



SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Singapore Dance Theatre Presents Two Spectacular Weekends of Ballet Under The Stars

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season  
19 – 21 July & 26 – 28 July  
Fort Canning Green



Immerse yourself in the perfect evening at Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the annual Ballet Under the Stars. In the year of SDT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Company will be presenting two enchanting weekends of Ballet Under the Stars. From 19 – 21 July, SDT will perform a dazzling showcase of contemporary dance works, featuring guest artists from Expressions Dance Company (Australia) as well as stunning pieces from the Company's repertoire. From 26 – 28 July, SDT will revive the heart-wrenching romantic tale of *Giselle*, one of ballet's most famous tragedies.

“This year we’re offering more with two choices in repertoire and audiences may pick out one or both. We will first present contemporary choreography on the initial weekend, featuring a collaboration with Australia’s Expressions Dance Company, in a world premiere combining both groups in the same work. The second weekend will showcase the greatest romantic ballet of all time in an outdoor setting present in its full classical version”, says Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

As Singapore’s favourite annual outdoor dance event since its conception in 1995, Ballet Under The Stars is a treat for all. Unwind with a leisurely evening picnic amidst the lush greenery in Fort Canning Green while enjoying the beauty of dance and what Singapore Dance Theatre has to offer. Children will also be entertained by fun activities such as face painting and balloon sculpting.

### **Evening of Contemporary Dance featuring Expressions Dance Company: 19 – 21 July**

#### ***Absence of Story* by Toru Shimazaki**

Toru’s initial concept for this piece was to create a visual array of movements to accompany the music of Brahms. This particular piece of music is so powerful that he simply wanted to react honestly to it. *Absence of Story* is danced to the music of Brahms, and is a stirring piece without story or words in hope of not causing distraction to the beauty and the power of music. Toru Shimazaki is the chief professor of the dance department at Kobe College and has created works for many international companies including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Royal Flanders Ballet, Polish Dance Theatre, Colorado Ballet, Grand Theatre de Geneve and Introdans.

#### ***Carmen Sweet* by Natalie Weir [Guest Performance by Expressions Dance Company]**

Natalie Weir’s *Carmen* is a smoldering interpretation of the legendary Carmen story, performed to Shchedrin’s gripping music, Carmen Suite. This piece retells the iconic tale of passion when Don Jose, a soldier, falls under the alluring spell of the fiery gypsy, Carmen, abandoning his childhood sweetheart and deserting the army.

Expressions Dance Company (EDC) is an Australian dance company widely acclaimed for its compelling brand of contemporary dance. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Natalie Weir, and drawing on the talents of an ensemble of six extraordinary dancers, the company is well on its way to being recognised as one of the premier dance companies in Australia.

#### **A New Work by Natalie Weir [World Premiere]**

This piece will be jointly performed by EDC and SDT.

Natalie Weir is an established and acclaimed choreographer, known internationally for her highly physical partner work, her organic movement style and her touching insight into human nature. Natalie Weir has created over 150 professional works in her 20+ year career. She was a founding member of Expressions Dance Company (EDC) and has worked extensively throughout Australia, creating many works for most of the country’s major classical and contemporary dance companies including the Australian Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, Dance North and Tasdance.

#### ***Fives* by Goh Choo San**

Energetic and vibrant, the piece 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 ‘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. Created for 10 women and 5 men, *Fives* is an exciting work full of energy and sculptural pictures in dance. Goh Choo San is known as a master craftsman in dance in local arts scene, whose career took him to Europe and America, where he later became the Associate Director and resident choreographer of The Washington Ballet.

## **Giselle: 26 – 28 July**

*Giselle* is one of the golden romantic classical ballets which retells the tragic tale of love and betrayal. It is a ballet that is included in the repertoire of virtually every classical company in the world. Staged by Artistic Director Janek Schergen, with choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, *Giselle* is a ballet in two acts and is performed to a rich score by Adolphe Adam. Be captivated by this hauntingly beautiful ballet which tells the tale of a peasant girl who falls in love with a prince, only to have it all transcend into heartbreak and tragedy.

### **Synopsis**

This breathtaking ballet tells of the tragic love story between an innocent village maiden, Giselle, and a nobleman, Albrecht. Mesmerized by her beauty and innocence, Albrecht disguises himself as a peasant and promises eternal love to Giselle despite being betrothed to a Duke's daughter, Bathilde. Provoked by Albrecht's pursuit of Giselle, Hilarion, the jealous gamekeeper exposes Albrecht's true identity. This drives Giselle to madness and grief, and eventually, she dies of a broken heart.

The second act takes place on a moonlight night in a forest at Giselle's tomb. In Giselle's melancholic world of vengeance and despair, she transforms from an innocent maiden to a Wilis, who are vengeful spirits of brides who died before their wedding day. Led by their queen, Myrtha, the Wilis seek to kill all men who wander into their world. Hilarion becomes their first prey, but Albrecht is saved by Giselle who still loves him deeply even after death. Albrecht only comes to realize that he has lost his true love when dawn breaks and the Wilis spare his life and return to their graves.



### **FAST FACTS**

<b>Title</b>	:	Ballet Under The Stars
<b>Date</b>	:	19 – 21 July 2013 (Fri – Sun) Evening of Contemporary Dance Featuring EDC 26 – 28 July 2013 (Fri – Sun) Giselle
<b>Venue</b>	:	Fort Canning Green
<b>Time</b>	:	7.30pm (Main Performance) 19 – 21 July: Gates open from 5.30 pm for picnic Pre-show performances start from 6.30pm onwards 26 – 28 July: Gates open from 6pm for picnic No pre-show performances for these evenings
<b>Ticket prices</b>	:	\$25, \$20* *Concession for Students/NSF/Senior Citizens (Excluding SISTIC charges)

Free Admission for children below the age of 4 years old.

**Tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 17 May onwards.**

## 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) celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year! 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 moved 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 - 2013

### **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

### **Coppélia**

Choreography after Arthur Saint-Léon  
Staging Janek Schergen

## REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS - 2013

### **Theme and Variations**

Choreography George Balanchine

### **New Works by**

Natalie Weir  
Edwaard Liang  
Kinsun Chan  
Christina Chan