



SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE

presents

Giselle

11 to 14 March 2010, 8pm
at Victoria Theatre

15 January 2010, SINGAPORE – A great romantic ballet soars onto the stage as Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) presents ***Giselle*** this March at Victoria Theatre, with staging by Janek Schergen, after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot. Drawing audiences into a work that embodies elements of the Romantic period, *Giselle* is a ballet filled with mystery, otherworldly beauty, excitement, danger and death. As breathtaking as it is heartbreaking, ***Giselle*** tackles the gamut of human emotions, delving into the darker shades of humanity, including elements of madness and revenge, thus making many critics refer to *Giselle* as ‘the Hamlet of ballets’.

With music by Adolphe Adam, ***Giselle*** – also known as *Les Willis* – premiered in Paris in 1841 and is the oldest consistently-performed ballet in the world. A sought after role for many ballerinas, ***Giselle*** demands both exquisite technique and daring dramatic skills from the dancer. The first act is colourful, bright, optimistic and light, while the second act, ironically called the “white act” is much more formal, dark and unsettling. As *Giselle*, the prima ballerina handling this role has to switch dramatically and believably from a young and innocent maiden in Act 1, to, literally, a ghost of her former self in Act 2, where *Giselle* has died and turned into an embittered wilis – a female spirit who exists to seek revenge on unfaithful and deceitful men.

The eponymous ballet tells of the tragic love story between a 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. Soon after, she discovers his deceit, and driven by grief, she kills herself with Albrecht’s sword.

With love unrequited, she dies of a broken heart, much to the dismay of Albrecht who has only come to realize his true love for Giselle when he mourns for her at the tomb. In Giselle's melancholic world of vengeance and despair, she transforms from an innocent lady to a wilis, who are spirits of betrothed maidens betrayed by their beloved loves on the night before their wedding.

This March, step out of reality and into this hauntingly beautiful performance of a classic and unforgettable ballet set to an evocative and lingering score with Singapore Dance Theatre's ***Giselle***.

11 March – Fundraising Gala Performance

Since its inception in 1988, SDT has grown from strength to strength. Classical favourites, neo-classical masterpieces, and cutting-edge contemporary works form the three pillars of most major ballet companies around the world. As Singapore's largest professional dance company, SDT continues to nurture talents within our stable of dancers who are equally adept at all three genres. Whether it is the romanticism of *Swan Lake*, the neo-classicism of Balanchine, or the edgy aesthetics of newer pieces like David Dawson's *A Million Kisses to my Skin*, SDT dancers stand out on stage each and every time.

Our first event in 2010 is the Gala Fundraising performance of *Giselle*, which will be graced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Madam Ho Ching as Guests of Honour. This is one of the greatest classical ballets a hauntingly elegiac tale of eternal love staged by the Company's Artistic Director, Janek Schergen. This fundraising Gala performance will be held on 11 March 2010 and will be one of the final performances at the Victoria Theatre as we know it, it will be closed for three years of renovations to restore the old-world charm of the 149-year-old venue while re-energising it to meet modern functional demands. The grand old dame of Singapore's arts venues, Victoria Theatre has been the stage for about 30 of SDT's most memorable performances, including the Company's first performance in June 1988, followed by Singapore Festival of Arts in 1988, Singapore Festival of Dance in 1989, Singapore Arts Festival in 1990, Singapore Festival of Dance in 1991 and well-known classical ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* and *Coppelia*. Most importantly, Singapore Dance Theatre and Singapore Ballet Academy held a joint celebration at Victoria Theatre on 18 & 19 July 2008, to commemorate the 20th and 50th Anniversary respectively.

For many of us, it will be an unforgettable evening as memories are re-lived of past performances on the century-old floorboards of the Victoria Theatre. Gala tickets are available at \$100, \$300 and \$500 through SDT office only.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Giselle
Date	:	11 March 2010 (Fundraising Gala Performance) 12 to 14 March 2010
Venue	:	Victoria Theatre
Time	:	3.00pm (Sat & Sun matinee); 8.00 pm
Ticket prices	:	Fundraising Gala Performance: 11 March – Gala tickets: \$500, \$300, \$100. Exclusive Dinner: \$20,000 per table (for a table of 10, includes tickets to the performance). (Tickets are available from SDT office ONLY) Public performances: 12 to 14 March - \$88, \$68, \$48 (Through SISTIC and SDT)

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.

Public performance tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 4 January 2010.

Gala tickets are available through SDT office only. Tax exemption receipt will be issued for cheques made in favour of “Singapore Dance Theatre Ltd”.

Discount Schemes: *(not applicable for Fundraising Gala performance)*

- 1) Student/full-time NSFs/Senior Citizen: \$25 (for Cat 2)
- 2) 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 3) 15% discount for Kinokuniya, UOB, NUS Alumni, IKEA and Fitness First cardmembers.
- 4) 20% discount for Passion cardmembers
- 5) Family Package: \$198 for two adults and two student tickets (Applicable for Cat 1)
- 6) School bookings: For every booking of 20 tickets, 1 complimentary ticket will be provided for the accompanying teacher. Schools can also use the TOTE Board Arts Grant subsidy for up to 60% of ticket price.
- 7) For corporate or bulk booking, please contact SDT at ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6338-0611.

Terms & Conditions:

- All ticket prices indicated excludes SISTIC booking fee.
- Valid identification passes must be produced to enjoy the discount.
- Not valid with other promotion and/or discount.

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For additional information,

visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6338 0611

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE – The Company

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and the late Anthony Then. Under the directorship of Goh Soo Khim, SDT has developed into a premier professional dance company that has grown from seven to 24 dancers. Over the years, The Company performs five to six seasons, including the widely popular Ballet Under The Stars (BUTS) at the Fort Canning Park.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers and staging directors like Goh Choo San, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Stanton Welch, Marie-Claude Pietragalla, Thierry Malandain, Mauricio Wainrot, Val Caniparoli, and Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo and Edmund Stripe.

With the appointment of Janek Schergen as Artistic Director in January 2009, the Company is poised for 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 licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

SDT also actively reaches out to the public to create greater awareness of dance through outreach to schools with our Arts Education Programme (AEP), Dance Appreciation Series (DAS) jointly presented with Esplanade Co., and One@The Ballet – a new initiative to help public gain more understanding about life as a dancer at SDT. To know more about SDT, visit us at www.singaporedancetheatre.com

New Year Message from Janek Schergen Artistic Director, Singapore Dance Theatre:

Dear members of the media,

As we approach another new year of presenting dance performances for the Singapore-based audience, I am heartened to note that as a Company, Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) has managed to produce a series of successful performances in 2009, despite it being a year fraught by road-bumps in many ways for both the Company and the world-at-large.

An overview of our report card for 2009 shows that we reached record attendances for one of our stalwart star performers, the annual *Ballet Under The Stars* at Fort Canning Park, which saw more than 10,000 arts lovers take up precious square inches of space on the green to enjoy a mixed bill of both artistically challenging and readily-accessible pieces.

It was also wonderful to be able to jointly support, with the National Arts Council, the first-ever Genee International Ballet Competition held in Singapore. On top of offering our studio spaces to the young participants for their coaching and training sessions, SDT also performed at both the Gala Fundraising Event at the Shangri-La Hotel, and the finals of the competition held at University Cultural Centre. All the participants also came to watch SDT perform a contemporary triple bill featuring the Company's premiere of George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, which was truly an "icing on the cake" experience for all involved.

SDT staged a well-received overseas performance called "Continuum" at the Opera Theatre Saint-Etienne in France, where the French connoisseurs applauded our dancers' skills in a programme that showcased works by David Dawson, Jorma Elo, and Edmund Stripe. And in closing the year, we re-staged *Swan Lake* to resounding success, with box office figures surpassing that of its premiere in 2007!

Classical favourites, neo-classical masterpieces, and cutting-edge contemporary works form the three pillars of most major ballet companies around the world. As Singapore's largest professional dance company, SDT continues to nurture talents within our stable of dancers who are equally adept at all three genres. Whether it is the romanticism of *Swan Lake* or the pageantry of *The Nutcracker*, the ageless artistry of Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, or the edgy aesthetics of newer pieces like David Dawson's *A Million Kisses to my Skin* and Jorma Elo's *Glow-Stop*, SDT dancers stand out on stage each and every time.

It is no wonder then, that recent reviews in international dance publications like Dance Europe have used words like "effervescent" and "exuberant" to describe the Company and our dancers. We will continue to work towards becoming the epitome of versatility, and, as expressed in our Company's mission statement, to become world-renowned "for our unique ability to shine in classical, neo-classical, and contemporary repertoire with works that are timeless and inspiring."

In 2010, the Company will acquire another ballet by George Balanchine, and for the first time, stage a story-driven children's ballet titled *Peter and Blue's Forest Adventure*. Of course, *Ballet Under The Stars*, will return with even more entertaining and delightful ballet for our loyal fanbase. A new full-length production of the ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* is also in the works.

There will be a slew of outreach activities in 2010, including "One@ the Ballet", which received overwhelming responses when it was initiated in 2009, as well as "Dance Appreciation Series" which was started in August 2006. "Passages", a choreographic platform for fresh young talents, will also be part of our efforts to incubate new works for our repertoire.

Members of the media, we look forward to receiving your continued support in 2010.
Happy New Year from all of us at Singapore Dance Theatre!

Giselle
Singapore Dance Theatre

JANEK SCHERGEN
Artistic Director
Staging Director – Giselle



Janek Schergen is from Göteborg, Sweden. He studied ballet with Richard Ellis and Christine Du Boulay of the Sadlers Wells Ballet, and continued at the American Ballet Center and the Harkness House for Ballet Arts in New York. In 1971 he joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the following year became a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet in Philadelphia, under the directorship of Barbara Weisberger and Benjamin Harkarvy, spending 11 years with the Company. In 1978, under the guidance of Mr. Harkarvy and Lupe Seranno, he began teaching in the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet. In addition to maintaining his career as a dancer and teacher, he began staging the works of Mr. Harkarvy for Pennsylvania Ballet and other companies.

In 1981, he was invited by Mary Day, the Director of Washington Ballet and Choo San Goh, the Company's Resident Choreographer, to guest teach for the Washington Ballet. He joined Washington Ballet in a full time position as ballet master and teacher and toured with the Company through the Far East, Europe and South America, as well as the United States.

In 1988 he was invited to be ballet master and Company Teacher for the Royal Swedish Ballet in Stockholm, rehearsing full-length classics such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and La Bayadere, as well as works by Sir Frederick Ashton and Sir Kenneth MacMillan. In 1991 he completed his studies in written dance notation in London, receiving his certification in Benesh Movement Notation.

In 1991 he became a ballet master for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where he rehearsed the full length classics and important additions to the repertoire such as MacMillan's Elite Syncopations, Lynne Taylor-Corbett's Great Galloping Gottschalk, John Cranko's The Taming of the Shrew and Balanchine's Apollo, Ballet Imperial, Serenade, Allegro Brillante, Concerto Barocco, Theme and Variations as well as others in the repertoire. He has staged his own production of The Sleeping Beauty for Ballet Met (1994), The Milwaukee Ballet (1995), Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (1996, 2000, 2005) Pennsylvania Ballet (1997, 2002) and the Norwegian National Ballet (2006).

In January, 1994, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Nashville Ballet, as well as Director of the company's School. He remained with the organization for three seasons. From 1997 to 2002 he taught Company and School classes for Ballet Pacifica as well as Inland Pacific Ballet.

In addition, as Artistic Director and a Board Member of The Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, he continues to stage the works of Mr. Goh for various companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and the Far East. He has staged more than 120 productions worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Awards Committee for the Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography which annually gives out choreographic grants to such organizations as Het Nationale Ballet, Limon Dance Company, San Francisco Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Pilobolus, New York City Ballet and many others. Over the course of the last four years, 78 different grants have been made devoting more than US\$700,000 to the creation of new works of choreography through the efforts of the Foundation.

Since the establishment of the Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988 he has been staging the ballets of Choo San Goh for the Company's repertoire. To date he has staged thirteen works for them and in December 2000 mounted the full length Romeo and Juliet for the Company. At the request of SDT

he was asked to author a monograph on the career and ballets of Choo-San Goh. The book, with his text, was published in Singapore in September, 1997.

From 2002-2006 he was ballet master and staff teacher of the Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo. He was responsible for rehearsal of many full length works (Swan Lake, Othello, Cinderella, Taming of the Shrew, Onegin, Sleeping Beauty) in addition to contemporary works and the most recent Balanchine repertoire including Symphony in C, Agon, Serenade and Four Temperaments. The production he created of Tornerose for NNB was broadcast on NRK television in December 2006.

With the appointment of Janek Schergen as Artistic Director in January 2009, the Company is poised for 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 licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

Giselle Cast List
(subject to changes)

11 March, Thursday, 8pm & 12 March, Friday, 8pm

Xia Hai Ying
Giselle



Chen Peng
Albrecht



13 March, Saturday, 3pm & 14 March, Sunday, 8pm

Chihiro Uchida
Giselle



Wang Hao
Albrecht



13 March, Saturday, 8pm & 14 March, Sunday, 3pm

Rosa Park
Giselle



Chen Peng
Albrecht



Profiles of Lead Dancers

Xia Hai Ying



Trained in Beijing Dance Institute of China. Joined SDT in 1993. Hai Ying's principal roles in SDT's classical repertoire include Anna in *Anna Karenina*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Giselle in *Giselle*, Victoria Page in *The Red Shoes*, Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Also as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. Partnered guest artiste Nicholas Leschke from Houston Ballet as Cio-Cio San in Stanton Welch's *Madame Butterfly*. Other leading roles includes George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land*, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat*, Stanton Welch's *Maninyas*, Goh Choo San's *Birds of Paradise*, *Momentum*, *Unknown Territory* and *In the Glow of the Night*, Marie-Claude Pietragalla's *Les Noces* and *Rite of Spring*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Lambarena* and *Stet!*. Won the 1st prize in Tao Li Cup Dance Competition of China in 1991 and the Grand Prix Prize at the 7th Asia Pacific International Ballet Competition in 1999. Nominated for Benois de La Danse Prix 2003 and performed at the Gala at Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow.

Guest performed with Queensland Ballet in 2000 and 2005. Nominated 'Most Interesting Overseas Artist' in an Australian's Critics Survey by Dance Australia magazine in 2005 and 'Most Outstanding Dancer' by Dance Australia magazine in 2006. She is also a Recipient of Young Artist Award 2008 in Singapore. Recently, she was involved in *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *FireFives: A Mixed Bill* and played the lead roles in recent productions of *La Sylphide*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.

Chihiro Uchida



Began dancing at Classical Ballet Academy S.O.U. in Japan. In 2001, she won the Idemitsu Kousan Scholarship at the 8th Asian Pacific International Ballet Competition in Tokyo and was accepted into The Australian Ballet School (ABS). Graduated from the school in 2004 and joined SDT in July 2005. Her first performance with SDT was *Reminiscing the Moon* by Boi Sakti followed by *The Nutcracker* by Jeffrey Tan. She was involved in productions like *La Sylphide*, *Coppelia*, *Impressions*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In The Park* and *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*. She has also taken on lead roles in SDT's recent productions *Continuum* and *Pellucid* in *ReDoubled* and performed as Clara in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker* in December 2008. In 2009, Chihiro performed as Cinderella in *Cinderella*, and had taken on lead roles in *Season of Brilliance* as well as playing the lead role in *Swan Lake* as Princess Odette/Odile in 2009.

Rosa Park



Rosa Park started dance training at Sunwha Arts School and obtained a B.A. Degree in Dance from Ewha Womens University as well as a Master's Degree in Dance Sejong University of Korea. While she was in university, she was offered to dance for the Korean National Ballet Company (KNBC) in 2002 and made her debut as a professional dancer in Yuri Grigovich's *The Nutcracker*, in which she danced as Marie.

As a soloist, she participated in a number of renowned dance pieces such as *The Nutcracker* (Marie), Balanchine's *Symphony C*, *Swan Lake* (Pas de trios, Four Swans, Napoli, Princess, etc.), *Giselle* (Friends pas de deux, Two willy), Rudolf Nurey's *Sleeping Beauty* (Teanderness Fairy, Pas de Cliq), *Le Corsaire* (Odalisc), *Don Quixote* (Two Friends, Cupid), *La Fille mal Garde's* (Eight Friends), Jean Christophe Maillot's *Dove La Luna*, and Gala Pas de deux (*The Flame of Paris*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *Sleeping Beauty*).

She was also a guest dancer to Royal Swedish Ballet (Soloist *Swan Lake*) and Korean Ballet Theatre (Principle, *Raymonda* and *Mongyudowondo*).

Of the many competitions she had participated in were Korean Dance Association Competition (Gold prize, 2002), Dong-A Competition (Silver prize, (1998), Bronze prize, (2002)), Korean Ballet Association Competition (Silver prize (1997), Bronze prize (1995)), and Kirov & UBC Competition (Silver prize, 1995). She

Giselle

Singapore Dance Theatre

joined SDT as a full-time member in 2009 and has performed in SDT's production of *Season of Brilliance*. Rosa has taken on the lead role in *Swan Lake* in 2009 as Princess Odette/Odile.

Chen Peng



Trained at the Beijing Dance Institute and joined as full member of The National Ballet of China from 2003 to 2005. He has performed the pas de deux in *La Corsaire*, *The Nutcracker* and *Raymonda*, as well as *The Red Lantern*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Ettude*, *Yellow River* and *Sylvia* among others. Chen Peng joined SDT in September 2005 and was involved in productions like *Coppelia*, *Impressions*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Ballet Under The Stars* and *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*. He has also taken on lead roles in SDT's recent productions of *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In The Park*, *Continuum*, *The Nutcracker*, *Prince in Cinderella*, and key roles in *Ballet Under the Stars 09* and *Swan Lake* as Prince Siegfried.

Wang Hao



Graduated with a Bachelor from the Beijing Dance Academy in 2006. As a student, Wang Hao had danced in *Bluebird*, *Flower Festival*, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. He joined the Guangzhou Ballet team in 2006 and was the key dancer in many performances such as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Theme and Variations*, and modern ballet of *The Dream of the Red Mansion*, *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai*, *The Yellow River* and *Mei Lanfang*. Wang Hao joined SDT in 2008 with *Giselle In The Park* as his first production. He also participated in *Continuum*, *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*, a collaboration with NUS Centre For the Arts, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* and *Ballet Under the Stars 09*. Wang Hao has taken on the lead role of SDT's *Swan Lake in 2009* as Prince Siegfried.