



GLOBAL SHORTWAVE CLUB

Newsletter

President

William G Davis Jr

Contact Us!

Don't forget to call or write to us at least once a month. We welcome more if you have time!

Phone Numbers

315-775-8790

Address

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Shortwave Club
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Visit our website!

www.ictchurch.org

We have a whole area dedicated to our Global Shortwave Club members. You can also find our current frequencies and times!

Current Radio Schedule

WWCR
Worldwide Christian
Radio

Monday through Friday

5.890 - 0300 UT
13.845 - 1800 UT

Saturday

4.840 - 0200 UT
12.160 - 1700 UT

Sunday

4.840 - 0200 UT
9.350 - 2100 UT

The Killing Fields 1984

I discovered another movie that has shortwave as a backdrop, *The Killing Fields* 1984. It is a remarkable and deeply affecting film, based upon a true story of friendship, loyalty, the horrors of war, and survival while following the historical events surrounding the US evacuation from Vietnam in 1975.

It detailed the atrocities of Pol Pot's reign of terror in Cambodia in the 1970s. The authentic-looking, unforgettable epic film, directed by Roland Joffe (his first feature film) and produced by Britisher David Puttnam (the Oscar victor three years earlier for *Chariots of Fire* (1981)), was shot on location in Thailand (and Canada).

Cambodian doctor and non-actor Haing Ngor, in his film debut, was an actual survivor of the Cambodian holocaust who was forced to leave the city and work in the labor camps of the communist Khmer Rouge. He was tortured and experienced the starvation and death of his real-life family during the actual historical events revisited in this film. He eventually escaped to Thailand and arrived in the US in 1980. Eleven years after winning his Oscar, Ngor was shot to death outside his apartment near Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

The film's screenplay, by first-time scripter Bruce Robinson, was adapted from Pulitzer Prize-winning NY Times reporter Sydney Schanberg's *The Death and Life of Dith Pran* from The NY Times Magazine. It was both a war drama and an intense story of a bond of friendship. The film's poster described the relationship:

He was a reporter for the New York Times. He covered the Cambodian War with his camera and wrote about it from his heart. His coverage would win him a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, but the friend who made it all possible couldn't be by his side. He was half the world away with his life in great danger... This is a story of war and friendship, a country's anguish, and one man's will to live.

It was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Sam Waterston), Best Director (first-timer Roland Joffe), and Best Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium (Bruce Robinson) and won three Oscars: Best Supporting Actor (Haing S. Ngor), Best Cinematography (Chris Menges), and Best Film Editing (Jim Clark).

The film opens, during the title credits, with two voice-over narrations - the first from American newspaper correspondent, New York Times reporter Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston), to introduce the main character and his life-changing companion:

"Cambodia. To many Westerners, it seemed like a paradise. Another world, a secret world, but the war in neighboring Vietnam burst its borders, and the fighting soon spread to neutral Cambodia. In 1973, I went to cover this side-show struggle as a foreign correspondent for The New York Times. It was there, in the war-torn countryside amidst the fighting between government troops and the Khymer Rouge guerrillas, that I met my guide and interpreter, Dith Pran, a man who was to change my life in a country that I grew to love and pity."

The second voice-over narration was an excerpt from an early August 1973 Voice of America radio announcer about the troubled political situation in the US at the time - Nixon's Watergate Scandal:

"So here we go with Voice of America. News for Southeast Asia. It's 6:45 and a partly cloudy morning here. Clouds, too, in Washington. President Nixon has announced that he will address the nation on the Watergate case within the next few days. The speech will be Mr. Nixon's first comments since May on the scandal that has resulted in resignations and nearly paralyzed the White House staff. It has also led to a tense confrontation, and perhaps a constitutional crisis, with Senate investigators and the special Watergate prosecutor. His speech was announced after the Gallup Poll disclosed that Mr. Nixon's popularity had fallen to the lowest point for an American President in 20 years..."

The film chronicles unforgettable scenes of suffering endured during the Cambodian bloodbath (known as "Year Zero") that killed 3 million Cambodians, when the courageous and indomitable Dith Pran endures the atrocities of the Pol Pot regime and is captured by the communist Khymer Rouge and punished for befriending the Americans. His struggle to stay alive in the rural, barbaric 're-education' labor camp, his two escape attempts from his captors, and his horrifying walk through the skeletal remains of the brutal massacres in the Valley of Death, the muddy "killing fields," all present potent apocalyptic images on his journey to Thailand.