

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JANEK SCHERGEN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Dance Theatre presents *Romeo and Juliet* 5 – 8 March 2020 | Esplanade Theatre



As we embark on **Singapore Dance Theatre's** (SDT) Dare to Dance season 2020, we will begin the season with the greatest love story of all time, *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed by Choo-San Goh with costume and set designs by Peter Cazalet. This world-class ballet will grace the stage at the **Esplanade Theatre** from **5 to 8 March 2020**.

This year, for the first time, *Romeo and Juliet* will be presented by three unique casts, two of which will be having their debut. One of the casts consists of Kwok Min Yi, with her partner Satoru Agetsuma. The other, Akira Nakahama and Etienne Ferrère, whom have danced in many roles together. Chihiro Uchida and Kenya Nakamura, are returning to these roles. We are proud to have 12 talented Singaporeans in our company this year, including ballet master, Mohammed Noor, who is celebrating his 32nd year in the company.

Romeo and Juliet is one of the world's most classic romance and it will be performed to Prokofiev's heart-rendering music played by the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra. Janek Schergen, our artistic director, mentions "this unique production was choreographed by Choo-San Goh and first presented by Singapore Dance Theatre in 2000, with sets and costume design by Peter Cazalet. A production like this is uniquely our own and we have a great deal to honour that such a masterful production can be presented by Singapore Dance Theatre".

Synopsis

The story begins early in the morning with Romeo who is found by Mercutio walking through the Square after an evening with the beautiful Rosaline. Shortly afterwards, the Square comes to life with the early morning activities. A confrontation occurs, and a fight breaks out between the Capulets and the Montagues. The Prince of Verona decrees that the fighting must end. The scenes move to the Capulets' home, where Juliet is seen with her Nurse preparing for the Ball that evening. Lady Capulet enters and suggests a marriage between Paris and Juliet. Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio arrive at the Ball disguised with masks. At the Ball, Romeo & Juliet are brought together by Fate and fall in love. Tybalt recognises Romeo and flies into a rage, but is calmed down by Lord Capulet. While the guests are leaving, Juliet learns from her Nurse that Romeo is the only son of her family's greatest enemy, the Montagues.

Later that night, Romeo sneaks into the Capulet garden and visits Juliet outside her balcony. They exchange vows of love. The next morning, as the citizens of Verona celebrate a festive day, Juliet's Nurse searches for Romeo with a message from Juliet, asking him to meet her at Friar Laurence's cell where they will marry in secret. Later in the day, amidst the festivities, Tybalt encounters Mercutio while searching for Romeo. They draw swords and Mercutio is fatally wounded. In his anger, Romeo kills Tybalt. The Capulets gather to mourn Tybalt and swear revenge. Romeo is exiled to Mantua by the Prince and is ordered to leave Verona by daybreak.

That night, Romeo and Juliet console one another. Upon Romeo's departure at daybreak, Juliet is left feeling helpless. At this moment, Lord and Lady Capulet tell Juliet that she is to marry Paris. Despondent and unwilling to marry, Juliet seeks Friar Laurence's help. He gives her a potion that will cause her to sleep as if dead for 42 hours. He promises to send a message to Romeo; Romeo is to return and take Juliet away when she awakens. Juliet, after consenting to marry Paris, drinks the potion. The next morning, amidst the wedding preparations, the Capulets find Juliet motionless in bed and believe her dead. She is taken to the Capulet crypt and her death mourned. Meanwhile, the message to Romeo has been delayed and he learns of Juliet's death through another source. Romeo arrives at the crypt, and in his despair, he poisons himself and dies beside Juliet. Juliet awakens, only to find Romeo dead. In her grief, she stabs herself with his dagger.

In the epilogue, the Montagues and Capulets are reconciled through the death of their only son and daughter – Romeo and Juliet – the two star-crossed, ill-fated lovers.





FAST FACTS

Title : Romeo and Juliet

Date : 5 – 8 March (Thursday - Sunday)

Venue : Esplanade Theatre

Time : 5 & 6 March 2020, 8pm
7 March 2020, 1pm and 8pm
8 March 2020, 1pm and 7pm

Ticket prices : \$40, \$60, \$80 (SISTIC fees apply)
Discounts available*

Ongoing 1-for-1 tickets promotion

Casting for *Romeo and Juliet*

Chihiro Uchida and Kenya Nakamura – Thursday 8pm, Saturday 8pm
Kwok Min Yi and Satoru Agetsuma – Friday 8pm, Sunday 1pm
Akira Nakahama and Etienne Ferrère – Saturday 1pm, Sunday 7pm

Ticket Sales Date: Early Bird: 16 January – 1 February 2020
General Sales: 1 February – 8 March 2020

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

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All Photos: Bernie Ng

THE COMPANY

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

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. 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, our annual anniversary season which brings together three works of the finest international choreography and Passages Contemporary Season, dedicated to new works.

The Company's performance repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers like Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Lucas Jervies, Kinsun Chan, Val Caniparoli, Ma Cong, François Klaus, Edmund Stripe, Natalie Weir, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christe, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Timothy Harbour, Timothy Rushton and for the first time in Singapore, Loughlan Prior. SDT tours internationally including performances in Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Switzerland and this year to Salt Lake City, Utah for the first time.

In 2008, Janek Schergen was appointed Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. In the last 12 years, the Company has added 31 world premieres and 19 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's ballets. He was honoured with the 'Award for Culture' by Singapore Tatler at the Leadership Awards 2015, a prestigious award that recognises the contribution of influential leaders in Singapore. In 2017, he was awarded the Public Service Medal as part of the National Day Awards. Janek was chosen to receive the "Swede of the Year 2019" Award by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce Singapore.

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.), Adult Dance Classes, Scholars Programme for students considering dance as a full-time career, The SDT Choreographic Workshop 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. In 2017, we introduced Adopt an Audience to make arts accessible for everyone, including the low-income, underprivileged, and disabled in our society.

SDT REPERTOIRE 2009 – 2020

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 No.2, Opus 102

Choreography: Edmund Stripe
Created for SDT

Concerto Barocco[#]

Choreography: George Balanchine
Staging: Elyse Borne

Unknown Territory

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

Raymonda Divertissements

Choreography: Marius Petipa

Double Contrasts

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

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 / Perrot
Staging: Janek Schergen

Allegro Brillante

Choreography: George Balanchine
Staging: Elyse Borne

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
Staging: Janek Schergen

Birds of Paradise

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

In The Glow of The Night

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

Momentum

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

Variations Serieuses

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

Evening Voices[#]

Choreography: Timothy Rushton
Created for SDT

SYNC[#]

Choreography: Nils Christe

Serenade[#]

Choreography: George Balanchine
Staging: Elyse Borne

Romeo and Juliet

Choreography: Choo-San Goh
Staging: Janek Schergen

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
Staging: Janek Schergen

Age of Innocence[#]

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

ZINI!

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
Staging: Elyse Borne

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
Staging: Janek Schergen

4Seasons

Choreography: Natalie Weir
Created for SDT

Lambarena

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Theme and Variations[#]

Choreography: George Balanchine
Staging: Elyse Borne

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

Linea Adora[#]

Choreography: Timothy Harbour
Created for SDT's 30th Anniversary

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
Staging: Dinna Bjørn

Midnight Waltzes

Choreography: François Klaus
Created for SDT

Incandescent Dream[#]

Choreography: Max Chen
Created for SDT

Bliss[#]

Choreography: Gigi Gianti
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
Staging: Elyse Borne

13th Heaven*

Choreography: Edwaard Liang
Created for SDT

Triptych*

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Unexpected B

Choreography: Toru Shimazaki
Created for SDT

Family Reunion*

Choreography: Lucas Jervies
Created for SDT

2020 Additions:

Ibsen's House[#]

Choreography: Val Caniparoli
Company premiere

4 New World Premieres

Choreography: Timothy Harbour*, Timothy Rushton*,
Loughlan Prior, Natalie Weir*

[#] Acquired through the Ambassadors Circle

* Sponsored by Artistic Director's Fund