



SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | JANEK SCHERGEN

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## Singapore Dance Theatre Launches 25<sup>th</sup> Season with Coppélia 14 - 17 March 2013 at the Esplanade Theatre



As Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary, the Company is proud to open its 2013 season with one of the most well-loved comedy ballets, *Coppélia – The Girl with Enamel Eyes*. From 14 – 17 March at the Esplanade Theatre, SDT will mesmerise audiences with this charming and sentimental tale of adventure, mistaken identity and a beautiful life-sized doll. A new staging by Artistic Director Janek Schergen, featuring original choreography by Arthur Saint-Leon, *Coppélia* is set to a ballet libretto by Charles Nuittier, with music by Léo Delibes.

Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman, this three-act ballet tells the light-hearted story of the mysterious Dr Coppélius who owns a beautiful life-sized puppet, Coppélia. A village youth named Franz, betrothed to the beautiful Swanilda becomes infatuated with Coppélia, not knowing that she just a doll. The magic and fun begins when Coppélia springs to life!

*Coppélia* is one of the most performed and favourite full-length classical ballets from SDT's repertoire. This colourful ballet was first performed by SDT in 1995 with staging by Colin Peasley of The Australian Ballet. Following this, the production was revived again in 1997, 2001 and 2007. This year, Artistic Director Janek Schergen will be bringing this ballet back to life with a new staging. For this latest production of *Coppélia*, new scenic designs will be created and the costumes will be refurbished.

"My personal and professional experience with *Coppélia* goes back to the time I was dancing the ballet during my career. I participated in every aspect of the ballet as a dancer and had the privilege to watch on as The Royal Ballet's greatest character artists, Stanley Holden, did the role of Dr. Coppélius with us. *Coppélia* is a ballet that, at its heart, is both a comedy and a dramatic story. With this new staging, I want to bring those elements out more clearly, enhancing the classical level of dancing within the company by fully realizing all the large group scenes that add to the principal character's stories. We'll add in new scenic design as well to give it a fresh look. It is a ballet that has something for everyone," comments Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

*Coppélia* premiered in 1870 by the Théâtre Impérial de l'Opéra with 16 year old Giuseppina Bozzacchi as the principal dancer taking on the lead role of Swanilda. It was a ballet which introduced automatons, dolls and marionettes to ballet and partly because of its immense success, ballets like *The Nutcracker* and *Petrushka* had dolls which came alive. Today, *Coppélia* enjoys undiminished worldwide popularity in all its light-heartedness and humour.

Probably one of the best-known and most performed comedy ballets, this latest staging of *Coppélia* will bring fun, laughter and enjoyment for all!

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **Act I**

In an idyllic village in Galica, everyone is preparing to celebrate the Festival of the Bells. A beautiful girl, Swanilda, has been courted by the most charming boy in the village, Franz, in hopes that they will marry. He is also fascinated with the daughter of the village toy-maker, Dr. Coppélius. She is named Coppélia, and sits every day on the balcony of her father's house reading.

Franz is very much in love with Swanilda, but is seemingly distracted by Coppélia. This infuriates Swanilda and, in a fit of jealousy, she tells Franz she does not love him anymore. The village Mayor arrives to tell everyone that he has bought a new bell for the village tower. All who marry on the day of the Festival of the Bells will receive the blessing of a generous dowry. Assuming that Swanilda and Franz will be the first ones wed, he urges Swanilda not to be foolish and to forgive Franz. He presents her with a sheaf of wheat and says that if she shakes it and hears a sound, it is proof that her beloved is true to her. She decides to put it to a test and Franz assures her that his love is only for her. She is overcome by his charm and forgives him.

Everyone in the village goes in to prepare for the festivities. Dr. Coppélius, on his way to the village inn, has an encounter with the village youths, losing his key in the scuffle. Swanilda and her girlfriends find the key and use it to enter his house to uncover the truth behind the mystery of Coppélia. Franz boldly decides to finally meet Coppélia himself and sneaks in through the balcony to meet her as well.

### **Act II**

Swanilda and her girlfriends cautiously enter into Dr. Coppélius' workshop and find it full of life size dolls. In attempting to find Coppélia, they set all the dolls in motion and are delighted with the results. It is revealed by Swanilda that Coppélia is nothing more than a beautiful doll herself. Just as this happens, Dr. Coppélius returns and chases them all from the house. Swanilda has hidden herself in Coppélia's alcove and to trick Dr. Coppélius, dresses herself up to masquerade as the beautiful doll.

Just as Dr. Coppélius is settling down, Franz arrives through the balcony. Dr. Coppélius decides to use his magic and steal the essence of life from Franz to bring his beloved "daughter" Coppélia to life. Dr. Coppélius convinces Franz he is not angry with him and to invite him to share some wine together. He tricks Franz and uses a potion to make him unconscious. He then brings forth Coppélia, which is now Swanilda dressed in her clothes. Dr. Coppélius uses his magic to bring her to life and, to his astonishment, it seems to work. Swanilda convinces him that she is Coppélia and asks if Franz is one of the dolls he made. He says "yes" and distracts her with gifts and dancing as a diversion. Swanilda knows she must wake Franz and escape the masquerade. In doing so, she reveals the real Coppélia as just a broken toy. Swanilda and Franz rush from the house, leaving Dr. Coppélius in grief.

### **Act III**

The following day, the village celebrates the Festival of the Bells. All the couples that marry on this day will be especially blessed. Dr. Coppélius forces his way through the festivities and tells of what has happened. Swanilda sincerely apologizes and the Mayor gives Dr. Coppélius compensation as well as the forgiveness offered.

To commemorate the day, divertissements are presented that show the morning hours, which leads to dawn, prayer, the harvesters and the betrothal couples, culminating in the wedding of Swanilda and Franz. The end brings calm to the village and the joy to all whose marriage has been blessed that day.

## THE CHARACTERS

For this production of *Coppélia*, the main cast are:

Swanilda	Rosa Park/ Chihiro Uchida
Franz	Timothy Coleman/ Kenya Nakamura
Dr Coppélius	Janek Schergen

Senior Artists Rosa Park and Chihiro Uchida will be performing the lead role of Swanilda in *Coppélia*, both of whom have taken on the demanding lead roles of Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake* (2009, 2012) and Princess Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty* (2010, 2012). They will be partnered by First Artists Timothy Coleman and Kenya Nakamura respectively who will be dancing the role of Franz. This production will also see Artistic Director Janek Schergen performing the dramatic lead role of Dr Coppélius, the mysterious toy maker.

## FAST FACTS

**Title** : *Coppélia*  
Staging by Janek Schergen with choreography by Arthur Saint-Leon  
Music by Léo Delibes with libretto by Charles Nuittier

**Date** : 14 - 17 March 2013 (Thursday – Sunday)

**Venue** : Esplanade Theatre

**Time** : 14 & 15 March, 8pm  
16 March, 1pm, 8pm  
17 March, 1pm, 7pm

**Ticket prices** : Evening Performances:  
\$90, \$70, \$50, \$30 (excluding SISTIC charge)

Matinee Performances:  
\$70, \$50, \$30 (excluding SISTIC charge)

Various discount schemes are available

Admission for 6 years old and above

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.

**Tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 17 January 2013.**

## ARTISTIC TEAM

### Dancers for Season 2013

#### Artistic Team

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Senior Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Rosa Park	Chen Peng	
First Artist	Heidi Zolker Timothy Coleman	Chen Wei Zhao Jun	Kenya Nakamura	
Artists	Akira Nakahama Iori Araya Marina Yatsushiro Tomoko Takahashi	Alison Carroll Li Jie Nanase Tanaka Xu Lei Ting	Ayami Miyata Maughan Jemesen Nonoko Tanaka	Chua Bi Ru May Yen Cheah Sun Hong Lei
	Calogero Failla Luis Piva	Etienne Ferrère Ke Zhu	Kensuke Yorozu Nazer Salgado	Jason Carter Ryo Suzuki
Apprentices	Beatrice Castaneda Liu Yifei	Huo Liang Lee Jia Xi	Kwok Min Yi Natalie Debono	Lisha Chin

## THE COMPANY

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premier professional dance company comprising 37 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, two full length classics and also *Masterpiece in Motion* which brings together three works of the finest international choreography. 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 production of Choo San Goh's ballets.

SDT 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.), Adults Dance Classes, Scholars Programme for students considering dancing as a career and One @ The Ballet, an initiative to help the public gain a better understanding of the different aspects of dance.

In 2013, SDT will be moving to a new premise with four state of the art studios. Additionally the Company will be enhancing efforts in Education and Outreach, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for dance to a wider audience.

## SDT REPERTOIRE 2009 - 2012

### **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 Lynch

### **Giselle**

Choreography after Coralli / Derrot  
Staging Janek Schergen

### **Allegro Brillante**

Choreography George Balanchine

### **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

### **The Nutcracker**

Choreography and Staging  
Janek Schergen

### **Paquita**

Choreography after Marius Petipa

### **Zin!**

Choreography Nils Christie

### **Age of Innocence**

Choreography Edwaard Liang

### **Chant**

Choreography Val Caniparoli

### **Organ Concerto**

Choreography Nils Christie

### **Jabula**

Choreography Natalie Weir

### **Divertimento No. 15**

Choreography George Balanchine

### **Peter & Blue Go Around The World**

Choreography Janek Schergen

### **Absence of Story**

Choreography Toru Shimazaki

### **Waiting...**

Choreography Christina Chan

## REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS - 2013

### **Theme and Variations**

Choreography George Balanchine

### **New Works by**

Natalie Weir

Edwaard Liang

Kinsun Chan

Christina Chan