

អប្សរានិងទេវតា

Apsara and Devata

Hundreds of *apsara* (celestial dancers, shown at bottom) and *devata* (female goddesses, shown at right) grace the walls of Khmer temples built during the Angkor period in Cambodia (9th to 14th centuries). Both come from the Hindu traditions of India, aspects of which the Khmer borrowed and adapted to Cambodian culture. *Apsara* are depicted dancing and are uniform in dress and pose. *Devata* are standing and each is an individual with unique facial expression and dress. Both wear magnificent headdresses which have been intricately carved in sandstone. The headdresses and clothing inspired the costuming for the classical Cambodian dance known as *Robam Tep Apsara*.

