

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Dance Theatre presents **Ballet Under the Stars 2017**
1 - 3 & 8 – 10 September 2017 | Fort Canning Green

13 June 2017



Sticks and Stones by Kinsun Chan | Photo: Bernie Ng

Ballet Under the Stars is back for its 22nd edition! Established by Singapore Dance Theatre in 1995 as Singapore's most loved and iconic outdoor dance event at the **Fort Canning Green**, SDT will be presenting a contemporary weekend from **1 – 3 September** and classical works from **8 – 10 September**.

"Ballet Under the Stars has become such an annual tradition, after 22 years, that for many of the people who have become acquainted with Singapore Dance Theatre as a dance company, this event is their only exposure to us. For this reason alone, it is imperative that we present the absolute best of our repertoire suitable to the environment of the park's performance situation. Our first weekend comprises of Nils Christie's brilliant work *Organ Concerto* and Kinsun's Chan's *Sticks and Stones*, a work made for the virility and power of an all-male cast. Both these ballets were made especially for SDT. The evening will conclude with the beauty of Edwaard Liang's *Age of Innocence*. These three works encompass much of the reason SDT exists as a repertory dance company. Our second weekend, more classical in nature, is a special treat with what we call "the weddings". In the final act of several full-length ballets there is a celebration culminating in a wedding. We will present the 3rd acts of *Coppélia*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Don Quixote* in a full out classical extravaganza," said Artistic Director, Janek Schergen.

1 – 3 September 2017

Eclectic and electric in every measure, the first weekend of Ballet Under the Stars brings to you three rousing and powerful contemporary creations – *Sticks and Stones* by Kinsun Chan, *Age of Innocence* by Edwaard Liang, and *Organ Concerto* by Nils Christe.

Sticks and Stones

Choreography: Kinsun Chan
Composer: Fritz Hauser and Steve Reich

Inspired by the many existing tribes, *Sticks and Stones* looks at the customs and traditions which have developed in each tribes specific surroundings, influencing their social structure and behaviour down to the most human primal instinct. Dance has often been an integral part of tribes from sport, celebration, rituals or in act of war, but what is common is that its body language often develops from the depths of the soul and is born from the gut, which is the essential core in the development of this work.

Sticks and Stones was successfully brought in with the support of SDT's Ambassador's Circle for passages 2015.

Age of Innocence

Choreography: Edwaard Liang
Composer: Philip Glass and Thomas Newman

Created for the Joffrey Ballet in 2008, *Age of Innocence* is inspired by the novels of Jane Austen and women of her era. This piece encapsulates the complications of male-female relationships in a world that is all at once modern and historical, capturing the tragedy in the hierarchy endured by the women. Danced to the music of Philip Glass and Thomas Newman, the dynamism of the exuberant, potent music lifts the dancers from the stage to present an enthralling piece. *Age of Innocence* is a staple in Joffrey Ballet's repertory and has been performed several times by the company since its conception, including this year's spring mixed repertory, Spring Desire. This piece is the Edwaard Liang's third work performed by SDT. Previous works include *As Above, So Below* (2010, Da:ns Festival 2012) and *The Winds of Zephyrus* (2011, Masterpiece in Motion). *Age of Innocence* was successfully brought in with the support of SDT's Ambassador's Circle 2012.

Organ Concerto

Choreography: Nils Christe
Staging: Annegien Sneep
Music: Francis Poulenc

A ballet of huge scope and sweep, *Organ Concerto* is choreographed to Francis Poulenc's famous music score of the same name. It is a piece made especially for the company by acclaimed Dutch choreographer Nils Christe, showcasing twelve couples and premiered in July 2012 at Ballet Under the Stars. This work demands physicality and extraordinary depth, and like its score, the ballet is interspersed with dramatic bursts of movements coupled with energetic leaps and jumps. The dance strikes a balance between grace and strength, as reflected in the sharp and swift choreography, maintaining the elements of suspense and excitement throughout the piece.



Age of Innocence by Edwaard Liang | Photo: Bernie Ng

8 – 10 September 2017

Welcome to the wedding festival of the year! What could be more blissful than a weekend of bridal bells ringing and couple-loving celebrations?

The second weekend of Ballet Under the Stars presents a paradise of sparkling classical enchantment as three iconic weddings take the stage – *Coppélia* Act III, Aurora's Wedding from *Sleeping Beauty*, and Kitri's Wedding from *Don Quixote*.

Coppélia Act III

Choreography: Arthur St. Léon

Staging: Janek Schergen

Music: Léo Delibes

The village celebrates the Festival of the Bells. All the couples that marry on this day will be especially blessed. Dr. Coppélius forces his way through the festivities and tells of what has happened. Swanilda sincerely apologises and the Mayor gives Dr. Coppélius compensation as well as the forgiveness offered. To commemorate the day, divertissements are presented that show the morning hours, which leads to dawn, prayer, the harvesters and the betrothal couples, culminating in the wedding of Swanilda and Franz. The end brings calm to the village and the joy to all whose marriage has been blessed that day.

Aurora's Wedding from Sleeping Beauty

Choreography: Marius Petipa

Staging: Janek Schergen

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The court is celebrating the wedding of Princess Aurora and Prince Florimund, Fairy Tale characters from all over the kingdom join in the celebration.

Kitri's Wedding from Don Quixote

Choreography: Marius Petipa

Music: Ludwig Minkus

Set in Spain, *Don Quixote* tells a story of love, betrayal, and eternal devotion written by Miguel de Cervantes. Kitri, the beautiful daughter of Lorenzo the innkeeper, has fallen in love with Basilio, a poor young barber. After a series of chivalrous acts, whimsical twists, and comically feigned suicide, Kitri and Basilio finally celebrate their marriage with a grand pas de deux, a glittering showstopper displaying the dazzling feats of partnering. The villagers help to put up the decorations for the wedding of Kitri and Basilio, and the guests arrive as the marriage takes place.



Sleeping Beauty by Marius Petipa | Photo: Bernie Ng

FAST FACTS

Title : Ballet Under the Stars

Date : 1 – 3 September 2017 (Friday - Sunday)
8 – 10 September 2017 (Friday - Sunday)

Venue : Fort Canning Green

Time : 7.30pm

Ticket prices : \$35 (SISTIC fees apply)

20% concessions for:

- Children aged 12 and below/Students/NSF/Senior Citizens

Ticket Sales Date: General Sales: 1 June – 10 September 2017

Tickets are available at all authorised SISTIC outlets and SDT Office.
Email ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6338 0611 for ticket enquires.

MEDIA CONTACT

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ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Principal Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Li Jie	Kenya Nakamura	
First Artist	Chua Bi Ru Etienne Ferrère	Elaine Heng Jason Carter	May Yen Cheah Kensuke Yorozu	Nazer Salgado
Artists	Akira Nakahama Ma Ni Ruth Austin	Beatrice Castañeda Mai Suzuki Sun Hong Lei	Kana Minegishi Marina Yatsushiro Xu Lei Ting	Kwok Min Yi Nanase Tanaka Yeo Chan Yee
	Huo Liang Shan Del Vecchio Wan Jiajing Jerry	Justin Zee Shi Yue Tony	Peter Allen Takeaki Miura	Reece Hudson Timothy Ng
Apprentices	Jessica Garside Valerie Yeo	Leane Lim Jeremie Gan	Niki Wong Satoru Agetsuma	Tamana Watanabe

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 Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Jiří Kylián, Stanton Welch, Natalie Weir, Val Caniparoli, Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo, Edmund Stripe, Kinsun Chan, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christie, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Ma Cong, and most recently Timothy Harbour, resident choreographer of Australian Ballet.

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 eight years, the Company has added 27 world premieres and 16 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, SDT 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. The company also conducts the annual SDT Choreographic workshop to groom and nurture budding choreographers in Singapore.

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 ACTIVE REPERTOIRE LIST (2009 – 2016)

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: Choo-San Goh

Raymonda Divertissements

Choreography: Marius Petipa

Double Contrasts

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

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

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

As Above So Below

Choreography: Edwaard Liang
Created for SDT

Nameless

Choreography: Xing Liang
Created for SDT

Living Greens

Choreography: Mohamed Noor Sarman

Beginnings

Choreography: Choo –San Goh

Birds of Paradise

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

In The Glow of The Night

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

Momentum

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

Variations Serieuses

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

Serenade

Choreography: George Balanchine

Romeo and Juliet

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

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

Fives

Choreography: Choo-San Goh

4Seasons

Choreography: Natalie Weir
Created for SDT

Lambarena

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

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
Created for SDT

Shadow's Edge

Choreography: Ma Cong
Created for SDT

Blue Snow

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki
Created for SDT

Don Quixote

Choreography after Marius Petipa
Staging Cynthia Harvey

Rubies *

Choreography: George Balanchine
Staging: Elyse Borne

Schubert Symphony

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging Janek Schergen

Bournonville Divertissements *

Choreography: August Bournonville

Midnight Waltzes

Choreography: François Klaus
Created for SDT

Bliss

Choreography: Gigi Gianti
Created for SDT

Incandescent Dream

Choreography: Max Chen
Created for SDT

Sticks and Stones

Choreography: Kinsun Chan
Created for SDT

Incomparable Beauty

Choreography: Ma Cong
Created for SDT

Symphony in Three Movements

Choreography: Nils Christe

Another Energy

Choreography: Timothy Harbour
Created for SDT

Unfound

Choreography: Christina Chan
Created for SDT

2017 ADDITIONS

The Four Temperaments

Choreography: George Balanchine

Triptych *

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

World Premieres by Toru Shimazaki and and
Edwaard Liang *

Acquired through the Ambassador's Circle

* Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund