



Tini Tinou International Circus Festival 2016

10th anniversary edition features an expanded international lineup
April 28 to May 10 in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (*March 16, 2016*) – Phare, The Cambodian Circus and Phare Ponleu Selpak are happy to announce the return of the Tini Tinou International Circus Festival. A celebration of contemporary circus from around the world, this year’s 10th anniversary edition features international artists from Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Nepal, and France along with Cambodian artists from Phare. The festival takes place from April 28 to May 10 in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Siem Reap. It includes nightly full-length performances, artist-led workshops, pop-up shows, and a public panel discussion about the business of performing arts in Cambodia.

More than 4500 people attended Tini Tinou last year, which took place over eight sold out nights in three cities. “Cambodia is leading the region in contemporary circus, with three years of nightly performances by Phare, The Cambodian Circus in Siem Reap, and twenty years of regular performances by Phare Ponleu Selpak in Battambang,” says Phare, The Cambodian Circus CEO Dara Huot. “Tini Tinou is a natural extension of this and we’re pleased to bring contemporary performers from all over the world to see and participate in our vibrant arts scene.”

This year’s international troupes are: The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Australia’s national youth circus, performing their new show *Stunt Lounge*; Collectif Open Ticket from France, performing *Sans queue ni tete (Nonsense)*; and Inner Ring Circus from Canada, performing a juggling duo act. Artists from Nepal, Indonesia, and Afghanistan will perform in free improvised pop-up shows throughout the festival. Phare will perform its newest show, *Influence*. Each night of the festival will feature a different full-length performance.

A unique aspect of Tini Tinou is encouraging international collaboration through a series of juggling, trampoline, creation and street performance workshops. Artists are split into groups, share skills and work together to create something new. The results are shared in pop-up shows in public spaces throughout Battambang and Siem Reap during festival. “Most artists don’t speak the same language and they come from very different backgrounds,” says Huot. “These workshops are an extraordinary way to transcend cultural barriers, learn new skills and form strong bonds. Giving this opportunity to our Cambodian performers and the international artists who travel a long way to take part in this festival, opens the doors to more working relationships in the future, and strengthens Cambodia’s reputation as a leader in the creative and performing arts field in the region”.

Pop-up shows, parades and the panel discussion are free and open to the public. Tickets for full-length shows range in price and will be available starting March 14 at www.tinitinou.com, or in person starting April 6 at several outlets in each city (check website for details).



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INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS FESTIVAL

Tini Tinou 2016 is made possible by Gold sponsor: Cambodia Airports; Silver sponsors: Smart and Total; Bronze sponsors: Canadia Bank, Costa Coffee, Krispy Kreme, Angkor Village Resort, Shinta Mani Resort, InterContinental Phnom Penh, and Sofitel; and Institutional partners: Institut Français Cambodia, Australian Embassy, European Union, and the Ministry of Culture.

Performance Schedule (April 28-May 10, 2016):

- *Phnom Penh:*
Chenla Theatre
April 28 - 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
May 1 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- *Battambang:*
Phare Ponleu Selpak
May 3 - 6 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- *Siem Reap:*
Phare, The Cambodian Circus
May 8-10 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Information:

- *Phnom* *Penh:*
VIP seats: 20 USD for adults and 12 USD for children
Regular seats: 10 USD for adults and 6 USD for children
- *Battambang:*
Regular seats: 12 USD for adults and 5 USD for children (no VIP seating available)
- *Siem Reap:*
VIP seats: 20 USD for adults and 12 USD for children
Regular seats: 10 USD for adults and 6 USD for children

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About Phare, The Cambodian Circus and Phare Ponleu Selpak:

Uniquely Cambodian. Daringly Modern. More than just a circus, Phare, the Cambodian Circus performers use theater, music, dance and modern circus arts to tell uniquely Cambodian stories; historical, folk and modern. The young circus artists will astonish you with their energy, emotion, enthusiasm and talent.

Phare artists are graduates of the Phare Ponleu Selpak Circus School in Battambang, Cambodia. The school was founded in 1994 by nine young men returning home from a refugee camp after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime. They had taken art therapy courses at the camp and wanted to share the power of art to heal among the poor, socially deprived and troubled youth in their war-ravaged community. They started with drawing classes taught to a handful of students. Soon they opened a public school, then a music school, theatre school and circus school. Today more than 1,200 pupils attend the public school daily and 500 attend the vocational arts training programs.

In 2013, the school created Phare, The Cambodian Circus as a social enterprise based in Siem Reap, Cambodia, home to Angkor Wat and one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world. The mission was to create job opportunities for graduates of the circus school and give back almost 75% of its profits to support the school's programming. Phare, The Cambodia Circus performs nightly under a big top in Siem Reap and has been seen by over 100,000 people. Their productions have toured across Europe, Asia and the USA.

For more information about Phare, The Cambodian Circus and Phare Ponleu Selpak, visit pharecircus.org and phareps.org.

Phare on Social Media:

Facebook facebook.com/PhareCambodianCircus

Instagram instagram.com/pharecambodianscircus/

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