

AFTER *THE MISSING PICTURE*
(2014 OSCAR NOMINEE)

& *EXILE*

Catherine Dussart Production, ARTE France & Anupheap Production
present

GRAVES WITHOUT A NAME

(LES TOMBEAUX SANS NOMS)

A FILM BY RITHY PANH





Official Selection
tiff
Toronto International
Film Festival 2018

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(LES TOMBEAUX SANS NOMS)

A FILM BY RITHY PANH

France-Cambodia - 116 min - 1.78

INTERNATIONAL SALES

PLAYTIME

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SYNOPSIS

After *THE MISSING PICTURE* (Un Certain Regard winner 2013 and Oscar nominee for the Best Foreign Language Film in 2014) and *EXILE*, Rithy Panh continues his personal and spiritual exploration. *S21: THE KHMER ROUGE KILLING MACHINE* and *DUCH, MASTER OF THE FORGES OF HELL* analyzed the mechanisms of the crime. *GRAVES WITHOUT A NAME* searches for a path to peace. When a thirteen-year-old child, who lost the greater part of his family under the Khmer Rouge, embarks on a search for their graves, whether clay or on spiritual ground, what does he find there? And above all, what is he looking for? Spectral trees? Villages defaced beyond recognition? Witnesses who are reluctant to speak? The ethereal touch of a brother or sister's body as the night approaches? A cinematic movie that reaches well beyond the story of a country for that which is universal.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

After *THE MISSING PICTURE* and *EXILE*, Rithy Panh continues his personal and spiritual exploration. *GRAVES WITHOUT A NAME* searches for a path to peace. When a child, who lost the greater part of his family under the Khmer Rouge, embarks on a search for their graves, whether clay or on spiritual ground, what does he find there?



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Phnom Penh has fallen. The Khmer Rouge revolutionary forces have entered the city in the wake of their victory.

The hours that followed saw the evacuation of the city's two million inhabitants.

Schools and hospitals were shut down, money was abolished, religion banned, communication censored, and culture banished...

On foot, in carts, by train and then on foot again...

From one village to the next: Saang, Koh Tauch, Char, Srē Ō...

From one rice field to the next, from one building site to the next, we chipped away at rocks, dug up the earth, pulled out roots. We were already uprooted ourselves.

Then the command came. The Angkar (the communist party from Kampuchea) were sending us to Trum, a place in the middle of nowhere.

Lowlands, a vast, barren, treeless stretch...

In dry season, the cracked soil nicked and burned the soles of our feet.

That was where we were deported by the Khmer Rouge at the beginning of 1976.

There were eleven of us when we left Phnom Penh.

Only two of us survived.

Rithy Panh



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I made this journey to sit down with the dead. And to speak with them in the pagodas, along the edges of the roads and rivers. Today, whenever you scrape the earth, you find human remains, scraps of torn multi-colored fabrics.

Char, Trum, Wat Pō... The child remembers everything: the forced labor, the famine, the separations... and in the very end, death. I've returned to these places quite regularly. However, I haven't found the traces of my father's nor my nephews' graves. Nor the communal graves where my mother and sisters were buried.

You have to reach out towards the afterworld. The dead are searching for us, awaiting us. Naturally, some journeys are

frightening. We keep putting them off. We dream about them. We try to renounce taking them, caught up in the waiting or in the rush of life. What a serious thing it is to go meet the dead – that of one's kin, but also others. Looking for souls means inviting them to return, without ever getting scared. There are so many dead looking for a final resting place, or perhaps just a simple thought, gesture or look. I'm inviting you on this journey.



RITHY PANH

Born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Graduated from IDHEC (now known as La Fémis) in Paris.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 1989 SITE 2
- 1990 SOULEYMANE CISSÉ
- 1991 CAMBODGE, ENTRE GUERRE ET PAIX
- 1994 RICE PEOPLE [NEAK SRE, LES GENS DE LA RIZIÈRE]
- 1995 THE TAN'S FAMILY
- 1996 BOPHANA, A CAMBODIAN TRAGEDY
- 1997 ONE EVENING AFTER THE WAR [UN SOIR APRÈS LA GUERRE]
- 1997 LUMIÈRES SUR UN MASSACRE - 10 FILMS AGAINST 110 000 000 LAND MINES
- 1998 50 ANS ET UN MONDE: VAN CHAN, A CAMBODIAN DANCER
- 1999 THE LAND OF WANDERING SOULS [LA TERRE DES ÂMES ERRANTES]
- 2000 QUE LA BARQUE SE BRISE, QUE LA JONQUE S'ENTROUVRE
- 2002 S21: THE KHMER ROUGE KILLING MACHINE
- 2003 THE PEOPLE OF ANGKOR [LES GENS D'ANGKOR]
- 2005 THE BURNT THEATER [LES ARTISTES DU THÉÂTRE BRÛLÉ]
- 2006 PAPER CANNOT WRAP UP EMBERS [LE PAPIER NE PEUT PAS ENVELOPPER LA BRAISE]
- 2008 THE SEA WALL [UN BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE]
- 2010 DUCH, MASTER OF THE FORGES OF HELL
- 2011 SHIIKU [GIBIER D'ÉLEVAGE]
- 2013 THE MISSING PICTURE [L'IMAGE MANQUANTE]
2013 Cannes Un Certain Regard Award
2014 Oscar® Nominated Film – Best Foreign Language Film
- 2015 FRANCE IS OUR MOTHER COUNTRY [LA FRANCE EST NOTRE PATRIE]
- 2016 EXILE [EXIL]
- 2018 GRAVES WITHOUT A NAME [LES TOMBEAUX SANS NOMS]

BOOKS

- 2007 *Paper cannot wrap up embers*
Grasset - with Louise Lorentz
- 2009 *S21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*,
Flammarion - with Christine Chaumeau
- 2011 *The Elimination*
Grasset - with Christophe Bataille

TEXT EXCERPTS FROM

JEAN CAYROL
(Night and Fog [Nuit et brouillard])

PASCAL QUIGNARD
(All the Mornings of the World [Tous les matins du monde])

PAUL ÉLUARD
(Capitale de la douleur)

JACQUES VERGÈS
(Terror's Advocate [L'avocat de la terreur], Barbet Schroeder).

and
THE ELIMINATION
[L'élimination] (R.Panh / C. Bataille)



CREDITS



DIRECTOR RITHY PANH
SCREENWRITER RITHY PANH
With the collaboration of AGNÈS SÉNÉMAUD
COMMENTARY CHRISTOPHE BATAILLE
THE NARRATOR RANDAL DOUC
CINEMATOGRAPHERS RITHY PANH, PRUM MÉSAR
EDITOR RITHY PANH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MANG SARITH
MUSIC MARC MARDER
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