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SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE

Passages
Choreographic Workshop Showcase
28 October 2011
National Museum of Singapore, Gallery Theatre

15 August 2011 – Contemporary dance takes center stage again in a two-day-only showcase! **'Passages'** shines a light on the new creations of four young choreographers **Christina Chan, Gianti Giadi Gigi, Basu Mallick Koustav** and **Micheal Wong**. The sky is the limit when Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) and National Museum of Singapore come together in this spectacular collaboration.

A window of opportunity is given to these fledgling choreographers to inject their various interests and individualistic flairs into exploring and expanding their creative sphere in working with the dancers of the SDT to produce new and original dance creations, which are best suited for the black box theatre space. The dancers' ability to shine in various dance genres ranging from classical, neo-classical and contemporary ballet, will allow fans of dance to be simultaneously challenged and inspired by the results of **'Passages'**.

In September this year, the tutelage and guidance that the choreographers received under Singapore Dance Theatre's Artistic Director Janek Schergen will finally pay off, as during the performance, each of these budding choreographers will present a 15-minute piece, featuring SDT's professional dancers.

'Passages' will also include a post-show talk conducted with the choreographers and Janek Schergen (SDT's Artistic Director), that audience members are invited to participate in.

Last but not least, **'Passages'** will also present two spectacular dance pieces, *Nameless* by Xing Liang and *Hold the Forth* by Daniel Roberts.

The concept of Xing Liang's creation, *Nameless*, comes from Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*, and it is a deconstruction of ballet's language. Unrestrained and abstract moving images portray the complex relationships between man and man, man and space, and man with his surrounding universe. The work explores the space between oppositions – positive and negative, truth and false, right and wrong.

Hold the Fourth was created in SDT's choreographic workshop Passages in 2010. This first work by fledgling choreographer and former SDT dancer Daniel Roberts is alternately bold and subtle, dramatic and intimate, and is thoroughly accessible to both seasoned dance fans and new enthusiasts alike.

FAST FACTS

Title: Passages
Date: 28 - 29 October 2011
Venue: Gallery Theatre, National Museum of Singapore
Time: 28 October, Friday, 7.30pm
29 October, Saturday, 3pm & 7.30pm
Ticket prices: Standard Ticket: \$20 (Not inclusive of SISTIC charge)
Children/Student/NSmen/Senior Citizen: \$15

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

Tickets will be available **from 25 July onwards**

Discount Schemes

Ticket prices:

- Standard Ticket Price: \$20
- Student* / NSmen/ Senior Citizen: \$15



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*For additional information,
visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6348 5555*

Media Contact:

Nicole Lee, Sirius Art Pte Ltd
Tel: +65 64880156;
Email: nicole@siriusart.com.sg

Norman Lim, Singapore Dance Theatre Ltd
Tel: +65 6338 0611;
Email: norman.lim@singaporedancetheatre.com

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
SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE**



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 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.

Biography of Choreographers

Christina Chan

Christina graduated summa cum laude with a B.F.A. in Dance from The Boston Conservatory in May 2010 and was awarded the prestigious Arthur B. Whitney Medal for highest scholastic achievement. Originally from Singapore, she trained and performed with The Singapore Ballet Academy, passing The Royal Academy of Dance Advance II Syllabus with distinction. She studied at the New Zealand School of Dance before moving to the United States. She received scholarship from The Singapore National Arts Council from 2007-2011 and is also a recipient of The Boston Conservatory Merit Scholarship and the Julie Ince Thompson Award.

Basu Mallick Koustav

Koustav started dance at 21 with the NUS Dance Ensemble and has worked with noted choreographers such as Zaini Mohd Tahir, Shahbirul Zaki Ahmad, Kavitha Krishnan, Maud Toledano and Marcus Foo. He received a partial scholarship from The Human Expression Company for Contact 2010 and has gone on to perform in one of their items; Recapturing ...Vague, helmed under the Singapore Arts Festival.

Now an active alumni member, he has choreographed several items for the Ensemble including The Love Cycle for The Next Wave 2008, Drop in the Ocean and Unwavering for Evocation 2010 and 2011 respectively. His piece for The Royal Dance Off 2011, a contemporary dance competition organized by O School placed second. He participated in Sprouts 2010 and received Honourable Mention which entailed an opportunity to work with Singapore Dance Theatre for Passages 2011. He sees Passages 2011 as a space to expand his choreographic interests.

Micheal Wong

Michael started with jazz ballet during his NUS undergraduate days under the instruction of Ms Teresa Pee, and was subsequently trained in classical ballet by Ms Sylvia McCully and in Chinese Dance by Mr Zhou Lei and Ms Ding Hong. Michael has performed in various productions by the NUS Chinese Dance, the Theatre Arts Troupe and the Singapore Dance Theatre. He participated in Ballet Magnificat!'s *Deliver Us* and the Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* productions when they toured Singapore. Michael has been regularly choreographing in NUS since 2007. His piece *WO/OD* was presented in 2009 NUS Arts Festival, and *Shattered* was presented at the pre-show segment of *Ballet Under The Stars 2009*.