

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE

Passages
Choreographic Workshop Showcase
3 November 2010
National Museum of Singapore, Gallery Theatre

Fledgling choreographers have limited opportunities to set their works on professional dancers, but Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) circumvents this limitation by collaborating with the National Museum of Singapore to present **Passages**, where four young choreographers will be invited to work with SDT dancers to produce new and original dance creations that are best suited for the black box theatre space.

Leveraging on the choreographers' individual interests and flair, and the SDT dancers' ability to shine in various dance genres ranging from classical, to neo-classical and contemporary ballet, fans of dance can expect to be simultaneously challenged and inspired by the results of **Passages**!

Catch the new creations of young choreographers **Adeline Ee**, **Daniel Roberts**, **Kelvin Koh**, and **Kiran Kumar** in this one-night-only showcase of contemporary dance.

The four fledgling choreographers went under the tutelage and guidance of Singapore Dance Theatre's Artistic Director Janek Schergen in September this year, and each will present a 15-minute piece, featuring SDT's professional dancers, during this performance.

The audience is invited to a post-show talk, which will be conducted with the choreographers and Janek Schergen, SDT's Artistic Director after the performance.

FAST FACTS

Title: Passages
Date: 3 November 2010
Venue: Gallery Theatre, National Museum of Singapore
Time: 3 November, Wednesday, 7.30pm
Ticket prices: Standard Ticket: \$19 (Not inclusive of SISTIC charge)
Children/Student/NSmen/Senior Citizen: \$15

Tickets are available at : All SISTIC outlets;
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and
SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg.
*SISTIC booking fees apply
And SDT office at 6338-0611 or
ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

Tickets will be available **from 8 September onwards**

Discount Schemes

Ticket prices:

- Standard Ticket Price: \$19
- Student* / NSmen/ Senior Citizen: \$15
- Package deal - \$36 for one adult ticket to watch both **Passages** and **redoubled** (\$30 for full time students)



Photos by Tan Ngiap Heng

#

*For additional information,
visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6348 5555*

Media Contact:

Farah Azizan, Sirius Art Pte Ltd
Tel: (65) 63248722;
Email: farah@siriusart.com.sg

Lyana Wang, Singapore Dance Theatre Ltd
Tel: (65) 6338 0611;
Email: lyana.wang@singaporedancetheatre.com

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

**JANEK SCHERGEN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE**



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.

Choreographers

Adeline Ee



Adeline started professional dance training in Lasalle College of the Arts at 17. At 18, she had received a scholarship from LA Dance Connection (2005-2007) followed by a Cheng Ballet Academy scholarship (2008). In the same year she danced in “*The Last Minute*” by Kuik Swee Boon, representing Singapore at The Youth Festival in Macau. Upon completion of her degree, she participated in Singapore Arts Festival (2009), performing in *Anna Karenina* danced by the Finnish ballet.

To further her exploration in choreography she joined *Sprouts* (2009) and presented her work “*Echo*” in the finals. Her most recent performance is with T.H.E “The Emerging Choreographers II”, and Maya Dance Theatre’s “Standing in Line in Order of Height”. During her studies in Lasalle she worked with Artist such as Loretta Livingston, Melissa Quek, Cheng HsienFa and Albert Tiong. Currently, she is also part of the T.H.E (Youth) Dance Company. In the future she aspires to continue performing in both ballet and contemporary pieces.

Daniel Roberts



Graduated from the Australian Ballet School, Daniel was the first student in the school’s history to complete two diplomas - Advanced Diploma in Dance and a Diploma in Choreographic Studies. During his school days, he performed with The Australian Ballet’s Dancers Company in *Graduation Ball* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, Act III. Daniel joined SDT in January 2009 and is involved in SDT’s production of Graham Lustig’s *Cinderella*, Goh Choo San’s *Unknown Territory* and the 2009 and 2010 season of *Ballet Under The Stars*. Daniel is a professional dancer with Singapore Dance Theatre.

Kiran Kumar



Kiran graduated with a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering from the National University of Singapore and was awarded the NUS Tan Ean Kiam Arts award for "Outstanding Alumni."

As a choreographer, Kiran has choreographed several dance pieces which includes B which was commissioned by NUS Arts Festival: Though Asian Lens 2010, Expanding Body specially created a solo dance item for a participant at *DanceIntense* Toronto performance, *Second Nature*, commissioned by NUS Arts Festival 2009 and was subsequently invited by Singapore Dance Theatre to perform at the pre-show segment at Ballet Under the Stars 2009. His other works include *to dance* with the solo role created for Bhairav by NUS Indian Dance for the Dance Reflections season and *Parallel* at Grey Festival in 2008.

Kelvin Koh



Kelvin started dancing in 2000 under the instruction of Mr Derrick Ee and joined the People's Association Cultural Troupe (PACT) Jazz Dance in 2001 for a year. Having no formal dance training but armed with a passion for dance, he joined NUS Dance Synergy in 2001 and subsequently became vice-president in 2002.

Under the training of Ms Gillian Tan and Mr Fan Dong Kai, he found his love for choreography and has choreographed and performed with Synergy since 2002. He participated in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival with NUS Dance Synergy as both dancer and production Manager. 2009 marked another step forward with the participation in the first ever Sprouts New Works Platform for Budding Choreographers. Kelvin's piece "the Combination" was voted most popular work in the competition.