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SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE

presents

Ballet Under The Stars – 17th edition

15 – 17 July 2011

Fort Canning Green, Gate opens at 5pm

Pre-show performances from 6.30pm onwards

27 May 2011, Singapore – Experience an evening of beauty as Singapore Dance Theatre brings back Singapore’s favourite annual outdoor dance event, *Ballet Under The Stars* (BUTS). BUTS is best known for its exciting performances and an annual occasion well suited for family outings and social gatherings, where our audiences can enjoy a medley of modern and classical dance performances over a leisurely picnic, right under the Singapore night sky. Especially for the younger ones, we have fun activities like face painting and glitter henna available for a nominal fee.

This year, we are proud to present to you works such as ***Allegro Brillante*** and ***Serenade*** by George Balanchine, choreographer of last year’s *Concerto Barocco* and also a re-staged piece of ***Swan Lake (Act II)*** by Janek Schergen, our artistic director.

Audiences can also expect other performances from schools such as Singapore Ballet Academy in the pre-show segment. BUTS 2011 will also be featuring a special showcase by Ballet Manila performing ***Arnica*** and ***Sayao Sa Pamlang***.

Allegro Brillante by George Balanchine is set to music by Tchaikovsky's Third Piano Concerto, which was originally written as a symphony. Dissatisfied with the piece, he converted the first movement into a concert piece for piano and orchestra. According to Balanchine, ***Allegro Brillante*** is described as "expansive Russian romanticism" that requires strong dancing, precise timing and breadth of gesture; the piece, which is made up of vigorous pacing of the music, makes the steps appear more difficult. Tchaikovsky performs another piece by George Balanchine, 'Serenade' with a beautiful piece of music. The first performance of *Serenade* was on June 10, 1934, by students of the School of American Ballet, at Felix Warburg's estate, White Plains, New York. A milestone in the history of dance, ***Serenade*** is the first original ballet Balanchine created in America and is one of the signature works of New York City Ballet's repertoire.

Originating from a lesson in stage technique, Balanchine worked unexpected rehearsal events into the choreography - When one student fell, he incorporated it. Another day, a student arrived late, and this too became part of the ballet.

After its initial presentation, ***Serenade*** was reworked several times. In its present form the piece is performed by 28 dancers in blue costumes in front of a blue background encompassing four movements – 'Sonatina,' 'Waltz,' 'Russian Dance,' and 'Elegy.' The last two movements reverse the order of Tchaikovsky's score, ending the ballet on a note of sadness.

Finally, we present to you one of the greatest classical ballets of all time, a spectacular staging of ***Swan Lake (ACT II)*** by Janek Schergen. The first *Swan Lake* was choreographed by Julius Reisinger and premiered in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre and was Tchaikovsky's first ballet music attempt.

It was in 1895 that Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov created their masterpiece that would later have them deemed synonymous with ***Swan Lake*** by ballet enthusiasts. Since then, many versions and interpretations of ***Swan Lake*** have come about, including a

thirty-five minute Swan Lake choreographed by George Balanchine in 1951, set as the first traditional ballet of the New York City Ballet repertoire.

This season, we bring you a treat of breath-taking ballet movements and resplendent raiment with our stunning masterwork of one of the world's beloved ballet - Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) **Swan Lake (ACT II)** in BUTS 2011.

BUTS sets the perfect stage for meeting Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) objective of education and outreach by offering a platform where people from all walks of life can be exposed to a range of different dance-forms.

FAST FACTS

- Title** : Ballet Under the Stars 2011
- Date** : 15 – 17 July 2011
- Venue** : Fort Canning Park
- Time** : 7.30pm
(Gates open from 5pm for picnic)
(Pre-show performances start from 6.30pm onward)
- Ticket prices:** Standard Ticket: \$25
Children/Student/NSmen/Senior Citizen: \$15
Free admission for children below six years old
- Tickets are available at** : All SISTIC outlets;
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and
SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg.
*SISTIC booking fees apply
And SDT office at 6338-0611 or
ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

OCBC Priority Booking is available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 22 April 2011.

Public performance tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and the SDT office from 8 May 2011.

Discount Schemes

Ticket prices:

- Standard Ticket Price: \$25
- Student* / NSmen/ Senior Citizen: \$15

Free admission for children below the age of six years old.

No discount available for tickets purchased at the door on the day of performance.

This is a rain or shine event and no raised seating are allowed.

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For additional information,

visit 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 with seven dancers by Goh Soo Khim and the late Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premier professional dance company comprising 32 dancers. In the course of each year, the Company performs five to six seasons, including the widely popular *Ballet Under The Stars* at the Fort Canning Park.

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

In 2009, Janek Schergen took over the post of Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, 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 its Arts Education Programme, Dance Appreciation Series (jointly presented with Esplanade Co.), and One @ The Ballet, a new initiative to help public gain a better understanding of life as a dancer at SDT.

JANEK SCHERGEN
Artistic Director



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.

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.

GEORGE BALANCHINE (1904-1983)
CHOREOGRAPHER
Allegro Brillante & Serenade



George Balanchine was born in St. Petersburg, during the age of Imperial Russia, in 1904. As a dancer and choreographer, Balanchine was also trained equally as a musician where he was enrolled in the Petrograd Conservatory of Music and studied music theory, composition and piano. In 1948, Balanchine founded the New York City Ballet and had produced more than 400 ballets. *Apollo, Prodigal Son, Serenade, Concerto Barocco, Ballet Imperial, Symphony in C, Theme and Variations, The Four Temperaments, Allegro Brillante, Agon, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Jewels, Stars and Stripes, Who Cares, Violin Concerto*, and many more, attest to Balanchine's genius. Every major ballet company in the world now enhances their repertoire with

Balanchine ballets.