



PRESS KIT

**“Angkor Awakens
 provides an
 engaging narrative
 of Pol Pot’s
 devastating regime
 and how
 Cambodia is
 grappling with it
 today.”**

-The Cambodia Daily



Synopsis

“Angkor Awakens” is a sweeping and eye-opening portrait of a nation now poised at the tipping point. The film documents the process and collective efforts of the Khmer people as they work to recover their culture and history in the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge regime.

It views the present through the lens of the country’s tangled history. Though the legacy of past violence and present-day repression lives on, it is counterbalanced by the hope and aspirations of the new generation of Cambodians.

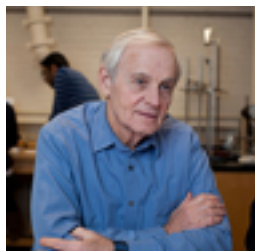
Built around intimate interviews and stunning footage of the country, this is the film for anyone desiring to learn more about one of Asia’s youngest populations as it seeks to leave behind its brutal past.

““Angkor Awakens: A Portrait of Cambodia” is directed by Robert H. Lieberman, a best-selling novelist, award winning filmmaker and long-time member of Cornell University Physics faculty. It is Lieberman’s background as a child of the holocaust that has led him to explore the effects of the genocide on the mentality of today’s young Cambodian.

The film opens with a rush of motion, the camera speeding up a flight of stairs with increasing momentum, panning out to reveal lush hills, stone steps and a vibrant earth that stretches on and on. Ambient music fills the theatre; the screen slips to a red backdrop, with the shadows of traditional dancers gliding about; a voiceover extracted from one of the many interviews speaks, introducing us to an eighty-minute documentary probe into Cambodia.

Following independence from France, the Cambodia of the '60s and '70s was sucked into the Cold War when its neighbor Vietnam fell into civil chaos, despite efforts to stay neutral. What eventually emerged from the din and struggle for national survival was the brutal rule of the Khmer Rouge, an extremist Communist group led by Pol Pot, which proceeded to commit one of the worst mass killings of the 20th century, claiming up to an estimated two million lives. Angkor Awakens is a poignant, revealing documentary in how it chooses to look at this highly volatile and violent time.” - Cornell Daily Sun

Team



Robert H. Lieberman

Director/Producer

Robert H. Lieberman is a best-selling novelist and film director. He is also a longtime member of the Physics faculty at Cornell University.

Mr. Lieberman has six published novels, his newest is *The Boys Of Truxton*.

His previous film, *They Call It Myanmar*, was a New York Times Critics Pick and was named one of the top dozen films of 2012 by Roger Ebert.

Filmography:

They Call It Myanmar
 (Documentary feat. Aung San Suu Kyi)
Last Stop Kew Gardens
 (American children of Holocaust survivors)
Faces In A Famine (PBS film covering 1985 Ethiopian famine)
BoyceBall (Film depicting the creation of an original ballet)
Green Lights (Comedy)



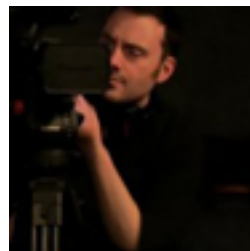
Deborah C. Hoard

Producer

Deborah C. Hoard has been a producer and director at PhotoSynthesis Productions for 25 years. With a strong focus on social justice, her work has won more than 100 international and national media awards.

Deborah was co-producer of *They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain*, which the late Roger Ebert called “a thing of beauty... a documentary with all the virtues of a great feature film.”

CIVIL WARRIORS, her most recent film, explores the experiences of 2 black families from upstate New York whose men enlisted in the U.S. Colored Troops and fought in the Civil War.



David Kossack

Editor/Story

David Kossack is a graduate of Ithaca College's Park School of Communications. Since joining PhotoSynthesis Productions he has worked as an editor and videographer on numerous PSP projects, including editing the award-winning documentary *They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain*.

David is also actively involved with The Actor's Workshop of Ithaca where he teaches acting and has directed several stage productions for the Workshop's theater company.



Scott Hitz

Puppet Director

Scott Hitz is a Director, Producer, Puppeteer, and educator whose work has been seen worldwide. His company, PuppHitz, is dedicated to promoting the art of puppetry, and to expanding the idea of what that art form can do. He has been honored with the position of Artist in Residence at the Eugene O'Neil Theater Center summer puppetry program, and his work has taken him to Korea as part of the Chunchon International Festival for Puppetry. Scott has also been the recipient of a Henson seed grant for his production *Ursa Major: The Voice of the Bear*.

www.scotthitz.com

www.pupphitz.com



Norm Scott

Sound Design

Norm Scott got his first tape recorder at the age of five, and has been recording and archiving sound ever since. He likes robots and inventing essential new gadgets with no discernible purpose.



Stills



These photographs and more, downloadable at www.angkorawakens.com



Press Contact:
rhl10@cornell.edu
(607) 273-8801
<http://www.roberthlieberman.com>

Press

“Decades after the Khmer Rouge genocide, Cambodia remains a fractured nation with an untold history. An emotive new film, *Angkor Awakens*, tells this tragic story in full, and finds plenty of cause for hope at the end.”

- Open Democracy

“Mr. Lieberman’s use of Khmer shadow puppets to illustrate the country’s history brings a unique color to the documentary without trivializing the gravity of the story. The detailed historical account provides foreign audiences ample context for later events under Mr. Hun Sen’s leadership.”

- *The Cambodia Daily*

Over four years in the making, “*Angkor Awakens*” features prominent Cambodian figures including interviews with longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen, exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy, journalists, historians and others to explore the country’s emergence from devastation.

- Khaosod English

Lieberman’s film covers a great deal of complex history and background on Cambodia, taking in the Vietnam War, Kent State and Nixon and Kissinger.

- Ithaca Times

Praise for the Producers’ previous film, *They Call It Myanmar*.

“‘*They Call It Myanmar*’ is a thing of beauty... a documentary with all the virtues of a great feature film; its cinematography, music and contemplative words make it... a hymn to a land that has grown out of the oldest cultures in Asia.”

–Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times

“...One of the best documentaries I saw in 2012.”

–Roger Ebert’s Journal, Chicago Sun Times

” ‘*They Call It Myanmar*’ reveals a face long hidden... the result is eye-opening and insightful”

–New York Times: Critics’ Pick

“The documentary is as quietly enthralling as Myanmar’s people. Various tough and poetic... Lieberman possesses a warm and genuine curiosity.”

–Los Angeles Times



Press Contact:
rh110@cornell.edu
(607) 273-8801
<http://www.roberthlieberman.com>

“There are a number of quietly startling moments . . . a solid and subtly moving portrait of the people of Burma... Lieberman manages to capture the country’s beauty, along with the proud perseverance of its people.”

–The Washington Post

“...Defies the odds of creating a travelogue and, instead, delivers a compelling portrait . . . dwells with you . . . the definitive film on a country...”

–The Hollywood Reporter

“...Robert H. Lieberman’s exceptional, truthful and exciting documentary . . . a documentary with all the virtues of a great feature film. He has succeeded brilliantly.”

–San Francisco Examiner

“The striking beauty of the country; the people; the decayed infrastructure; the extreme poverty; archival footage; an interview with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi; Robert H. Lieberman has put together a collage of voices sounds and images. A labor of Love.”

–BBC World News

“It’s a great example of the potential power of film . . . It may not be a big production, but it has a big heart.”

–Saturday Night at the Movies, Berkeley, CA

“You’ll be amazed.”

–Aye Chan Naing, The Democratic Voice of Burma

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www.AngkorAwakens.com

Contact

Robert Lieberman

rh110@cornell.edu

(607) 273-8801

Twitter: @BobLieberman

web: <http://www.roberthlieberman.com>