

"10/10. An intense and moving story that smashes expectations"

KungFu Kingdom Magazine



SURVIVING BOKATOR



CINEBOXX FILM & TELEVISION INC. PRESENTS A MARK BOCHSLER FILM "SURVIVING BOKATOR" FEATURING SEAN KIM SAN THAROTH "LITTLE FROG" SAN DARITH UNG BUNHENG LEANG AND VAZU CHHAMPOLUN
SOKKOUNG CHEA SOU MALA ENG REACHVAN ANGKOR SAN PRODUCED BY SANDRA LEUBA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER LOY TE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BOCHSLER EDITOR KEVIN SCHJERNING FAISAL LUTCHMEDIAL TAMARA SCHERBAK AND JOSEPH JOHNSON-CAM
SOUND DESIGN GEORGE FLORES SANTIAGO MOFFAT WRITTEN BY KEVIN SCHJERNING FERNANDA ROSSI FAISAL LUTCHMEDIAL TAMARA SCHERBAK COMPOSED BY ADRIAN ELLIS MUSIC BY CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARK BOCHSLER

Cineboxx WWW.SURVIVINGBOKATOR.COM [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BOKATORFILM](https://www.facebook.com/bokatorfilm) [WWW.TWITTER.COM/BOKATORFILM](https://www.twitter.com/bokatorfilm) KONCCHAK PICTURES WESTEC PRODUCTIONS





“One of the must-watch films of the year”

Carl Broughton, FilmEra Review



“the film is an invaluable heritage and should be celebrated and disseminated as part of the cultural history of humanity.”

Enzo Capiello, General Secretary
IOC / FICTS World Championship of Sport Cinema

“A unique and important historical record on one of Cambodia’s most important traditions”

H.E. Phoeurng Sakona,
Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia

“This film connects on so many levels for educators and students alike. A great companion for units on history, sociology, psychology, cultural and gender studies.”

Dona Cady, Professor of Humanities, Middlesex Community College, MA

“a heartfelt documentary filmmaking that evokes every emotion under the sun.”

Al Bailey, Artistic Director
Liverpool International Film Festival



A SURVIVOR'S DREAM TO REVIVE AN ANCIENT SPORT BECOMES AN INSPIRING JOURNEY TO HEAL A NATION

SYNOPSIS

A genocide survivor leads a team of youth on a mission to revive Cambodia's ancient martial art of Bokator and win international competition. Like many of Cambodia's great traditions, Bokator was nearly eradicated by the Khmer Rouge 50 years ago and was feared extinct.

Captured over a decade in verité-style filmmaking, this powerful award winning documentary is a unique look into a post-war people's struggle to reclaim traditional identity, build bridges between generations, and find their place in a modern world.

BACKGROUND

People often associate war with loss of life and property, but the cultural implications are rarely examined. The death of an estimated 2.5 million Cambodians in the 1970s by the Khmer Rouge included a large percentage of intellectuals, teachers and cultural leaders.

The regime sought to eradicate all traditional Cambodian cultural knowledge including the martial arts. Those with knowledge of Bokator were particularly targeted by the regime in order to suppress rebellion. With this, the traditional passing down of skills and knowledge to the next generation came to an abrupt stop.

Now, decades later, with determination and strength of spirit, Cambodia has been undergoing a cultural renaissance.

WHAT IS BOKATOR?

Carved into the ancient temples of Angkor, Bokator was a uniquely Cambodian martial art which mimicked animal fighting styles. Literally translated as 'to pound a lion' Kun L'Bokator is thought to have begun more than 1700 years ago on the battlefields of the ancient Angkorian Empire, during the five centuries when the Khmer nation reigned over most of Southeast Asia.

Surviving Bokator is the story of the quest to revive this national heritage for Cambodia and the world.



UNESCO

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Sport, like dance, music, language, beliefs or other customs that define a particular peoples or nation is culture.

As part of its mission to safeguard and advance human cultural heritage, the United Nations cultural wing UNESCO, officially placed Cambodian Kun L'Bokator on the world Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Representative List in 2022.

Surviving Bokator was an instrumental resource for UNESCO in their decision to grant Kun L'Bokator Intangible Cultural Heritage status.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SURVIVING BOKATOR chronicles a Cambodian journey, yet its themes and narratives are universal.

The film offers a unique window into a society which had been severed from its past, illustrating directly the critical value culture and identity hold to us all, and the extent to which we will go to defend it.

And with great social relevance and proven impact, the documentary is finding wide appeal. From general audiences who seek immersive experiences; to martial artists eager to discover rare artforms; communities affected by war and genocide; immigrant families struggling to preserve 'old world' traditions in their children who are raised in foreign lands; and young women seeking an empowering role model in Cambodian Bokator fighter and actress Tharoth 'Little Frog' Sam.

Many also speak about the film's timeliness and relevance in the wake of the global refugee crisis, and its capacity to provide perspective and empathy towards the immigrant experience in Western countries today.

Surviving Bokator is the only film in existence capturing Bokator's historic revival, an eyewitness record of the real challenges Cambodians face as they race to reclaim their fading past from the "Killing Fields", as the genocide generation, their 'knowledge keepers' begin passing away.

And with Kun L'Bokator having recently been recognized by UNESCO, the film has become a national and world cultural heritage asset for generations to come.

Mark Bochsler

Director / Cinematographer
"Surviving Bokator"

"Bochsler future-proofs Bokator through this deeply profound documentary film"

Adrian Perez, Festival Director
Lonely Wolf London International Film Festival





ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the successful International Premiere at the Austin Film Festival, *Surviving Bokator* continues impact audiences and critics alike throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Many noteworthy milestones were achieved during this period, including significant film festival awards and meaningful community engagements.

Surviving Bokator has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with a world championship award in sport cinema at the World FICTS Challenge in Milano.

And the film was a valuable resource asset for UNESCO's decision to grant Bokator Intangible Cultural Heritage status in 2022. As part of the national ceremonies which followed, *Surviving Bokator* was invited to screen at the Angkor Wat temples, the birthplace of Bokator.

In 2023, the film was released in cinemas throughout Cambodia in Khmer language.

Bangkok International Documentary Film Awards Festival
(Winner Best Sport Documentary)

Liverpool International Film Festival
(Winner Best Documentary)

Paladino D'Oro International Sport Film Festival
(Winner Best Editing)

London Lonely Wolf International Film Festival
(Winner Best Documentary / Winner Best Documentary Director)

Vegas Movie Awards (Winner Best Producer)

World FICTS Festival of Cinema Television in Sport Culture
(Award Mention Honneur)

IndieFest Film Awards (Winner Award Of Merit)

Docs Without Borders (Winner Exceptional Merit)

European Cinematography Award (Winner Best Documentary)

Global Film Festival Awards Los Angeles
(Winner Best First Time Director)

NYC Indie Film Awards (Platinum Winner)

Asian Cinematography Award
(Winner Best Cinematography Feature Film)



OUR TEAM & PARTNERS

MARK BOCHSLER - DIRECTOR

Mark Bochsler is an accomplished Canadian photographer & cameraman turned filmmaker. His career has taken him around the globe for clients such as CBC, Animal Planet, Discovery, and ARTE. He lensed the world's first 360-degree documentary The Polar Sea 360 (Arte/TVO 2014). Mark is fuelled by a passion to explore diverse stories about the human journey which can bring much needed empathy to today's fractured world.

SANDRA LEUBA - PRODUCER

Sandra has held a wide range of roles in scripted and non-scripted film projects, and represented several projects at international film markets. When not exploring her passion for filmmaking, Sandra keeps one foot planted in the financial industry and is currently Director Enterprise Risk Governance, Royal Bank of Canada.

LOY TE - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Loy Te, co-owner and producer at Kongchak Pictures, Phnom Penh, has joined our production team, focusing on marketing and distribution deals in Cambodia and throughout Asia. Loy became a respected Cambodian film producer successfully producing Jailbreak; the first Cambodian film to be licensed by Netflix.

MENTORS

Ed Barreveld, Producer
Paul Saltzman, Filmmaker
Manfred Becker, Editor
Thomas Wallner, Filmmaker

EDITORS

Joseph Johnson-Cami
Faisal Lutchmedial
Tamara Scherbak
Kevin Schjerning

STORY CONSULTANTS

Ricardo Acosta
Fernanda Rossi
Eamonn O'Connor
Tom Schlessinger

COMPOSER

Adrian Ellis

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

Cambodian Space Project
Jan Mueller



Ministry of Culture & Fine Art
Cambodia



unesco

Intangible Cultural Heritage



NATIONAL OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE OF CAMBODIA

Contact

CINEBOXX Film & Television
Toronto, Canada
leubasandra@ceneboxx.net
+1-416-616-4251

REVIEWS AND MEDIA

- *Swiss premiere of “Surviving Bokator” left no one in the room unmoved*
– Linth 24, July 2, 2023
- *“The trauma cannot be forgotten” – Swiss Film producer opens up on Surviving Bokator*
– Linth 24, June 28, 2023
- *12th International Film Festival in Cambodia: SURVIVING BOKATOR, meeting with the producers*
– CambodgeMag, May 27, 2023
- *‘Surviving Bokator’ coming to Cambodian cinemas May 25* – EAC News Asia, May 25, 2023
- *‘Surviving Bokator’ a rare story of forgotten past* – Khmer Times, May 24, 2023
- *‘Surviving Bokator’ revives lost art* – Khmer Times, May 24, 2023
- *‘Surviving Bokator’ enjoys historic screening at Cambodia’s Angkor Wat temples*
– MMA Crossfire, December 24, 2022
- *‘Surviving Bokator’ Smashing Expectations -- film review: 10/10*
– KungFu Kingdom Magazine, September 19, 2022
- *“Surviving Bokator” gets recognition at Milano Int’l FICTS Festival*
– Khmer Times, November 24, 2020
- *Documentary Made Available Online to Help Bokator Clubs Survive*
– Phnom Penh Post, April 21, 2020
- *The Battle of Preserve Cambodia’s Martial Arts Heritage*
– Black Belt Magazine, July 2019
- *Manny Pacquiao makes lifetime dream come true for Cambodia’s first female MMA fighter*
– MMA Crossfire, January 2019
- *Tharoth Sam excited to move Cambodia forward by Surviving Bokator*
– MMA Crossfire, November 2018
- *Surviving Bokator’s Mark Bochsler opens up on ‘Changing the hearts and minds’ of Cambodia*
– MMA Crossfire, November 2018
- *Hamilton’s Mark Bochsler makes impressive debut with Surviving Bokator*
– The Hamilton Spectator, November 2018
- *2018 Austin Film Festival: 5 Documentaries Must See*
– Shuffle Online, October 2018

www.survivingbokator.com

Audience Response <https://youtu.be/IHQ6qz-NKbs>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/6saaSIqtuOQ>

Length	97-minutes
Format	TV HD1080 / Screening 2k DCP 5.1
Versions	• English and Khmer with Eng subtitles • Khmer language Dub
Re-Release	May 2023



WESTEC
MEDIA

