

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE*

presents

## **The Nutcracker**

8 to 11 December 2011  
at Esplanade Theatre

**15 August 2011, Singapore** – Join The Nutcracker on a tinsel journey through pre-WWI, turn-of-the-century, colonial Shanghai. This new version of the timeless classic by Tchaikovsky is a light-hearted tale of adventure and courage featuring Clara and her adventures after she receives a beautifully-crafted nutcracker doll from her toymaker uncle, Dr Drosselmeyer.

Clara's magical adventure starts when at the stroke of midnight, The Nutcracker doll given to her by her uncle, Dr Drosselmeyer comes alive and comes to her rescue when her room is invaded by an army of rats. The King Rat is defeated by the valiant Nutcracker doll, and The Nutcracker is transformed into a Prince. The Nutcracker Prince then treats Clara to a magical journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, where she is enchanted with sights of Spain, France, Russia and China and later greeted by the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince.

Expect to see spectacular new sets and costumes, along with well-loved and familiar characters who will dance their way into your hearts during this joyous festive performance.

## **FAST FACTS**

**Title:** The Nutcracker  
**Date:** 8 - 11 December 2011  
**Venue:** Esplanade Theatre  
**Time:** 8 December, Thursday, 8pm  
9 December, Friday, 8pm  
10 December, Saturday, 1pm & 8pm  
11 December, Sunday, 1pm & 7.30pm

**Ticket prices:** \$30, \$50, \$75, \$90

**Tickets available at:** All SISTIC outlets  
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555  
SISTIC website: [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg).  
\*SISTIC booking fees apply

SDT office at 6338-0611 or [ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com](mailto:ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com)  
Tickets will be available for public sale **from 5 September 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**

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*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 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.