

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JANEK SCHERGEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Dance Theatre presents *The Nutcracker* 2017 6 – 10 December 2017 | Esplanade Theatre

26 September 2017



Photo: Justin Koh

Singapore Dance Theatre will once again be celebrating this holiday season with the return of the quintessential Christmas classical, *The Nutcracker*, from **6 – 10 December** at The Esplanade Theatre.

Start your very own annual tradition with your loved ones at one of the world's most beloved holiday celebrations and create joyous memories to remember for years! Radiance merriment and a euphoric enchantment, *The Nutcracker* is a charming Christmas spectacular that will set your feet to dancing and fill your heart with joy!

“The tradition of annual *Nutcracker* performances was established by The New York City Ballet with its 1954 production of George Balanchine’s historic retelling of the full length narrative ballet. The essential difference of this production was that it was created with young children in mind, both onstage as young dancers in the production, and for audiences of families that could more identify with the story and see something of themselves and their families represented on stage. *The Nutcracker* had already been around in its original Marius Petipa/Lev Ivanov production, which was first created in the 19th century for the Imperial Theatre in Russia, but its popularity had never taken on the scope it has universally developed since. *The Nutcracker* is the signal of Christmas and now the whole world embraces it as a bit of magic to mark the holiday celebrations. The present production of Singapore Dance Theatre is there due to the establishment of the company’s first full-length story ballet, presented in 1992, and choreographed by one of the company’s two co-founders, Anthony Then. Our present production may be different in look, but it is entirely the same in spirit.” says artistic director Janek Schergen.

The Story

In Shanghai, on the 24th of December, Clara and her family are hosting a celebratory party. One of the invited guests is Drosselmeyer, together with his nephew Kristian and four of his schoolmates. Drosselmeyer presents Clara with a gift – a German Nutcracker doll, a gift which he had cast a spell on. The party continues and everyone engages in the merriment and the celebrations.

Later that evening, after the party is over, Clara is still wide awake, long past her bedtime. She goes downstairs to look for her Nutcracker and the spell begins to unfold. Suddenly, the entire house is filled with huge mice taking all the food and presents and causing mischief. Drosselmeyer returns with Kristian and four friends, now as handsome soldiers. Together they protect Clara as a fierce battle ensues between the mice and the soldiers. With Clara's help, Kristian defeats the mice and leads his battalion to victory.

As a reward, Clara is taken on a magical journey to the Land of Snow where she meets the Snow King and Queen and her snowflake subjects. Clara continues her journey further until she arrives at the Kingdom of Sweets and is greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Everyone from the Land of Sweets comes to entertain Clara with wondrous dances and she is enchanted by the toy soldiers, the Waltz of the Flowers and sights of exotic foreign countries.

FAST FACTS

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|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | : | The Nutcracker |
| Date | : | 6 – 10 December 2016 (Wednesday - Sunday) |
| Venue | : | Esplanade Theatre |
| Time | : | 6 - 8 Dec: 8pm 9 Dec: 1pm & 8pm 10 Dec: 1pm & 7pm |
| Ticket prices | : | \$35, \$55, \$75 (SISTIC fee apply) |
| | | 20% concessions for: |
| | | • Children aged 12 and below/Students/NSF/Senior Citizens |
| Ticket Sales Date: | | General Sales: 1 September – 10 December 2017 |

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

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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 | Justin Zee Takeaki Miura | Peter Allen Timothy Ng | Reece Hudson Wan Jiajing Jerry |
| Apprentices | Jessica Garside Ivan Koh | Leane Lim Jeremie Gan | Niki Wong Satoru Agetsuma | Tamana Watanabe |
| Trainee | Valerie Yeo | | | |

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, Jiri Kylian, 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 28 world premieres and 17 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.

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 / Deroit
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

13th Heaven^{*}

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Triptych^{*}

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Unexpected B

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki

[#] Acquired through the Ambassador's Circle

^{*} Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund