines of Buddha, not in terms of his metaphysical dimension, but as a historical figure.

Classical Cambodian dance was originally created in homage to the Gods, heros, and Kings whose epic sagas were portrayed through the dance.

The Apsaras, immortalised by the Khmer sculptors of the past, have remained present in the movements, costumes, rhythm, hand gestures of the dances, and in their magical charm.

The Khmer dancer is also an actress and mime artist. She expresses emotions, and embodies the actions described in stories sung by the choir.

Every phrase sung by the singers calls for a movement or a change in attitude on the part of the dancer, who remains silent.

These attitudes and gestures, both ritual and personal, are transmitted from generation to generation, although there has never been a formal codification, or precise written record.

The dancers gestures are not only organised by the evolution and succession of the ideas they express, they are also synchronised in relation to an intricate movement code.

If at any moment the right hand is placed with the palm facing forward at waist height, this means that the left hand should be in another fixed position, their relative position being fixed by a powerful formal tradition whose origins have been lost in the passage of time.