



**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Melissa Tan
Publicity and Advertising Executive
melissat@singaporedancetheatre.com

Joseph See
Acting Marketing Manager
Joseph.see@singaporedancetheatre.com

Office: (65) 6338 0611
Fax: (65) 6338 9748
www.singaporedancetheatre.com

Singapore Dance Theatre's 25th Anniversary Gala **A Celebration of 25 Years of Elegance**

31 May & 1 June at the Esplanade Theatre



Singapore Dance Theatre is proud to be celebrating its 25th Silver Anniversary this year. Since its establishment in 1988, the company has built its reputation as Singapore's premier dance institution. In conjunction with the celebrations, the Company will present a 25th Anniversary Gala performance on 31 May and 1 June at the Esplanade Theatre, featuring a myriad of the best and most memorable pieces from the repertoire. The Gala will be one that will pay tribute to SDT's past, celebrate the present and represent the Company's anticipation towards the future.

The evening will commence with a performance of Goh Choo San's *Beginnings*, the first ballet ever performed by SDT. This will be followed by *Serenade*, the most performed ballet by George Balanchine, the father of neoclassical ballet; *ZIN!* an upbeat and vibrant piece by renowned Dutch choreographer Nils Christie; *Sleeping Beauty Pas De Deux*; as well as a newly commissioned work by award-winning Chinese-American choreographer, Edwaard Liang, featuring the full company of SDT dancers, and *Fives* by Goh Choo San. The Gala will also have international artists from The Australian Ballet and the Queensland Ballet, joining in the celebration and performing exquisite works.

"My involvement with SDT stretches from 1988 in an unbroken series of artistic projects for virtually all of its 25 year history. I've worked with all the dancers from company class through daily rehearsals and onto stage for performance. I have memories of wonderful ballets and dancers through that time that have continued with moments created by the present SDT. It is a testament to the founders that we have become as established as we are today", says SDT Artistic Director, Janek Schergen.

***Beginnings* by Goh Choo San**

The first ballet ever performed by SDT when it was established in 1988, *Beginnings* was originally created for Joffrey Ballet dancers to the music of Sir Lennox Berkley. It was designed as an intimate quartet exploring the relationship of two couples.

***Serenade* by George Balanchine**

Serenade is a milestone to Balanchine, so as it is in the dance history. It was the first ballet George Balanchine choreographed in America. *Serenade* has come to be considered as the signature piece of the New York City Ballet and is one of Balanchine's most widely performed works. The intention of the work was to show the ballet students how dancing on stage differs from class work. Balanchine embraced the conditions and incidents in the class into the choreography. Balanchine was never content for ballets to stay in the past and kept revising *Serenade* to keep it modern throughout his whole choreographic career.

***ZIN!* by Nils Christie**

Featuring a cast of seven dancers, *ZIN!* by Nils Christie is an upbeat and lively piece that is bubbling with humour. Danced to the music of Serra Pelada from the album *Powaqqatsi* by Philip Glass, the dance explores the use of canon and repetition. Both quirky and playful, *ZIN!* was a huge hit at the company premiere during last year's Ballet Under the Stars. This piece will most definitely amuse and entertain, teasing smiles and laughter from the audience. *ZIN!* was created for Introdans and was first performed in 1997.

Sleeping Beauty Pas De Deux

In the culmination of the last act of the ballet, the *Sleeping Beauty Pas De Deux* celebrates the wedding of Princess Aurora and Prince Florimund. Once they are wed, they are crowned King and Queen of the kingdom.

Gala Premiere by Edwaard Liang (World Premiere)

SDT will be performing the world premiere of a newly commissioned work by award-winning Asian-American choreographer, Edwaard Liang. This piece will be performed by the entire Company, featuring a cast of 37 dancers. Winner of the Prince Prize Grant for Choreography and the Choo San Goh Award for Choreography, Edwaard Liang's pieces have been performed all around the world by companies such as New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Shanghai Ballet and most recently the Joffrey Ballet. This is his fourth work for SDT following *As Above, So Below* (2010), *The Winds of Zephyrus* (2011) and *Age of Innocence* (2012).

***Fives* by Goh Choo San**

Energetic and vibrant, the piece is danced to music by Ernst Bloch and shows off many of Goh Choo San's trademarks: a brilliant management of ensemble patterns and space; line and unexpected gestures. *Fives* is a ballet that meshes the classical with contemporary. Goh described this ballet as a 'music ballet', that is one in which the movement comes from the music itself and the audience in fact 'sees' as well as 'hears' the music.

FAST FACTS

Title : 25th Anniversary Gala

Date : 31 May & 1 June (Friday & Saturday)

Venue : Esplanade Theatre

Time : 8pm

Ticket prices : \$70, \$50, \$30

Prices exclude SISTIC charge

Admission : 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 5 April 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, Nils Christie, Toru Shimazaki and Christina Chan.

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, *Passages* choreographic workshop focusing on local emerging talents 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