

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE

Presents

## **Sleeping Beauty**

16 to 19 December 2010  
at Esplanade Theatre

**16 August 2010, SINGAPORE** – At the christening of a long-wished-for princess, fairies, invited from far and wide to be godmothers, offer gifts such as beauty, wit, and musical talent to the baby princess. However, a wicked fairy, wrathful at having not been invited, casts a vindictive spell on the princess. The curse dooms the princess to pricking her finger on a spindle when she reaches adulthood and dying as a result. A good fairy intervenes; though unable to completely reverse the spell, she is able to alter the curse — the princess, instead of dying, will be put to sleep for a hundred years. The Sleeping Beauty thus slumbers, patiently awaiting the awakening kiss of true love from a chivalrous prince.

Featuring music by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa, *Sleeping Beauty* is one of the most famous ballets in the classical repertoire. Its opulence and formal rigour characterise — perhaps better than any other production — the essence of classical ballet. This December, Singapore Dance Theatre brings *Sleeping Beauty* to a Singapore stage in a brand-new production featuring dynamic staging by the company's Artistic Director Janek Schergen and an array of lavish sets and ornately hand-crafted costumes.

## FAST FACTS

**Title:** Sleeping Beauty  
**Date:** 16 to 19 December 2010  
**Venue:** Esplanade Theatre  
**Ticket prices:** \$50, \$70, \$90  
**Time:** 16 to 19 December, 8pm  
18 & 19 December, 1pm and 7pm

**Tickets available at:** All SISTIC outlets;  
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and  
SISTIC website: [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg).  
\*SISTIC booking fees apply  
And SDT office at 6338-0611 or [ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com](mailto:ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com)  
Tickets will be available **from 21 October onwards**

**We apologise that we are unable to admit infants in arms and children below 6 years old.  
Children 6 years old and above will require a ticket for entry**



*For additional information,  
visit [www.singaporedancetheatre.com](http://www.singaporedancetheatre.com) or call 6348 5555*

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## **SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE – The Company**

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and the late Anthony Then. Under the directorship of Goh Soo Khim, SDT has developed into a premier professional dance company that has grown from seven to 24 dancers. Over the years, The Company performs five to six seasons, including the widely popular Ballet Under The Stars (BUTS) at the Fort Canning Park.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers and staging directors like Goh Choo San, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Stanton Welch, Marie-Claude Pietragalla, Thierry Malandain, Mauricio Wainrot, Val Caniparoli, and Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo and Edmund Stripe.

With the appointment of Janek Schergen as Artistic Director in January 2009, the Company is poised for new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. Janek is also the Artistic Director of the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation which oversees the licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

SDT also actively reaches out to the public to create greater awareness of dance through outreach to schools with our Arts Education Programme (AEP), Dance Appreciation Series (DAS) jointly presented with Esplanade Co., and One@The Ballet – a new initiative to help public gain more understanding about life as a dancer at SDT. To know more about SDT, visit us at [www.singaporedance theatre.com](http://www.singaporedance theatre.com).

## **JANEK SCHERGEN**

**Artistic Director**

**Staging Director – Sleeping Beauty**



Janek Schergen is from Göteborg, Sweden. He studied ballet with Richard Ellis and Christine Du Boulay of the Sadlers Wells Ballet, and continued at the American Ballet Center and the Harkness House for Ballet Arts in New York. In 1971 he joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the following year became a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet in Philadelphia, under the directorship of Barbara Weisberger and Benjamin Harkarvy, spending 11 years with the Company. In 1978, under the guidance of Mr. Harkarvy and Lupe Seranno, he began teaching in the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet. In addition to maintaining his career as a dancer and teacher, he began staging the works of Mr. Harkarvy for Pennsylvania Ballet and other companies.

In 1981, he was invited by Mary Day, the Director of Washington Ballet and Choo San Goh, the Company's Resident Choreographer, to guest teach for the Washington Ballet. He joined Washington Ballet in a full time position as ballet master and teacher and toured with the Company through the Far East, Europe and South America, as well as the United States.

In 1988 he was invited to be ballet master and Company Teacher for the Royal Swedish Ballet in Stockholm, rehearsing full-length classics such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and La Bayadere, as well as works by Sir Frederick Ashton and Sir Kenneth MacMillan. In 1991 he completed his studies in written dance notation in London, receiving his certification in Benesh Movement Notation.

In 1991 he became a ballet master for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where he rehearsed the full length classics and important additions to the repertoire such as MacMillan's Elite Syncopations, Lynne Taylor-Corbett's Great Galloping Gottschalk, John Cranko's The Taming of the Shrew and Balanchine's Apollo, Ballet Imperial, Serenade, Allegro Brillante, Concerto Barocco, Theme and Variations as well as others in the repertoire. He has staged his own production of The Sleeping Beauty for Ballet Met (1994), The Milwaukee Ballet (1995), Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (1996, 2000, 2005) Pennsylvania Ballet (1997, 2002) and the Norwegian National Ballet (2006).

In January, 1994, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Nashville Ballet, as well as Director of the company's School. He remained with the organization for three seasons. From 1997 to 2002 he taught Company and School classes for Ballet Pacifica as well as Inland Pacific Ballet.

In addition, as Artistic Director and a Board Member of The Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, he continues to stage the works of Mr. Goh for various companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and the Far East. He has staged more than 120 productions worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Awards Committee for the Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography which annually gives out choreographic grants to such organizations as Het Nationale Ballet, Limon Dance Company, San Francisco Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Pilobolus, New York City Ballet and many others. Over the course of the last four years, 78 different grants have been made devoting more than US\$700,000 to the creation of new works of choreography through the efforts of the Foundation.

Since the establishment of the Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988 he has been staging the ballets of Choo San Goh for the Company's repertoire. To date he has staged thirteen works for them and in December 2000 mounted the full length Romeo and Juliet for the Company. At the request of SDT he was asked to author a monograph on the career and ballets of Choo-San Goh. The book, with his text, was published in Singapore in September, 1997.

From 2002-2006 he was ballet master and staff teacher of the Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo. He was responsible for rehearsal of many full length works (Swan Lake, Othello, Cinderella, Taming of the Shrew, Onegin, Sleeping Beauty) in addition to contemporary works and the most recent Balanchine repertoire including Symphony in C, Agon, Serenade and Four Temperaments. The production he created of Tornerose for NNB was broadcast on NRK television in December 2006.

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## Dancers' profile

### Chihiro Uchida



Chihiro began dancing at Classical Ballet Academy S.O.U. in Japan. She won the Idemitsu Kousan Scholarship at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific International Ballet Competition in Tokyo in 2001 and was accepted into The Australian Ballet School. Upon graduation, she joined SDT in July 2005 and has performed in many SDT productions including Boi Sakti's *Reminiscing the Moon*, *La Sylphide*, *Coppelia*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*. She has also taken on principal roles in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker* and *Sometimes I Think I Remember*, Graham Lustig's *Cinderella*, Kuik Swee Boon's *Pellucid*, Jorma Elo's *Glow-Stop*, David Dawson's *A Million Kisses to My Skin*, Goh Choo San's *Unknown Territory*, George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, Edmund Stripe's *Piano Concerto No.2*, *Opus 102* and Goh Choo San's *Double Contrast*. Last year, Chihiro performed the lead role of Odile/Odette in *Swan Lake* for the first time.

### Ginny Gan



Ginny Gan obtained NAC Bursary to New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) and graduated in Nov 2007. During her training in Singapore Ballet Academy from 1999 to 2004, Ginny was involved in several SDT productions such as *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, *Red Shoes*, *Coppelia* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2000, Ginny won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Asia-Pacific Dance Competition in the Modern Group Category and in 2003, she clinched the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Modern Solo category of the Perth Theatrical Festival Dance Competition. In NZSD, she participated in performances like *Balanchine's Divertimento No. 15 & Agon* and was given the featured role in *La Sylphide*. In July 2007, Ginny was one of the two students chosen by NZSD to attend a summer exchange program with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School before assuming her position as a full-time member with SDT.

### Rosa Park

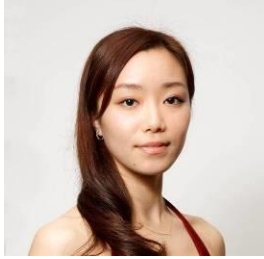


Rosa Park started dance training at Sunwha Arts School and obtained a B.A. Degree in Dance from Ewha Women's University as well as a Master's Degree in Dance from Sejong University of Korea. While she was in university, she was offered the opportunity to dance for the Korean National Ballet Company (KNBC) in 2002 and made her debut as a professional dancer in Yuri Grigovich's *The Nutcracker*, in which she danced as Marie.

As a soloist, she participated in a number of renowned dance pieces such as *The Nutcracker* (Marie), Balanchine's *Symphony C*, *Swan Lake* (Pas de trios, Four Swans, Napoli, Princess, etc.), *Giselle* (Friends pas de deux, Two Willi), Rudolf Nureyev's *Sleeping Beauty* (Tenderness Fairy, Pas de Cliq), *Le Corsaire* (Odalisc), *Don Quixote* (Two Friends, Cupid), *La Fille Mal Gardée* (Eight Friends), Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Dove La Luna*, and Gala Pas de Deux (*The Flame of Paris*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *Sleeping Beauty*). She was also a guest dancer to Royal Swedish Ballet (soloist in *Swan Lake*) and Korean Ballet Theatre (Principle, Raymonda and Mongyudowondo).

Some of the many competitions Rosa has participated in are Korean Dance Association Competition (Gold prize, 2002), Dong-A Competition (Silver prize, (1998), Bronze prize, (2002)), Korean Ballet Association Competition (Silver prize (1997), Bronze prize (1995)), and Kirov & UBC Competition (Silver prize, 1995). Rosa joined SDT as a full-time member in 2009.

## Kana Murakami



Kana graduated in 2003 with a Diploma of Dance from The Australian Conservatoire of Ballet and began her career at the Tokyo Ballet, with which she danced from 2004 to 2006. While she was at the Tokyo Ballet, she performed in *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Sylphide*, *Carmen*, *Etude*, Pierre Lacotte's *La Fille du Danube*, Maurice Bejart's *Phrases de Quatuor* and *Danses Grecques*. She joined SDT as a full-time member in 2010.

## Chen Peng



Chen Peng trained at the Beijing Dance Institute and was a full member of the National Ballet of China from 2003 to 2005. He has performed the pas de deux in *La Corsaire*, *The Nutcracker* and *Raymonda*, as well as *The Red Lantern*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Etudes*, *Yellow River* and *Sylvia*, among others. Chen Peng joined SDT in September 2005 and was involved in productions like *Coppelia*, *Impressions*, *Ballet Under The Stars* and *Legacy of Goh Choo San*. He has also taken on lead roles in SDT's productions of *Swan Lake* in 2007 and 2009.

## William Wu Mi



William graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Dance as a scholarship student from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. In 2006, he won the CitiBank/Asian Culture Council Dance Fellowship to attend a Summer Intensive Course at the Ailey School. As a student, he danced the roles of Franz in *Coppelia*, Prince Florimund in *Sleeping Beauty* and Ma WenCai in Yuri Ng's *Butterfly Lovers*. He has also performed in Thierry Malandain's *Sextet*, Natalie Weir's *His Weeping* and Jean Paul-Comelin's *Mozart Requiem*. William joined SDT in July 2007 and made his debut performance with the Company in *Legacy of Goh Choo San*. He was also a guest artist for Kuik Swee Boon's *Silence* in the Singapore Da:ns Festival in October 2007 and was involved in productions of *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.

## New Year Message from Janek Schergen

### Artistic Director, Singapore Dance Theatre:

Dear members of the media,

As we approach another new year of presenting dance performances for the Singapore-based audience, I am heartened to note that as a Company, Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) has managed to produce a series of successful performances in 2009, despite it being a year fraught by road-bumps in many ways for both the Company and the world-at-large.

An overview of our report card for 2009 shows that we reached record attendances for one of our stalwart star performers, the annual *Ballet Under The Stars* at Fort Canning Park, which saw more than 10,000 arts lovers take up precious square inches of space on the green to enjoy a mixed bill of both artistically-challenging and readily-accessible pieces.

It was also wonderful to be able to jointly support, with the National Arts Council, the first-ever Genée International Ballet Competition held in Singapore. On top of offering our studio spaces to the young participants for their coaching and training sessions, SDT also performed at both the Gala Fundraising Event at the Shangri-La Hotel and the finals of the competition held at University Cultural Centre. All the participants also came to watch SDT perform a contemporary triple bill featuring the Company's premiere of George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, which was truly an 'icing on the cake' experience for all involved.

SDT staged a well-received overseas performance called *Continuum* at the Opera Theatre Saint-Etienne in France, where the French connoisseurs applauded our dancers' skills in a programme that showcased works by David Dawson, Jorma Elo, and Edmund Stripe. And in closing the year, we re-staged *Swan Lake* to resounding success, with box office figures surpassing that of its premiere in 2007!

Classical favourites, neo-classical masterpieces, and cutting-edge contemporary works form the three pillars of most major ballet companies around the world. As Singapore's largest professional dance company, SDT continues to nurture talents within our stable of dancers who are equally adept at all three genres. Whether it is the romanticism of *Swan Lake* or the pageantry of *The Nutcracker*, the ageless artistry of Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, or the edgy aesthetics of newer pieces like David Dawson's *A Million Kisses to my Skin* and Jorma Elo's *Glow-Stop*, SDT dancers stand out on stage each and every time.

It is no wonder then, that recent reviews in international dance publications like Dance Europe have used words like "effervescent" and "exuberant" to describe the Company and our dancers. We will continue to work towards becoming the epitome of versatility, and, as expressed in our Company's mission statement, to become world-renowned "for our unique ability to shine in classical, neo-classical, and contemporary repertoire with works that are timeless and inspiring."

In 2010, the Company will acquire another ballet by George Balanchine, and for the first time, stage a story-driven children's ballet titled *Peter and Blue's Forest Adventure*. Of course, *Ballet Under The Stars*, will return with an even more entertaining and delightful ballet for our loyal fan base. A new full-length production of the ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* is also in the works.



There will be a slew of outreach activities in 2010, including “One@ the Ballet”, which received overwhelming responses when it was initiated in 2009, as well as “Dance Appreciation Series” which was started in August 2006. “Passages”, a choreographic platform for fresh young talents, will also be part of our efforts to incubate new works for our repertoire.

Members of the media, we look forward to receiving your continued support in 2010.