

Royal Ballet Theatre



Who are we and what do we do?

The Royal Ballet Theatre is reviving traditional Lao dance and music with the help of Master Artists. Our goal is to create a new generation of masters, while preserving our cultural heritage and passing on generations of artistic knowledge to Lao children.

The Royal Ballet troupe performed the Lao version of the sacred poem, the Ramayana, Phra-Lak Phra-Lam, year after year in

the Royal Palace in Luang Prabang. Then in 1975, after 15 centuries of annual performances, the troupe was disbanded.

In 1993, after an absence of more than 15 years, the Institution of Cultural Research and the Provincial Government Office in Luang Prabang established a committee to revive limited performances of Phra-Lak Phra-Lam for festivals. In 2002, the Theatre was re-

established and has been performing at home and abroad ever since.

To re-establish the theatre, we gathered local young people and taught them dance, traditional music and folksongs. After six months, we opened the Theatre. Now our team of musicians and performers has grown to a company of 160. Between November and February, we perform three times a week in our 480 seat theatre.

We also encourage young children to learn traditional music and dance. To share the history of the Ramayana, we perform in small village schools and donate traditional instruments so that they can participate in the preservation of traditional Lao culture. 50 students from our school for performers have become professionals.





Generations of artistic knowledge and performance



What can you experience?

- Watch the spectacular Royal Ballet performances, including scenes from the Lao Ramayana, Lao folk dances and some tribal dances. These are performed at the Luang Prabang Royal Palace every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 6:30pm.
- Visit our workshop and dance school and join local students as they learn to play and make traditional musical instruments (drums, violin, xylophone), or to dance under the guidance of our master dancers.
- Buy our CDs, instruments, performance masks and traditional costumes at the Royal Ballet Theatre.
- Visit the workshop of our *Ee Pawk* puppet theatre, buy the handmade puppets, and learn how to make them dance at Vat Xieng Thong Temple and Tum Tum Cheng Restaurant.
- Donate to support the development of new activities. Funds are used to buy costumes, technical equipment, and building supplies.
- Volunteer by contributing your skills (technical management, professional dance, music etc.).
- Contact your hotel or guesthouse for more information.

Tel (071) 253 705 or (020) 541 8787

Email tumtumcheng@yahoo.com Web www.tumtumcheng.com