

# SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JANEK SCHERGEN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Singapore Dance Theatre presents **Ballet Under the Stars** 5 – 7 & 12 – 14 July 2019 | Fort Canning Green

22 March 2019



*Swan Lake* | Photo: Bernie Ng

Ballet Under the Stars is back for its 24<sup>th</sup> edition! Established by Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) in 1995 as Singapore's most loved and iconic outdoor dance event at the **Fort Canning Green**, we will be presenting a weekend of contemporary works from **5 – 7 July**, and another weekend of classical ballets from **12 – 14 July 2019**.

"Ballet Under the Stars has become such an annual tradition, after 24 years, that many people who have become acquainted with Singapore Dance Theatre see us first in the park performances. 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 brings to our audiences two works created for us, *Linea Adora* by Timothy Harbour and *Evening Voices* by Tim Rushton. Both are perfect examples of what the dancers of SDT inspire in the choreographic voices of remarkably talented and creative dance makers. It is what makes us unique as SDT. Complimenting this is *SYNC* by Nils Christie, from the 30th anniversary gala in 2018; this ballet is unlike any other piece in our repertoire.

Our second weekend is a celebration of absolute classical ballets. It begins with the haunting Act II of *Giselle*, followed by several divertissements from *Swan Lake*, including the famous White Swan pas de deux from Act II and Act III's Black Swan pas de deux. The end of the evening is Act II of *The Nutcracker*, called the "Land of the Sweets". In it, we have everything from the Dewdrop Fairy in the waltz of the flowers to the Sugar Plum Fairy and her cavalier in the grand pas de deux. These ballets are presented in their chronological order of creation and, in many ways, are an exploration of dance through the classical period that made ballet one of the greatest arts in the world. ." says Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

## 5 – 7 July 2019

### Evening Voices

**Choreography/** Tim Rushton  
**Costume Design**  
**Music** Sergey Rachmaninov

"I often find myself being driven by a piece of music, it is indescribable and enthralling, it's like going on a journey with a composer. Rachmaninov is one of those composers that I find fascinating, his All-Night Vigil is tender and yet magnificent, making us feel humble but uplifted. The simple musical composition (prose) is a celebration to our believe of something bigger." - Tim Rushton

*Evening Voices* was acquired through the financial sponsorship of the Artistic Director's Fund.

### Linea Adora

**Choreography** Timothy Harbour  
**Costume Design** Keto Dancewear  
**Music** Philip Glass

"Linea Adora translates from latin as 'the adoration of lines' or 'the glory of lines'. (For the latin aficionados please forgive my interpretation if it proves inadequate). Celebrating line, both in the individual shapes the dancers make and in the configurations of the ensemble, was a starting point for creating this work. Ballet's powerful form owes much to its use of line, and the sense it makes organising the human frame. Also, we had this wonderful music to work with. It's dramatic mood changes and graphic lyricism inspired the four distinct sections of the work. Lastly, Linea Adora is a reflection of the dancers of Singapore Dance Theatre. They all appear in it and I hope that their talents for dynamism, musicality and cohesion are all evident for you. "

- Timothy Harbour

*Linea Adora* was acquired by Ambassador's Circle 2018.

### SYNC

**Choreography/ Set Design** Nils Christe  
**Staging/Costume Design** Annegien Sneep  
**Music** Ludovico Einaudi

Originally created for the Washington Ballet, SYNC has been successfully performed by 14 companies in Europe, USA and Australia. Standing for "synchronisation", "syncopation" and "to be in sync", SYNC was created to Salgari by Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi. The music is partly very quick, percussive and propulsive, but also lyrical and poetic. The large truss gives a "high-tech" feeling to the piece. It is not only there as decoration, therefore adding an interesting element to the choreography.

*SYNC* was acquired by Ambassador's Circle 2018.



*Linea Adora* by Timothy Harbour | Photo: Bernie Ng

**12 – 14 July 2019**

Giselle Act II

**Choreography**

Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

**Staging**

Janek Schergen

**Music**

Adolphe Adam

The second act takes place on a moonlit night in a forest at Giselle's tomb. It is just before midnight and Hilarion has broken-heartedly laid Giselle to rest. Berthe, Giselle's mother, comes to bid her daughter a final farewell. She becomes too distressed and has to be led away. Hilarion too, remembering the legend of the Wilis, hurries away.

At midnight, Myrtha, the Queen of the Wilis appears with an entourage of Wilis. This is the night Giselle is to be initiated as one of them. Albrecht, laden with feelings of guilt and remorse visits Giselle's grave. He sees a vision of Giselle and follows it into the forest.

Meanwhile, Hilarion becomes the first prey of the Wilis, and is forced to dance until he eventually dies from exhaustion. The Wilis then discover Albrecht and try to inflict the same fate on him. He is saved by Giselle who still loves him deeply even after death. At the break of dawn, the Wilis lose their power and return to their graves. Albrecht is spared and it is at this point that he comes to realise that he has lost his true love.

Swan Lake Divertissements

**Choreography**

Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov Staging

**Staging**

Janek Schergen

**Music**

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

A grand ball to celebrate Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday is taking place. Guests from far and wide come to give their well-wishes. Prince Siegfried is introduced to six royal princesses, expecting that he will choose one of them for his bride. Rothbart arrives at the ball with his daughter, Odile, the Black Swan, who has been magically disguised to resemble Odette. Prince Siegfried, mistaking Odile for Odette, is tricked into breaking his vow by declaring his undying devotion to Odile.

At the lakeside, Odette is reunited with Prince Siegfried and forgives him for his unwitting error. Rothbart arrives at the lake and engages Siegfried in a fight, during which Rothbart is killed. The spell placed on Odette and her swan maidens is broken and they will never change into swans again. Odette and Prince Siegfried live happily ever after.

The Nutcracker Act II

**Choreography & Staging**

Janek Schergen

**Music**

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Clara continues her journey further until she arrives at the magical Kingdom of Sweets. Clara's sister, Marie and Kristian, greet her as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince. Everyone from the Land of Sweets comes to entertain Clara with wondrous dances; including divertissements from Spain, China, France, Arabia plus the Toy Soldiers, the Harlequins, the Waltz of the Flowers and the pas de deux of Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.



Giselle | Photo: Bernie Ng

## **FAST FACTS**

**Title** : Ballet Under the Stars  
**Date** : 5 – 7 & 12 – 14 July 2019 (Friday - Sunday)  
**Venue** : Fort Canning Green  
**Time** : 7.30pm  
**Ticket prices** : \$40 (SISTIC fees apply)  
20% concessions for:  
• Children aged 12 and below/Students/NSF/Senior Citizens

**Ticket Sales Date:** 1 April – 14 July 2019

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

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Principal Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Etienne Ferrère	Kenya Nakamura	
First Artist	Akira Nakahama May Yen Cheah	Chua Bi Ru Huo Liang	Elaine Heng Jason Carter	Kwok Min Yi Kensuke Yorozu
Artists	Beatrice Castañeda Leane Lim Nanase Tanaka Yeo Chan Yee	Henriette Garcia Ma Ni Tamana Watanabe	Jessica Garside Mai Suzuki Valerie Yeo	Kana Minegishi Marina Yatsushiro Yayoi Matches
	Ivan Koh Reece Hudson Takeaki Miura	Jasper Arran Reo Mizuno Timothy Ng	Jeremie Gan Satoru Agetsuma	Justin Zee Shan Del Vecchio
Apprentices	Felicia Er	Ma Xiaoyu	Sayaka Yamauchi	Erivan Garioli
Trainees	Esen Thang	Reiko Tan		

## 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 of 34 dancers plus apprentices and trainees. 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.

The Company's repertoire ranges from 19<sup>th</sup> century traditional classical to contemporary works, from renowned choreographers like Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Stanton Welch, Natalie Weir, Val Caniparoli, Edmund Stripe, Kinsun Chan, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christie, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Ma Cong, Timothy Harbour and most recently, Timothy Rushton.

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 ten years, the Company has added 30 world premieres and 19 company premieres and new productions 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 has captivated audiences in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Mexico, China, Australia, France, United States, London, Switzerland, Thailand and most recently Laos. The Company has taken part and has performed in numerous international festivals and events, such as Le Temps d'Aimer la Danse a Biarritz in France, Mexico's Festival Internacional Cervantino, Chang Mu Arts Festival in Korea, Philippines Festival of Dance, and was part of the Victorian Arts Centre's Made to Move subscription series. SDT tours Kuala Lumpur and Penang annually, and has seen a growth in its dedicated support to the company.

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. Since, the Company has enhanced efforts in Education and Outreach, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for dance to a wider audience. We also cater the Ballet Associate's Course (BAC) for students who intend to develop their dance skills and techniques. Last year, we introduced Adopt an Audience to make arts accessible for everyone, including the low-income, underprivileged, and disabled in our society.

In celebration of SDT's 30th Anniversary as well as for the Nation's birthday, SDT's ballet master, Mohamed Noor Sarman choreographed the dance music video for NDP 2018 theme song 'We are Singapore'.

## SDT ACTIVE REPERTOIRE LIST (2009 – 2019)

### 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<sup>#</sup>

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<sup>#</sup>

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<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Nils Christe

### The Nutcracker

Choreography and Staging: Janek Schergen  
Created for SDT

### Paquita

Choreography after Marius Petipa

### Age of Innocence<sup>#</sup>

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<sup>#</sup>

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<sup>#</sup>

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<sup>\*</sup>

Choreography: George Balanchine  
Staging: Elyse Borne

### Schubert Symphony

Choreography: Choo-San Goh  
Staging Janek Schergen

### Bournonville Divertissements<sup>\*</sup>

Choreography: August Bournonville

### Midnight Waltzes

Choreography: François Klaus  
Created for SDT

### Bliss<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Gigi Gianti  
Created for SDT

### Incandescent Dream<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Max Chen  
Created for SDT

### Sticks and Stones<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Kinsun Chan  
Created for SDT

### Incomparable Beauty

Choreography: Ma Cong  
Created for SDT

### Symphony in Three Movements<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Nils Christe

### Another Energy

Choreography: Timothy Harbour  
Created for SDT

### Unfound

Choreography: Christina Chan  
Created for SDT

### The Four Temperaments<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: George Balanchine

### 13th Heaven<sup>\*</sup>

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

### Triptych<sup>\*</sup>

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

### Unexpected B

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki

### Linea Adora<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Timothy Harbour

### SYNC<sup>#</sup>

Choreography: Nils Christe

### Evening Voices<sup>\*</sup>

Choreography: Tim Rushton

<sup>#</sup> Acquired through the Ambassador's Circle

<sup>\*</sup> Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund