

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE*

**Presents**

**Swan Lake**  
15 to 18 March 2012  
The Esplanade Theatre

**18 January 2012** - Artistic Director, Janek Schergen and the Singapore Dance Theatre will present *Swan Lake*, perhaps the most famous and well-known ballet of all time, from 15 to 18 March 2012 at the Esplanade Theatre. This is the third time the SDT is presenting this ballet, having performed it in 2007 and 2009.

### **Introduction**

The original source of the *Swan Lake* story is not known. There are stories and legends of swan maidens as far back as ancient Greece, for example, Leda and the swan. Similarly, legends of swan maidens can be found in *The Tales of the Thousand and One Nights*. Some critics believe it is Russian as the swan theme is found in several Russian romantic lyrical sources. Others have argued that it comes from a German folk tale, as the mixture of evil magic, shape shifting and spells are a common theme in Grimm's *Fairytales*. Also, the Bavarian King, Ludwig II used the swan as his symbol and the character of Prince Siegfried, was thought to be loosely based on him.

## Synopsis

The story begins with Prince Siegfried, who goes hunting. While hunting, Prince Siegfried sees an amazing swan. As he takes aim to shoot, the swan turns into a beautiful woman. The woman, Odette, tells the prince that she is a princess who has come under the spell of an evil sorcerer called Rothbart. During the day, she must be a swan. At night, she is allowed to be a human again. The spell can only be broken if a noble prince swears eternal fidelity to her. She tells Prince Siegfried that if he refuses her, she must remain a swan forever. Prince Siegfried falls madly in love with Odette. The Royal Family hosts a party at the palace to celebrate the Prince's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Prince Siegfried, under a spell casted by Rothbart, accidentally proposes to Odile, Rothbart's daughter, believing that she is really Odette. Princess Odette, who appears at the party, witnesses Siegfried declaring his love for Odile and feels doomed. The prince returns to Odette at the lakeside and she forgives him. The prince defeats Rothbart in a battle which finally releases Odette and all the swan maidens from the spell to become women once again.

The music for Swan Lake was composed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, one of the greatest Russian composers of all time. He wrote the music for three of the most famous ballets: Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker. Swan Lake was Tchaikovsky's first ballet and is considered by many to be one of the greatest classical ballets of all time. Its romance and beauty has enthralled audiences for more than 100 years.

Tchaikovsky composed the music between 1875 and 1876. The scenario was initially in four acts and the choreographer of the original production was Julius Reisinger. The ballet, billed as "The Lake of Swans", was premièred by the Bolshoi Ballet in March 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. It was not well-received by the audience. Although it has been presented in many different versions, most ballet companies base their productions, both choreographically and musically, on the 1895 revival by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, which was first staged for the Imperial Ballet on January 15, 1895, at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

## The Characters

For this production of Swan Lake, the main characters are:

- Odette / Odile            Rosa Park / Chihiro Uchida
- Prince Siegfried        Chen Peng / Kenya Nakamura
- Rothbart                 Chen Wei
- Act 1, Pas De Trois    Heidi Zolker / Nanase Tanaka  
   Tomoko Takahashi / Ayami Miyata
- Big Swans                Heidi Zolker / Tomoko Takahashi
- Cygnets                  Amy Bale / Nanase Tanaka  
   Nonoko Tanaka / Ayami Miyata

Singapore Dance Theatre's latest version of Swan Lake promises to be spectacular, featuring the full company of 34 dancers plus lavish costumes and sets. The dual role of Odette / Odile, which is thought to be one of great challenges for any dancer, will be played by Rosa Park and Chihiro Uchida. Prince Siegfried will be played by Chen Peng and Kenya Nakamura and the role of Rothbart by Chen Wei. Both Rosa and Chihiro have performed the roles of Odette / Odile in previous productions. They were last seen in the SDT's production of the Nutcracker .

Chen Peng is reprising his role in Swan Lake. Both Chen Peng and Kenya Nakamura will play the part of Prince Siegfried in this production. Chen Wei will take the part of Rothbart. The aforementioned are experienced dancers and are no strangers to this ballet. There are several new dancers that have joined the SDT in 2012 and who will be performing in Swan Lake. They are artists, Ayami Miyata and Zou Long and apprentices, Jason Andrew Carter and Chua Bi Ru.

## **Swan Lake and the Singapore Dance Theatre**

The Singapore Dance Theatre has performed Swan Lake before, once in December 2007 and then again in December 2009. The 2012 version is expected to be better than the previous versions as the company has developed in terms of repertoire, number of performances plus the experience and capability of the dancers.

The SDT is hoping that this re-staging of Swan Lake will attract seasoned as well as novice ballet performance attendees. The Artistic Director, Janek Schergen, feels that it is an ideal performance for ballet novices. "It has spectacle, great music and a clear plot to follow." he said. "Plus our productions and performances are incredible!" Of course, many who caught the 2010 film, "Black Swan" by Darren Aronofsky starring Natalie Portman, may be attracted to watch the actual ballet. However, the film does not bear much resemblance to reality. According to Janek, "It is a very overly theatrical view of a very serious and disciplined profession. Every negative aspect is blown out of proportion in the movie."

The Artistic Director also feels that it is important for audiences to watch the classical ballet version of Swan Lake even if they have watched any of the more "sensational" productions of Swan Lake, for example, Swan Lake on Ice, the production by the Guangdong Acrobatic Dance Troupe of China or the Matthew Bourne Production with the all-male corps de ballet in circulation. "A classical production of Swan Lake belongs to the sophisticated and intelligent individuals who want to appreciate the artistic rather than a version tailored to a mass market", said Janek Schergen.

Swan Lake 2012 is expected to be a large production, with numerous cases, sets and costumes. There are no plans to travel regionally with this production at the moment. However, the SDT did take Act 2 on tour in 2009 to Spotlight 2009 Malaysia at the KLPAC.

## **FAST FACTS**

**Title:** Swan Lake  
**Date:** 15 to 18 March 2012  
**Venue:** Esplanade Theatre  
**Time:** 15 March: 8pm  
16 March: 8pm  
17 March: 1pm & 8pm  
18 March: 1pm & 7pm

**Ticket prices:** \$30, \$50, \$75\*, \$90  
*\*Concession price at \$50 (CAT 2) for full-time student / NSF / Senior Citizen.*

**Tickets for 4 at**  
CAT 1: \$300, CAT 2: \$250  
CAT 3: \$160, CAT 4: \$100

Other discounts & promotion available, please visit [www.singaporedancetheatre.com](http://www.singaporedancetheatre.com) for information.

Tickets will be available **from 9 January 2012 onwards.**

**Tickets available at:** All SISTIC outlets and authorized agents  
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555  
SISTIC website: [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg).  
[SISTIC booking fees apply]

SDT office at 6338-0611 or [ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com](mailto:ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com)

**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.**

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*For additional information, visit [www.singaporedancetheatre.com](http://www.singaporedancetheatre.com) or call 6348 5555.*

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## **SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE SEASON 2012 HIGHLIGHTS**

Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) celebrates 24 year of growth as a dance company this year. There is something about 24 years and 2012 that has a nice harmony to it. Of course, everyone is looking forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary, which is more symbolic, but this year will be one of great achievements to build the coming celebration on.

The SDT's scope is not limited to performance and the company provides training in dance and education outreach on a routine basis. For the general public that wants a deeper insight and understanding of dance as an art form, the SDT offers One @ the Ballet which are open rehearsals at its studios in Fort Canning on one Saturday every month. The topics are chosen to entertain and enlighten as well as show sections of ballets in preparation for performance as a highlight. The public will also get to see how the dancers train and rehearse as well as what goes into getting ballets to performance level.

So please enjoy what Singapore Dance Theatre has to offer you in 2012!

### **Swan Lake**

**15 – 18 March 2012**

**Esplanade Theatre**

Season 2012 kicks off in March with a full-length classical piece, Swan Lake, at the Esplanade. It is a timeless classic, set to Tchaikovsky's beautiful music. A touching story; it demands only the best from all dancers.

This production premiered in December 2007 and was warmly received by both critics and audiences. The magazine, Dance Europe, called it "a valiant effort" and an indication that the company is "capable of competently presenting one of the classics of the ballet repertory".

Swan Lake tells the story of Princess Odette being turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse and how the true love of Prince Siegfried breaks the curse. The SDT has performed Swan Lake twice in the past. This latest re-staging will once again be helmed by the company's Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

## **Peter and Blue Go Around the World**

**8, 9 & 10 June 2012**

**Esplanade Theatre Studio**

For the coming school holidays in June, SDT presents *Peter and Blue Go Around the World*, an hour-long children's ballet production which brings together the magic of fairy-tale and meaningful morals. Returning after the successful premiere in 2010 and restaging in 2011 (*Peter and Blue's Forest Adventure*), this all-new sequel will see the ever-inquisitive trio - Peter, his dog Blue and his cat Calico, embark on yet another magical adventure but far beyond their home this time!

Longing to explore the world, Peter's wish is finally granted when he chances upon Mr. and Mrs. Strawberry, guardians of the Woodland Forest, who present him with a magic boat that can take him anywhere around the world and back in no time! Join them as they visit different countries and traverse continents as diverse as Asia, Europe and America, and get acquainted with the new friends they meet along the way.

Along with children's activities such as meet-the-characters, photo-taking session, face and tattoo painting, this is a perfect family outing not to be missed!

Recommended for children aged 3 and above.

## **Ballet Under The Stars**

**20, 21 & 22 July 2012**

**Fort Canning Green**

Ballet Under The Stars is SDT's largest outdoor performance. It is popular with the audiences and is usually well attended, in spite of weather conditions! This signature event Ballet returns in July with the following:

- Momentum by Goh Choo San
- ZIN! and new work (untitled at press time) by Nils Christe
- Jabula by Natalie Weir

**Masterpiece in Motion**  
**24 & 25 August 2012**  
**Esplanade Theatre**

An annual triple bill which showcases three contemporary ballets of international standards and brings the finest examples of choreography, home for audiences.

For 2012, these will be the performances:

- Divertimento no. 15 by George Balanchine  
*(Company Premiere)*
- Age of Innocence by Edwaard Liang  
*(Company Premiere, Ambassador Circle's 2012 acquisition\*)*
- New piece specially created for SDT by Val Caniparoli  
*(World Premiere)*

*\* **Singapore Dance Theatre's Ambassador's Circle** is a new group specifically designed to enhance the theatre going experience - watching dance with a more personal involvement and knowledge. The intention is to involve the group in the process of the acquisition of new works for the company's repertoire. As a member of the Ambassador's Circle, you will help to bring a ballet on stage both locally and overseas.*

*In 2009 and 2010, SDT's Ambassador's Circle successfully brought in two works by George Balanchine – **Concerto Barocco** (2009) and **Serenade** (2010). With the support of the Ambassador's Circle, the repertoire once again successfully presented another company premiere in 2011, titled **Fearful Symmetries** by renowned Dutch choreographer Nils Christie.*

*For the year 2012, SDT looks forward to bringing another company premiere onto stage with **Age of Innocence** by Edwaard Liang, which he had first created for the Joffrey Ballet in 2008. This piece is slated for a company premiere in August 2012 at the Esplanade Theatre.*



**Passages**  
**2 – 4 November 2012**  
**National Museum Gallery Theatre**

Passages, an annual choreographic workshop, completely sold out its scheduled performances in 2011. In its third year, Passages offers four upcoming local choreographers from Singapore an opportunity to create new works and develop their abilities as choreographers through the process of this workshop and presentation. The choreographers will be selected and guided through different choreography techniques and tools over a 2-week workshop programme. The choreographers will then be given the chance to work with the professional dancers from SDT to create their very own works. The four fledgling choreographers, who will go under the tutelage and guidance of Singapore Dance Theatre's Artistic Director Janek Schergen, will each present a 15-minute piece, featuring SDT's professional dancers, during this performance.

Passages 2012 will also feature Christina Chan's piece, created during Passages 2011 and a piece by Toru Shimazaki – Mr. Shimazaki's works have been presented by Hubbard Street Dance, Colorado Ballet and National Ballet in Tokyo. He is currently the Head of Dance in Kobe Jogakuin College in Japan.

**Sleeping Beauty**  
**13, 14, 15 & 16 December 2012**  
**Esplanade Theatre**

The Season 2012 concludes with its grand finale, a timeless classic, Sleeping Beauty, which was last performed in December 2010

The Sleeping Beauty is considered to be the pinnacle of classical ballet repertoire. Choreographed by Marius Petipa and set to a soaring score composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, The Sleeping Beauty tells the timeless story of young Princess Aurora who falls prey to the evil fairy Carabosse. Only a kiss from a handsome prince will break the spell and ensure her future happiness. The Sleeping Beauty features some of the most famous and demanding choreography and, in its opulence, dynamism, formal rigour and sensitivity to the sheer pleasures of choreographed stagecraft, epitomizes perhaps better than any other production, the meaning of classical ballet.

This latest production promises to be outstanding, with remarkable sets and costumes and a sophisticated staging that leaves nothing but the best on view.

## SEASON 2012 SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE

Enjoy premium savings on SDT main theatre seasons that are only available through Season Subscription Package!

- Largest savings of up to 40% on single season tickets.
- Complimentary tickets to SDT's largest outdoor performance Ballet Under The Stars
- Priority seat selection\*

\*Subjected to availability.

### MAIN PERFORMANCE SEASON AT THE ESPLANADE THEATRE

- Swan Lake 15 – 18 March 2012
- Masterpiece In Motion 24 – 25 August 2012
- Sleeping Beauty 13 – 16 December 2012

### SINGLE SEASON TICKET PRICE

CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
\$90	\$75	\$50	\$30

*Booking fee not included*

### SEASON SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE PRICE

#### Triple Season Package

3 Theatre Seasons - Swan Lake, Masterpiece in Motion and Sleeping Beauty

		CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
	<b>Original Price</b>	279.00	234.00	159.00	99.00
Adult	Less 30%	198.00	166.50	114.00	72.00
Concession	Less 40%	-	144.00	-	-

*Price Includes Booking Fee*

*Concession for full-time students, NSF and Senior Citizens age 55 and above*

#### Double Season Package

2 Theatre Seasons - Masterpiece in Motion and Sleeping Beauty

		CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
	<b>Original Price</b>	186.00	156.00	106.00	66.00
Adult	Less 25%	141.00	118.50	81.00	51.00
Concession	Less 35%	-	103.50	-	-

*Price Includes Booking Fee*

*Concession for full-time students, NSF and Senior Citizens age 55 and above*

Subscribers are entitled to a pair of complimentary tickets\* to **Ballet Under The Stars** with every package purchased

\*For 22 July 2012 performance

Visit [www.singaporedancetheatre.com](http://www.singaporedancetheatre.com) or call 6338 0611 to subscribe today.

## **SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE – THE COMPANY**

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 with seven dancers by Goh Soo Khim and the late Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premier professional dance company comprising 34 dancers. In the course of each year, the Company performs five to six seasons, including the widely popular *Ballet Under The Stars* at the Fort Canning Park.

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, Mauricio Wainrot, Val Caniparoli, Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo, Edmund Stripe, Adrian Burnett, Edwaard Liang and Nils Christie.

In 2009, Janek Schergen took over the post of Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, the Company has made 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 its Arts Education Programme, Dance Appreciation Series (jointly presented with Esplanade Co.), and One @ The Ballet, an initiative to help the public gain a better understanding of the different aspect of dance.

## 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 dancing and teaching, 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. He later became a ballet master for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where he rehearsed the full-length classics and important additions to 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.

As Artistic Director and a Board Member of The Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, he has staged more than 120 productions of Choo-San Goh's works worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Awards Committee for the Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography. In the past 14 years, 72 Awards have been made and more than \$750,000 has been dedicated to the creation of new works of choreography. Since the establishment of the Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988, he has staged 12 of Choo San's works for SDT and in December 2000 mounted the full-length *Romeo and Juliet*. 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 (NNB) in Oslo. He was responsible for rehearsing 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.

In June 2007, he was appointed Assistant Artistic Director of Singapore Dance Theatre. He staged all of the ballets for the September 2007 season, *The Legacy of Goh Choo San*, and made it one of SDT's most successful seasons. In 2009, Janek Schergen took over the post of Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, the Company continues soaring new heights and achievements in international and Singapore dance arena.

His other staging includes *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Nutcracker*. He also did his own production *Peter & Blue's Forest Adventure*