



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Dance Theatre presents Passages Contemporary Season 2015
30 October – 1 November 2015 | Goodman Arts Centre

World Premieres by Max Chen, Gigi Gianti, and Kinsun Chan
4Seasons by Natalie Weir

17 August 2015



(*Slide* by Kinsun Chan)

Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) will be presenting three brand new ballets, as well as Natalie Weir's *4Seasons* at **Passages Contemporary Season**. This season will be held at the **Goodman Arts Centre**, and it will be happening on **30 October – 1 November 2015**.

In light of our nation's 50th anniversary, SDT joins this jubilant occasion by showcasing brand new ballets by Singapore's very own dance choreographers. SDT will celebrate and develop our current talents by having two previous Passages choreographic workshop create two complete works – Gigi Gianti (2011) and Max Chen (2013).

Complimenting their works will be a new work by Kinsun Chan, who previously presented *Slide* as part of Passages 2013. This year he will create a riveting new work with an all-male cast. Wrapping up the evening's performance will be one of our repertoire favourites, *4Seasons*, which was choreographed by Natalie Weir for SDT.

This is also the first time an entire performance season is acquired through the generous donations of the SDT Ambassadors' Circle, instead of a singular work.

"Passages began as a showcase for our choreographic workshop in 2010. In the past five years, we have guided 16 talented individuals in discovering and developing their voices as dance makers. Over the course of time, Passages evolved into our contemporary dance series," says Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

"This year, we focus on two choreographers who have participated in the choreographic workshop in the past – Gigi Gianti and Max Chen. It will be their first time creating a fully realised choreographic works for SDT. We will also be having Kinsun Chan, who will create a vibrant new work that is reflective of a more tribal dynamic. Natalie Weir has been represented in our repertoire with four ballets in the past and to have *4Seasons* in our repertoire is definitive of the process of collaboration that happens at Passages. It reflects the nature of the company as a whole with the establishment of a relationship between choreographers, dancers, and the finishing work. This collective choreography is, at heart, what lives and breathes in our contemporary repertoire."

Biographies of Choreographers

Max Chen

Max Chen graduated with a Diploma in Dance from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) from Purchase College, New York, USA. He was a company dancer with Frontier Danceland from 2009 – 2011, and also a part-time dance lecturer at NAFA. Chen won the title ‘Best Dancer’ in his performance of Royston Fan’s *Alone* in SPROUTS 2010, New Works Platform for Budding Choreographers. Max’s choreographic works has have been showcased by NAFA, Frontier Danceland, Maya Dance Theatre and Odyssey Dance Theatre.

Gigi Gianti

Gianti Giadi (Gigi) started dancing from the age of 5 and graduated with a BA (Hons) from Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore (Lasalle). Upon graduation, she joined them as a part-time lecturer. She received the Best Dancer award from Dance and Beyond in 2003. Gigi trained in many genres of dance including Ballet, Contemporary, Indonesian, and Jazz. She was the recipient of The Most Promising Choreographer in Sprouts 2009, and The Most Popular Work in Sprouts All-Star 2012. Her piece *Kampung Bandung di Sore Hari* was performed by Lasalle students at Esplanade’s *da:ns* festival.

She also choreographed a piece for Singapore Dance Theatre’s *Passages* under the mentorship of Janek Schergen. Gigi is now an artistic director of GIGI Art of Dance, GIGI Dance Company, and GIGI Foundation in Jakarta, Indonesia. She is very passionate towards her Indonesian roots, and travels the world to produce shows that promote the Indonesian culture. She received an award from Indonesia’s Ministry of Tourism and Creative Industry for her contribution for Indonesian art scene and best choreographer in *Dahsyatnya* Award by RCTI. She also travels back and forth to Singapore as a freelance choreographer and artistic director on project basis since 2009. Her artistic direction is to find a new voice in Traditional Indonesian Arts & Culture with a contemporary statement.

Kinsun Chan

The Swiss-Canadian choreographer, Kinsun Chan, began his studies in Art and Graphic Design, entering the ballet world at a late age. He started his professional dance career in America and was a finalist at the Varna International Ballet Competition. Kinsun came to Europe when he was invited to join the Zürich Ballet and Basel Ballet, dancing many soloist roles from renown choreographers such as Kylián, Forsythe, Duato, Spoerli, Van Manen, Wherlock and Wubbe. His first choreography was created at the Zürich Ballet. He was then invited by Reid Anderson to choreograph for the “Noverre Society” at the Stuttgart Ballet.

His choreographies have been performed by the Basel Ballet, Singapore Dance Theater, Tiroler Landestheater, Tanz Luzerner Theater, Hong Kong Ballet, Hannover Ballet, Staatstheater Kassel, Royal Ballet School of Antwerp, John Cranko Ballet School, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Tanz Akademie Zürich and the Munich Ballet Academy-Heinz Bosl Stiftung. He has worked with Opera and Musical Directors, Jens-Daniel Herzog, Michael Sturminger, Goetz Friedrich, Bernd Mottl, Dominique Mentha and Tatjana Gürbaca. Kinsun’s dance films have been shown at the WestFest Dance Festival (NYC), Jumping Frames Dance Video Festival (Hong Kong) and Act Festival (Spain). His creation for the Hong Kong Ballet was invited to the Jacobs Pillow Festival (USA) and Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur (Quebec, Canada). Kinsun’s choreography bring full circle his work in Art and Design, encompassing a dynamic visual language.

Natalie Weir

“Choreography is not just something I do, it defines who I am. When I am developing a work in the studio, my connection with the dancers is the most important thing – I feel choreography is simply revealing what is already within a person, waiting to be found. My respect for dancers is enormous and when the relationship works, magic can be created.”

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. On her journey with EDC, Natalie continues to create work that balances artistic risk with accessibility and that speaks of humanity. 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.

Natalie was appointed Artistic Director of EDC in January 2009, fulfilling her long-term dream to build an ensemble of dancers and contribute to the future of Australian Dance.

FAST FACTS

- Title** : Passages Contemporary Season
- Date** : 30 October – 1 November 2015 (Friday – Sunday)
- Venue** : Goodman Arts Centre
- Time** : 30th Oct: 7.30pm | 31st Oct: 3pm, 7,30pm | 1st Nov: 3pm
- Ticket prices** : \$30, \$21* (SISTIC fees apply)
*Concession for Children aged 12 and below, Students, Senior Citizens, and NSF.
Discounts are available for group bookings and credit cards.
- Ticket Sales Date:** Early Bird Offer: 24 Aug – 6 Sept 2015 (Maybank, OCBC, & Passion members only)
General Sales: 7 Sept – 1 Nov 2015

Tickets are available at all authorised SISTIC outlets and SDT Office.
Email ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6338 0611 for ticket enquires.
For more information, visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com

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ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Principal Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Rosa Park	Chen Peng	Kenya Nakamura
First Artist	Elaine Heng Etienne Ferrère	Li Jie Zhao Jun	Maughan Jemesen	May Yen Cheah
Artists	Akira Nakahama Emma Hanley Jones Marina Yatsushiro Xu Lei Ting	Alison Carroll Kwok Min Yi Mai Suzuki	Beatrice Castañeda Lisha Chin Nanase Tanaka	Chua Bi Ru Ma Ni Sun Hong Lei
	Huo Liang Lewis Gardner	Jason Carter Nazer Salgado	Jake Burden Stefaan Morrow	Kensuke Yorozu
Apprentices	Ines Furhashi-Huber Reece Hudson	Ruth Austin Shan Del Vecchio	Chen Rui Feng Shi Yue Tony	Peter Allen

THE COMPANY

SDT was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premiere professional dance company comprising. 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, *Masterpiece in Motion* which brings together three works of the finest international choreography and *Passages* Contemporary Season.

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 2008, Janek Schergen was appointed as the Artistic Director of SDT, after his extensive involvement with SDT since its inception years in 1988. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. In the last six years, the Company has added 21 world premieres and 15 company premieres to the repertoire, in addition to numerous revivals of the existing Company's repertoire. 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 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, Singapore Dance Theatre 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 ACTIVE REPERTOIRE LIST (2009 – 2015)

Swan Lake

Choreography after Petipa/Ivanov
Staging Janek Schergen

Cinderella

Choreography Graham Lustig
Created for SDT

Glow-Stop

Choreography Jorma Elo

A Million Kisses To My Skin

Choreography David Dawson

Piano Concerto #2, Opus 102

Choreography Edmund Stripe
Created for SDT

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
Created for SDT

Sometimes I Think I Remember

Choreography Jeffrey Tan
Created for SDT

Evening at the Ritz

Choreography Molly Lynch
Created for SDT

Giselle

Choreography after Coralli / Derrot
Staging Janek Schergen

Allegro Brillante

Choreography George Balanchine

Don Quixote Pas De Deux

Choreography Marius Petipa

Peter & Blue's Forest Adventure

Choreography Janek Schergen
Created for SDT

Oneiros

Choreography Adrian Burnett
Created for SDT

Sleeping Beauty

Choreography after Marius Petipa
Staging Janek Schergen

Hold The Fourth

Choreography Daniel Roberts
Created for SDT

As Above So Below

Choreography Edwaard Liang
Created for SDT

Nameless

Choreography Xing Liang
Created for SDT

Serenade

Choreography George Balanchine

Romeo and Juliet

Choreography Goh Choo San

The Winds of Zephyrus

Choreography Edwaard Liang
Created for SDT

Maninyas

Choreography Stanton Welch

Fearful Symmetries

Choreography Nils Christe

The Nutcracker

Choreography and Staging Janek Schergen
Created for SDT

Paquita

Choreography after Marius Petipa

Age of Innocence

Choreography Edwaard Liang

ZIN!

Choreography Nils Christe

Chant

Choreography Val Caniparoli
Created for SDT

Organ Concerto

Choreography Nils Christe
Created for SDT

Jabula

Choreography Natalie Weir

Divertimento No. 15

Choreography George Balanchine

Peter & Blue Go Around The World

Choreography Janek Schergen
Created for SDT

Absence of Story

Choreography Toru Shimazaki
Created for SDT

Waiting...

Choreography Christina Chan
Created for SDT

Coppélia

Choreography after Arthur Saint-Léon
Staging Janek Schergen

Opus 25

Choreography Edwaard Liang
Created for SDT

4Seasons

Choreography Natalie Weir
Created for SDT

Theme and Variations

Choreography George Balanchine

Peter & Blue's Birthday Party

Choreography Janek Schergen
Created for SDT

Slide

Choreography Kinsun Chan
Created for SDT

Shift or Go

Choreography Christina Chan
Created for SDT

Bittersweet

Choreography Natalie Weir
Created for SDT

Swipe

Choreography Val Caniparoli

Traces We Left Behind

Choreography Christina Chan

Shadow's Edge

Choreography Ma Cong

Blue Snow

Choreography Toru Shimazaki

Don Quixote

Choreography after Marius Petipa
Staging Cynthia Harvey

Rubies

Choreography George Balanchine

Schubert Symphony

Choreography Choo-San Goh

Bournonville Divertissements

Choreography August Bournonville
Staging Dinna Bjorn

Midnight Waltzes

Choreography François Klaus
Created for SDT

REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS - 2015

New works by

Max Chen, Gigi Gianti, and Kinsun Chan