

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

presents

Peter and Blue's Forest Adventures

7 to 9 May 2010
LASALLE SIA Theatre

A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION by Singapore Dance Theatre, in celebration of Mothers' Day!

Singapore, 23 March 2010 - Created by Artistic Director Janek Schergen, Peter and Blue's Forest Adventure is a new one-hour children ballet blending elements of a fairy-tale with a meaningful moral.

The story unveils on a sunny midsummer morning, when Peter, together with his dog, Blue, and cat, Calico, venture into the enchanted forest to search for treats to surprise his mother on her birthday.

In the woods, Peter and Blue meet the forest guardians, the Blueberry Boys, who lead them into the most secluded and magical part of the forest. On their journey, they meet many new friends - Mister and Missus Strawberry, the Apple Blossom Girls, the trouble-making trio, Thistle, Thorn, and Acorn, and the tantalizing triplets Lilac, Rose, and Snapdragon. Each generously gives Peter special treasures to add to his mother's birthday basket. After sending Peter and Blue home, all of them happily share the joy by the window as Peter presents his mother with the forest goodies for her birthday!

Fringe activities for children, including face painting and tattoo painting, starts 30 minutes before the performances.

Admission rules

Patrons from 3 years old require a ticket for admission.

This production is recommended for children age 3 and above. Whilst we do not ban children and babies below the age of three, ALL children and babies will require a valid ticket to enter the theatre. The management will have to ask any child that is making excessive noise, or is crying to

leave the theatre during the performance. We seek the parents' kind understanding in this matter.

FAST FACTS

Title : Peter and Blue's Adventures
Date : 7 to 9 May 2010
Venue : LASALLE SIA Theatre
Time : 11am & 2pm (on all three days)
Ticket Price : \$20 standard price (exclude SISTIC charges)

Discount Scheme

- 1) Family pack of 4 tickets at \$68 (at least 1 child)
- 2) 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 3) 15% discount for Kinokuniya, IKEA and Fitness First cardmembers.
- 4) 20% discount for Passion cardmembers
- 5) School/Group bookings: For every booking of 20 tickets, 1 complimentary ticket will be provided for the accompanying teacher/guardian. MOE schools can also use the TOTE Board Arts Grant subsidy for up to 60% of ticket price. To book, please contact SDT at (65) 6338 0611 or email ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com.

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.

Public performance tickets are available through all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 16 March 2010.

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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 *Serenade* 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 wide range 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!

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.

PETER AND BLUES FOREST ADVENTURES CAST LIST



Naoki Kataoka
As Peter

Naoki started his ballet training at the Tama Ballet School in Tokyo at the age of 12. From 2004 to 2006, he was trained at Tanya Pearson Classical Coaching Academy. Upon graduation, he was accepted in the Royal Conservatoire in Den Haag, Holland and moved to Akademie De Tanzes, Mannheim a year later. He joined the company as a full time member in January 2010.



Tatsuro Kannan
As Blue

Tatsuro was trained at the Tokyo Ballet School before obtaining scholarship to further his studies at the English National Ballet School from 2004 to 2006. As a student, he danced as a soloist in Symphony In D by Jiri Kylian and in Allegro Brillante by George Balanchine. Upon graduation, he joined The Tokyo Ballet from 2007 to 2009. While he was there, he has performed in various productions such as Swan Lake, Don Quixote, La Sylphide, Giselle, Theme and Variation by George Balanchine, Midnight Summer Dream by Frederick Ashton and The Rite of Spring by Maurice Bejart. He joined SDT as a full time member in July 2009.



Ginny Gan

As Calico

Obtained NAC Bursary to New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) and graduated in Nov 2007. During her training in Singapore Ballet Academy from 1999 to 2004, she was involved in SDT's *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, *Red Shoes*, *Coppelia* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2000, Ginny won the 1st prize in the Asia-Pacific Dance Competition in the Modern Group Category and in 2003, she clinched the 1st prize in the Modern Solo category of the Perth Theatrical Festival Dance Competition. In NZSD, she participated in performances like *Balanchine's Divertimento No. 15 & Agon* and was given the featured role in *La Sylphide*. In July 2007, she was one of the two students chosen by NZSD to attend an exchange program with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School before joining SDT as a full-time member. She was also a guest artiste with *Lalala Human Steps* in Amjad. She has since performed in SDT's productions including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In the Park*, *Continuum* as part of the Singapore Arts Festival 08. Ginny had also taken on the lead role as the "First Violin" in George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*.



Amy Bale

As Peter's Mother Louise

Born in Sydney, Australia, Amy began her dance training with Janece Graham and graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) in 2008. While she was with NZSD, she performed in *Le Corsaire Pas De Deux* and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, as well as working with several guest teachers including Victoria Simon, Anna-Marie Holmes & Frank Andersen. In 2008, Amy was also selected to participate in an exchange programme with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in Canada. While she was there, she performed the role of Mercedes in *Don Quixote* and at the end of the year, she performed with the Royal New Zealand Ballet in their season of the ballet. Amy joined Singapore Dance Theatre in September and *Swan Lake* will be her first production.