



SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Singapore Dance Theatre presents **Ballet Under The Stars – 17th Edition**

20 – 22 July at Fort Canning Park

Singapore Dance Theatre brings back **Ballet Under The Stars** this July with a medley of exquisite and inspiring new works. As Singapore's favourite annual outdoor dance event since its conception in 1995, Ballet Under The Stars is the perfect evening out for family and friends.

Performed to a sold-out crowd last year, this year's highly anticipated event will feature a new staging of a celebrated piece from the classical ballet repertoire, **Paquita** by staged Janek Schergen, **ZIN!** (Company Premiere) and **Organ Concerto** (World Premiere) by Dutch Choreographer Nils Christe and a tribal piece titled **Jabula** by Natalie Weir (Company Premiere).

Unwind with a leisurely evening picnic amidst the lush greenery in Fort Canning Green and be enthralled by a fine mix of classical and contemporary ballet. Children will also be entertained by fun activities such as face painting and balloon sculpting.

Paquita by Marius Petipa, Staged by Janek Schergen

Taken from the full length ballet of the same name, *Paquita* is a divertissement, choreography comprising a series of pas de deux and solo variations. *Paquita* incorporates brilliant technique in performance, and culminates in a grand coda which lends it the reputation of a ballet with great style and character. The piece features a mainly female cast with only two men, and is included in the repertoire of world-renowned ballet companies.

The Choreographer

Marius Petipa, the "father of classical ballet", was born in Marseilles, France, in 1819. Petipa is well-known for his long career as *Premier Maître de Ballet* of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre. During his career, Petipa

created over fifty ballets, including *Sleeping Beauty* (1890). Amongst his other renowned works are ballets such as *Swan Lake* (1877), *Don Quixote* (1869), *La Bayadère* (1877), *The Nutcracker* (1892), *Raymonda* (1898).

ZIN! by Nils Christe

ZIN! is a company premiere of the work which was created for Introdans in 1997. Featuring a cast of seven dancers, *ZIN!* is an upbeat and lively piece that is bubbling with humour. This will be Nils Christe's return to SDT after last season's tremendous success with *Fearful Symmetries*. *ZIN!* is danced to the music of *Serra Pelada* from the album *Powaqqatsi* by Philip Glass.

Organ Concerto by Nils Christe

Organ Concerto is the reworking of an original piece for the Royal Swedish Ballet, choreographed to Francis Poulenc's famous music score of the same name. Originally created for eight couples, the dance demanded great talent and extraordinary depth. The version performed by SDT is a world premiere showcasing twelve couples and is created especially for the company, by Nils Christe. Dancers will also wear costumes by Rehearsal Director Annegien Sneep.

The Choreographer

Nils Christe, born in Rotterdam, has been a choreographer since 1974 when he created his first ballet for Nederlands Dans Theater. He created 12 works for the company of which *Quartet 1* won his the first prize at the Choreographic Competition in Cologne in 1979. As a free-lance choreographer, he has worked with many renowned ballet companies including Dutch National Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, English National Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, National Ballet of Finland and Washington Ballet. Nils Christe has choreographed to the music of many different composers such as Strawinsky, Poulenc, Shostakovich, Britten, Mahler, Liszt, Beethoven, Purcell, Prokofiev, Wagner, Vivaldi, Glass, Reich, Adams and others. Besides creating for ballet, he also did the choreography for the operas *Dido and Aeneas*, *Aida* and *Achnaton*.

Jabula by Natalie Weir

Jabula is an African word meaning "joy". Weir's work borrows elements from tribal dance forms, as a celebration of the dancers' energy and spirit. A highly theatrical and explosive piece, *Jabula* highlights the dancers' athleticism. *Jabula* uses a syncopated choral and percussive score originally composed for the film "The Power of One", and features a cast of eleven dancers comprising five men and six women.

The Choreographer

Natalie Weir is an Australian choreographer and the current Artistic Director for the Expressions Dance Company in Australia. Weir has choreographed more than 150 works for national and international companies including the Queensland Ballet (from 1994), The Australian Ballet (from 2000) and also for the American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Royal Ballet School and Australian Dance Theatre. She was appointed choreographer in residence for the Queensland Ballet in 1994, creating seven works including *Wuthering Heights* and *Petrushka* and three pieces for the Australian Ballet in 2000. Internationally, she has choreographed two works for the American Ballet Theatre. The company has also performed *Jabula*.

FAST FACTS

- Title** : Ballet Under The Stars
- Date** : 20 – 22 July 2012 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)
- Venue** : Fort Canning Green
- Time** : 7.30pm (Main Performance)
Gates open from 5pm for picnic
Pre-show performances start from 6.30pm onwards
- Ticket prices** : \$32 – Standard, \$20 – Concession
(Excluding SISTIC charges)
- Free Admission for children below the age of 4 years old.

Tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office now.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Dancers for Season 2012

Artistic Team

Artistic Director Janek Schergen

Ballet Master Mohamed Noor Sarman

Senior Artists Chihiro Uchida Rosa Park Chen Peng

First Artist Heidi Zolker Chen Wei Kenya Nakamura Timothy Coleman

Artists Akira Nakahama Alison Carroll Amy Bale Ayami Miyata
 Elaine Heng Iori Araya Li Jie May Yen Cheah
 Madeleine Halbauer Nanase Tanaka Nonoko Tanaka Tomoko Takahashi
 Xu Lei Ting

 Etienne Ferrère Kensuke Yorozu Robin Lawrence Kent Ryo Suzuki
 Shaw Coleman Tatsuro Kannan Zhao Jun Zou Long

Apprentices Chua Bi Ru Lisha Chin Marina Yatsushiro Sun Hong Lei
 Jason Carter

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 34 dancers. In the course of each year, the Company performs six main seasons, including the widely popular *Ballet Under The Stars* at the Fort Canning Park. As an ambassador for dance and for Singapore, the company aims to be an internationally well-regarded professional dance company that is known for its unique ability to shine in classical, neo-classical and contemporary repertoire with works that are timeless and inspiring.

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, Natalie Weir, Val Caniparoli, Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo, Edmund Stripe, Adrian Burnett, Edwaard Liang and Nils Christie.

In 2009, Janek Schergen took over the post of Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, the Company has made 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, an initiative to help the public gain a better understanding of the different aspect of dance.

SDT REPERTOIRE 2009 - 2011

Swan Lake

Choreography after Petipa/Ivanov
Staging Janek Schergen

Cinderella

Choreography Graham Lustig

Glow-Stop

Choreography Jorma Elo

A Million Kisses To My Skin

Choreography David Dawson

Piano Concerto #2, Opus 102

Choreography Edmund Stripe

Concerto Barocco

Choreography George Balanchine

Unknown Territory

Choreography Goh Choo San

Raymonda Divertissements

Choreography Marius Petipa

Double Contrasts

Choreography Goh Choo San

Pellucid

Choreography Kuik Swee Boon

Sometimes I Think I Remember

Choreography Jeffrey Tan

Evening at the Ritz

Choreography Molly Lynvh

Giselle

Choreography after Coralli / Derrot
Staging Janek Schergen

Don Quixote Pas De Deux

Choreography Marius Petipa

Peter & Blues Forest Adventure

Choreography Janek Schergen

Oneiros

Choreography Adrian Burnett

Sleeping Beauty

Choreography after Marius Petipa
Staging Janek Schergen

Hold The Fourth

Choreography Daniel Roberts

As Above So Below

Choreography Edwaard Liang

Nameless

Choreography Xing Liang

Serenade

Choreography George Balanchine

Romeo and Juliet

Choreography Goh Choo San

The Winds of Zephyrus

Choreography Edwaard Liang

Maninyas

Choreography Stanton Welch

Fearful Symmetries

Choreography Nils Christie

Allegro Brillante

Choreography George Balanchine

The Nutcracker

Choreography and Staging
Janek Schergen

REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS - 2012

Paquita

Choreography after Marius Petipa

Zin!

Choreography Nils Christie

Organ Concerto

Choreography Nils Christie

Jabula

Choreography Natalie Weir

Peter & Blue Go Around The World

Choreography Janek Schergen

Absence of Story

Choreography Tom Shimizaki

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