

WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?

Directed by Bradley Cox
Produced by Rich Garella & Jeffrey Saunders
Original score by Gil Talmi

Loud Mouth Films
US/Thailand 2011
www.whokilledcheavichea.com

WINNER OF THE GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY AWARD

WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA? is a provocative investigation into the 2004 assassination of Cambodia's most prominent trade union leader. It features documentary footage shot over five years and offers an unprecedented look at the inner workings of a little-known country that relies heavily on foreign aid and garment exports. This eye-opening film raises important and current questions about the rule of law and democratic development.

Although its story has parallels in other countries, **WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?** focuses closely on the human beings that drive the story, while connecting them to a larger world. It has been described as gripping, powerful and deeply moving.

WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA? has screened in more than 20 film festivals in a dozen countries, winning numerous awards including the Peabody, has been broadcast across the U.S. on public television, and has been banned by decree in Cambodia.

Running time PAL 56:40 / NTSC 58 minutes

Languages Khmer, English, French; all-Khmer dubbed option
Subtitles available: English, French, Italian, Spanish, full English

Formats NTSC or PAL DVD, NTSC or PAL DigiBeta, HDCAM; 4x3 or 16x9

Home DVD sales <http://www.whokilledcheavichea.com/order.html>

Educational sales <http://www.whokilledcheavichea.com/educ.html>

Bookings Contact Rich Garella at rich@loudmouthfilms.net

Broadcast rights Contact Kimberly Warner at kimberly@mercurymedia.org
MercuryMedia (London) www.mercurymedia.org

*WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA? is a co-production
of Loud Mouth Films and the Independent Television Service,
with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting*

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WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?

SYNOPSIS



WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA? is an exploration of the mechanisms of power in one of the world's most aid-dependent countries — and one of its most corrupt.

Chea Vichea was Cambodia's most prominent labor leader, fighting to improve conditions for the 300,000 workers who make garments for the U.S. and European markets.

One sunny morning in 2004, a motorcycle pulled up to a newsstand in Phnom Penh. Vichea looked up from his paper and was executed on the spot. Pressured by rights groups and foreign aid donors, the police arrested two men. They were sentenced to twenty years in prison. Were they guilty, or was their conviction part of a larger plan?

Starting at the scene of the murder, director Bradley Cox captures events as they happen and conducts his own investigation at considerable risk. The trail leads far beyond the local police, through the courts, to the upper reaches of the ruling party that has dominated Cambodian political life for decades.

Even in death, Chea Vichea remains a powerful threat. Riot police broke up two attempts to premiere **WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?** in Phnom Penh. Import of the film is banned by official decree.

Who Killed Chea Vichea? is the **double cinematic whammy**: an intense and disturbing true drama and a testament to the power of documentary film. — *Library Journal*

A devastating exposé of life and death that reveals the inner workings of a dictatorship ... an extraordinary film. — *Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch*

A gripping account of a corrupt government's campaign to hold onto power at any cost ... deeply moving. — *Huffington Post*

A powerful film — *ABC Australia* **Vivid** — *Voice of America*

An investigative masterpiece ... **You must see this film** and show it to others.
— *Asia Educational Media Service*

Spectacular, so well made and able to produce a complex understanding of a complex situation in a short time. And visually and sonically, it's absolutely superb.
— *Charles Sullivan, University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asia Studies*

... filmmaker Bradley Cox interweaves archival and contemporary footage with interviews of eyewitnesses and others to present a damning journalistic investigation ...

★★★ **Recommended.** — *Video Librarian*

Most impressive, deeply thoughtful, beautiful in its intimacy and deep understanding, and restrained in its judgments. — *Michael Fink, Professor & Filmmaker, RISD*

One of the best documentaries I've ever seen.

— *Jim Pollard, Associate Director, Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand*

A remarkable documentary on the tragic story of Chea Vichea's murder, which illustrates a brutal disregard for human rights by unscrupulous political power.

— *Peter Leuprecht, former representative of the UN Secretary-General in Cambodia; Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal*

This is not simply a story about a PR-minded government overly concerned about its image ...

The film is threatening. — *Truthout*

WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

George Foster Peabody Award 2012

Top Ten Movies That Matter - Amnesty International

Grand Prize, Directorial Discovery - Rhode Island International Film Festival

Best Film/Political - Philadelphia Independent Film Festival

Best Documentary, 2nd - Show Me Social Justice International Film Festival

Best Cinematography - United Nations Association International Film Festival

Best Chronicle - Maverick Movie Awards

Special Jury Prize: Reportage & Investigation - FIFDH de Paris

Best Human Rights Film - Documentary Edge Festival New Zealand

FESTIVALS AND PRINCIPAL SCREENINGS (non-university)

IDFA (Amsterdam)

Seoul Human Rights Film Festival

Rhode Island International Film Festival (US)

Adhoc: Inconvenient Films Human Rights Film Festival (Vilnius)

Canadian Labor International Film Festival (Toronto and Victoria)

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (Montana, US)

Frederick Film Festival (Maryland, US)

Cannes Independent Film Festival

Phuket Film Festival (Thailand)

Philadelphia Independent Film Festival

National Press Club (Washington DC) Summer Film Series

Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand

Show Me Social Justice International Film Festival (Missouri, US)

AFL-CIO (Washington DC) special screening

United Nations Association International Film Festival

DOCSDF (Mexico City)

Southeast Asian Film Festival (Honolulu)

WATCH DOCS (Warsaw)

Lifescapes Southeast Asian Film Festival (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

Festival International du Film des Droits de l'Homme (FIFDH) (Paris, Nantes, Metz, Strasbourg)

Riverside International Film Festival (California, US)

Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival (Qatar)

Athens International Film + Video Festival (Ohio, US)

Minneapolis - St. Paul International Film Festival

Radar Hamburg International Independent Film Festival (Germany)

Asian Educational Media Service AsiaLENS film series (Illinois, US)

Reel Voices Film Festival (New Jersey, US)

Chiang Mai Documentary Arts Festival (Thailand)

Documentary Edge Festival (Auckland & Wellington, New Zealand)

Jeevika: Asia Livelihood Documentary Film Festival (New Delhi)

Foyle Film Festival (Derry, Northern Ireland)

Luang Prabang Film Festival (Laos)

7th EuroSEAS Conference AIA-SEAS (Lisbon)

WHO KILLED CHEA VICHEA?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I didn't choose this project as much as it chose me. I had filmed Vichea's last on-camera interview, in which he spoke plainly about the death threat against him. I was at the murder scene within minutes since it happened close to my house. Then I covered the press conference where police proudly showed off the two men they arrested for the crime, and then the trial, a mockery of justice.

From the beginning, the story was bizarre, absurd, and most damning of all, typical. In other words, it was Cambodia.

I had admired Vichea's dedication and bravery. Despite being scared out of his wits, he refused to be intimidated, and stood his ground for the sake of the union and its workers. His story, and that of his alleged killers, needed to be told to the outside world, but a Cambodian couldn't do it. The authorities would never allow it. As a foreigner I had more freedom of action, and I had key moments of the story already on tape.

My objective was simply to do my own investigation of the case (something the police have never done) and find out what really happened. But the more I learned, the bigger the story got.

Ultimately the film is about a system of corruption and impunity that allows killings like Vichea's to happen with regularity. It's about a police force that kidnaps and murders people, a court system that sells justice to the highest bidder and a population that lives in constant fear of its government.

There have been many notable movies about the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970's, but this film is about a current tragedy, the story of Cambodia now.



Bradley Cox, Director

BIOGRAPHY

Bradley Cox lived in Cambodia for almost five years. He captured the story of Chea Vichea's murder as it unfolded on the streets and in the courtrooms of Cambodia. He previously made the documentary Cambodia: Anatomy of an Election and was a co-founder of Bhutan's first film school.

Before moving to Asia, Cox worked as a screenwriter and director in Los Angeles. His fiction and non-fiction movies have won numerous film festival awards. He lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand.

2005 Wrote and storyboarded MANHUNT (Solaris Media Group), released theatrically in 2006

2004 Directed, produced and edited CAMBODIA: ANATOMY OF AN ELECTION for USAID-Cambodia

2003 Designed and taught a film production course for Rigney Film School in Thimpu, Bhutan

2002 Screenwriter of A SECRET LIFE (Fine Line Features) and SPIKE TO THE ACHILLES (Miramax)

1994 Director of music documentary DEATH METAL

1992 Director of short subject IN THE MEAN TIME, winner, Chicago and Houston Film Festivals

1988 Director of NOTHING PERSONAL (1988), winner, Northwest Film Festival