

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JANEK SCHERGEN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Dance Theatre presents **Passages Contemporary Season 2019** 1 – 3 November 2019 | Esplanade Theatre Studio

World Premiere by Lucas Jervis
Bittersweet by Natalie Weir
Swipe by Val Caniparoli
Blue Snow by Toru Shimazaki

05 August 2019



Blue Snow by Toru Shimazaki | Photo: Bernie Ng

Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) will be presenting its annual full contemporary season of the year, **Passages**, from **1 – 3 November** at the **Esplanade Theatre Studio**. From electrifying to soulful works, this Season is set to grip you with its captivating line-up and leave you at the edge of your seats. Come and be inspired by these compelling and moving masterpieces.

“Passages Contemporary Season has always had its unique personality and profile within the SDT performance calendar. It had most often been used to introduce choreographers that are new to our audiences and for the presentation of either world premieres or company premieres. It is a place that fills the spirit of the initial concept of SDT perfectly. Many of the ballets from Passages become significant parts of our permanent repertoire and we present them on tour or in future seasons. This year, we have two works that were previously made especially for SDT, with Natalie Weir’s *Bittersweet* and Toru Shimazaki’s *Blue Snow*, as well as Val Caniparoli’s *Swipe*. We also have a world premiere from an exciting Australian choreographer, Lucas Jervis, working with SDT for the first time. It is very exciting to have him represented within our repertoire with his new creation for our dancers.” says Artistic Director Janek Schergen.

World Premiere
Choreography

Lucas Jervies

Lucas Jervies will be creating a world premiere for Passages 2019. Jervies, the Australian choreographer and former dancer of The Australian Ballet, who recently created a new production of *Spartacus* for The Australian Ballet received an overwhelming response.

Bittersweet
Choreography
Music

Natalie Weir
Hans Zimmer (The Gladiator OST)

Bittersweet is a pas de deux created by Natalie Weir for SDT. Natalie Weir is an established and acclaimed choreographer, known for her highly physical partner work, her organic movement style and her touching insight into human nature. Natalie Weir has created over 150 professional works in her 20+ year career. She was a founding member of Expressions Dance Company (EDC) and has worked extensively throughout Australia, creating many works for most of the country's major classical and contemporary dance companies including the Australian Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet and Houston Ballet.

Natalie has also created *4Seasons* in 2013 for Singapore Dance Theatre, and staged *Jabula* and *Dark Lullaby* for SDT.

Swipe
Choreography
Staging
Music

Val Caniparoli
Jerry Kumery
Gabriel Prokofiev (music courtesy of Nonclassical)

Originally created and premiered in 2011 for Richmond Ballet, *Swipe* is performed to the music of London based composer and producer of Electro, Hip- Hop and Dance music, Gabriel Prokofiev, who is the grandson of Sergei Prokofiev. What gives his contemporary classical writing its unique edge is his background in dance music combined with his classical roots. Here in *Swipe*, movements from his String Quartet No. 2, as played by the Elysian String Quartet, are coupled with Remixes of the original quartet.

Featuring a cast of four men and three women, *Swipe* is packed with originality, utilising every possible extremity, with solos, couples, trios, quartets and the full cast. The piece, in its abstract form, brings out the depth of personalities of the dancers.

Val's ballets in SDT include *Lambarena*, *Chant* and *Triptych*.

Swipe was successfully brought into the repertoire with the support of the Ambassador's Circle 2014.

Blue Snow
Choreography
Music

Toru Shimazaki
Rene Aubry and Yanoyuki

"After having worked with the dancers of Singapore Dance Theatre on my previous ballet for them, *Absence of Story*, I wanted to explore a new direction in movement and stylistic content. In my mind were the ideas of trying to reach for something seen from a distance and combined with some underlying emotional longing. This developed as a choreographic work meant to be an impressionistic journey, giving a sensation and emotional feeling of moving toward something that is always just slightly out of reach. The dancers are looking forward, as if to a horizon, that is beautiful, but unattainable. It is with the thought that the journey is more important than the end." - Toru Shimazaki

Toru has created *Absence of Story* and *Unexpected B* for SDT.

Blue Snow was created especially for SDT for Esplanade's da:ns festival 2014.

FAST FACTS

Title : Passages Contemporary Season
Date : 1 – 3 November (Friday - Sunday)
Venue : Esplanade Theatre Studio
Time : 1 November 2019, 7.30pm
2 November 2019, 3pm & 7.30pm
3 November 2019, 3pm & 7pm

Ticket prices : \$35 (SISTIC fees apply)

20% concessions for:

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

Ticket Sales Date: Early Bird: 1 August – 21 August 2019
General Sales: 22 August – 3 November 2019

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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MEDIA CONTACT

Amanda Teo
Marketing Manager
Amanda.teo@singaporedancetheatre.com

Office: (65) 6338 0611
Fax: (65) 6338 9748
www.singaporedancetheatre.com

Larissa D'cruz
Senior Executive, Marketing and PR
larissa@singaporedancetheatre.com

Grace Wong
Senior Executive, Marketing
grace.wong@singaporedancetheatre.com

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 Yayoi Matches Ivan Koh Reece Hudson Takeaki Miura	Henriette Garcia Ma Ni Stephanie Joe Yeo Chan Yee Jasper Arran Reo Mizuno Timothy Ng	Jessica Garside Mai Suzuki Tamana Watanabe Jeremie Gan Satoru Agetsuma	Kana Minegishi Marina Yatsushiro Valerie Yeo Justin Zee Shan Del Vecchio
Apprentices	Esen Thang Sayaka Yamauchi	Felicia Er Erivan Garioli	Ma Xiaoyu	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 35 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 19th 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 Christe, 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

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

The Four Temperaments[#]

Choreography: George Balanchine

13th Heaven^{*}

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Triptych^{*}

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Unexpected B

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki

Linea Adora[#]

Choreography: Timothy Harbour

SYNC[#]

Choreography: Nils Christe

Evening Voices^{*}

Choreography: Tim Rushton

[#] Acquired through the Ambassador's Circle

^{*} Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund