



SDT
— 1988 - 2015 —

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Singapore Dance Theatre presents the
20th Edition of Ballet Under the Stars**



20 March 2015

Immerse yourself in the perfect evening at Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) 20th Edition of the annual Ballet Under the Stars. This year, SDT will be presenting two weekends of exquisite choreography by award-winning international choreographers from 12 – 14 June 2015 and 19 – 21 June 2015 at the Fort Canning Green.

Expect spectacular works in the likes of George Balanchine's *Rubies*, *Serenade*, and *Concerto Barocco*, Val Caniparoli's African inspired *Lambarena*, and legendary Singaporean choreographer Choo-San Goh's *Double Contrasts* and *Schubert Symphony*. Since its conception in 1995, Ballet Under the Stars has become one of SDT's trademarks of our yearly performance seasons and remains as Singapore's favourite annual outdoor dance event. Unwind with a sumptuous picnic spread at the park and enjoy an evening of dance with your family and friends!

SDT Artistic Director Janek Schergen says, "2015 will mark the 20th year that SDT has presented Ballet Under the Stars in Fort Canning Park. I doubt anyone thought that when it first started in 1995, that the outdoor dance performances we presented then would become the iconic annual event it has grown into today. When our studios were located in the park (1991-2012), it seemed to be a logical extension of our activities. Now, with two back-to-back weekends, we present sophisticated world-class ballet in an outdoor setting, we always look forward with anticipation to these performances. This year the performance repertoire is drawn entirely from our established repertoire that has been developed through our performance history. For those who never were able to see certain ballets in our history, like Choo San Goh's *Schubert Symphony* and *Double Contrasts*, Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena* or Balanchine *Rubies*, we can now show them off proudly not just as part of our history but our pride in SDT today."



Double Contrasts by Choo-San Goh



Serenade by George Balanchine

Performance Line Up for 12 – 14 June

***Double Contrasts* by Choo-San Goh**

Double Contrasts is both elegant and classical in dance form. The two sets of dancers reflect the two solo pianists; one set being full and youthful enthusiasm and the other more sophisticated in nature. The work has energy, wit and style. The dancers exude chic and elegance in their formal costumes. *Double Contrasts* presents many technical challenges for the dancers. It is fast, as are all Choo-San's ballets at their heart and it leaves the audience exhilarated. It is one of Choo-San's first ballets that stood the test of time and it is performed on a consistent basis from its premiere till now.

***Rubies* by George Balanchine**

Rubies is sponsored by the Artistic Director's Fund.

Rubies is part of the *Jewels* series by George Balanchine. *Jewels* is a full-length, three-act plotless ballet that uses the music of three very different composers. Balanchine was inspired by the artistry of jewellery designer Claude Arpels, and chose music revealing the essence of each jewel. Each section of the ballet is distinct in both music and mood. *Emeralds*, which Balanchine considered "an evocation of France — the France of elegance, comfort, dress, perfume," recalls the 19th century dances of the French Romantics. *Rubies* is crisp and witty, epitomizing the collaboration of Stravinsky and Balanchine. *Diamonds* recalls the order and grandeur of Imperial Russia and the Maryinsky Theater, where Balanchine was trained.

***Lambarena* by Val Caniparoli**

Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena* was inspired by a score of the same name that blends traditional African rhythms and melodies with extended passages from Johann Sebastian Bach. In response to this exciting and unusual piece of music, and seeking to make a "joyous celebration of dancing," Caniparoli choreographed an emotion-filled work in eight movements that boldly merges the vocabularies of classical ballet and African dance. The 1995 World Premiere of *Lambarena* at the San Francisco Ballet was made possible, in part, by a 1994 Choo-San Goh Award for choreography from the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation. This piece was first performed by SDT in 1997 and has been a continuing part of the repertory. In 2012, Caniparoli also specially created an Asian-inspired work titled *Chant* for SDT, and in 2014, SDT saw the company premiere of Caniparoli's *Swipe*.

Performance Line Up for 19 – 21 June

***Concerto Barocco* by George Balanchine**

Concerto Barocco was successfully brought into SDT's repertoire with the generous support of the members from Ambassadors' Circle 2009.

Balanchine created *Concerto Barocco* to Bach's Double Violin Concerto in D for a 1941 tour to South America with American Ballet Caravan. The ballet was performed as the first work on the opening evening of the New York City Ballet in 1948. The dancers are dressed in pure white leotards and skirts to accentuate their line, and this ballet is considered to be one of the most musically attuned pieces in the world and virtually flawless in terms of choreography.

Concerto Barocco consists of two principal ballerinas with eight women who form the body of the work. A single male dancer partners the female principal dancers in an extended adagio movement in the middle of the ballet. The 3rd and final movements of the ballet are one of those most demanding and fast paced pieces of choreography Balanchine ever devised. One can watch it repeated times and always see something new in it. Over the years dancers' techniques have become more sophisticated and elegant and yet still they struggle to achieve the choreographic demands of *Concerto Barocco*. To dance the ballet with accomplishment is a major achievement in the life of any dancer privileged enough to be cast in it.

Schubert Symphony by Choo-San Goh

Given his penchant to experiment with his Asian heritage and Western training, Choo-San was capable of surprises set to Franz Schubert's symphony No. 2. Goh's ballet is conceived as a purely classical work. After its premiere, it was stated that *Schubert Symphony* was "a major triumph...an eagerly awaited world premiere..." By the prevailing standard of ballet choreography, *Schubert Symphony* is unquestionably a fine work. It demonstrates, beyond a shadow of doubt, that Goh can manipulate a stripped down neo-classical idiom skilfully. *Schubert Symphony* was created for the Washington Ballet, and has been performed by the Royal Swedish Ballet, Cape Town City Ballet, and Singapore Dance Theatre.

Serenade by George Balanchine

Serenade was successfully brought into SDT's repertoire with the generous support of the members from Ambassadors' Circle 2010.

Serenade is a milestone in the history of dance. It is the first original ballet Balanchine created in America and is one of the signature works of New York City Ballet's repertory. The ballet is performed by 28 dancers in blue costumes in front of a blue background. Originating it as a lesson in stage technique, Balanchine worked unexpected rehearsal events into the choreography. When one student fell, he incorporated it. Another day, a student arrived late, and this too became part of the ballet. After its initial presentation, *Serenade* was reworked several times. In its present form there are four movements -- "Sonatina," "Waltz," "Russian Dance," and "Elegy."

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Ballet Under the Stars
Date	:	12 – 14 June 2015 (Fri – Sun) 19 – 21 June 2015 (Fri – Sun)
Venue	:	Fort Canning Green
Time	:	7.30pm (Main Performance) Gates open at 6.30pm
Ticket prices	:	\$27, \$22* (Excluding SISTIC charges) *Concession for Students/NSF/Senior Citizens

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

Double Weekend Offer at \$44 (Excluding SISTIC charges)
(Purchase tickets for 2 weekends and enjoy \$10 savings)

Ticket Sales Date: Early Bird Offer: 23 March – 5 April (Maybank, OCBC, and Passion members only)
General Sales: 6 April – 21 June

For discounts, please refer to www.sistic.com.sg

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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 Chua Bi Ru Ma Ni Sun Hong Lei	Alice Lin Cao Emma Hanley Jones Marina Yatsushiro Xu Lei Ting	Alison Carroll Kwok Min Yi Mai Suzuki	Beatrice Castañeda Lisha Chin Nanase Tanaka
	Huo Liang Lewis Gardner	Jason Carter Nazer Salgado	Jake Burden Stefaan Morrow	Kensuke Yorozu
Apprentices	Ines Furhashi-Huber Peter Allen	Ruth Austin Reece Hudson	Chen Rui Feng Shan Del Vecchio	Dianyu Wu Shi Yue Tony

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 20 world premieres and 14 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, *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 - 2014

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

REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS - 2015

Bournonville Divertissements

Choreography August Bournonville

Midnight Waltzes

Choreography François Klaus

New works by

Max Chen, Gigi Gianti, and Kinsun Chan