



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS A FILM SHOWING OF NEW YEAR BABY

The Story of Love That Not Even the Khmer Rouge Could Destroy

San Diego, CA...The San Diego Public Library and the Independent Television Service (ITVS) Community Cinema will host a preview film showing of Socheata Poeuv's *New Year Baby* on Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 PM in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is FREE to the public.

What would you do if everything you knew about your life was turned upside down? If your sisters weren't really your sisters and your mother was married to someone else before your father? In her personal and moving film *New Year Baby*, Socheata Poeuv finds that long-held secrets hide not only painful memories, but also love forged under inhuman conditions.

Born in a refugee camp on April 13—the Cambodian New Year's Day—Socheata Poeuv has always been called “the lucky one” by her family. Her parents survived the Khmer Rouge, one of the cruelest political regimes ever documented, eventually escaping to Thailand and then moving the entire family to Texas. Once in the United States, they never talked about what happened in Cambodia.

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On Christmas Day 2002, with the entire family gathered together, Socheata's parents reveal a secret they had kept for more than 25 years: Her older sisters weren't really her sisters at all, and her brother was only her half-brother, the child of her mother's previous marriage.

While reeling from this new information, Socheata wonders what other secrets her parents might have left behind in Cambodia. She embarks on an emotional journey with Ma and Pa to their homeland, retracing the family's path and picking up the lost pieces of her history along the way. She finds that to get to the bottom of her family's story, she must understand what happened to her former country as well.

Using animation to illustrate family memories and the country's history, *New Year Baby* intertwines the stories of her parents with those of millions of others who suffered under the Khmer Rouge. In fewer than four years, more than 1.7 million Cambodians—about one-fourth of the population—died from starvation, disease or execution.

Community Cinema is affiliated with the independent media organization ITVS, which has a monthly screening series that pairs independently produced documentary films with leading organizations working to resolve related social issues in communities across the country. All film content featured in ITVS Community Cinema will broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. *New Year Baby* will air in May, 2008.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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