

TittleTattle



Goh Soo Khim

DANCE MOVES

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the Singapore Dance Theatre stages a special gala performance with a post-show reception at Victoria Theatre on July 19. Highlights include excerpts from the classical work *Raymonda*. Two pairs of principal dancers from The Australian Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada join SDT dancers in a special programme that showcases works by Goh Choo San, Jeffrey Tan, Mohamed Noor Sarman, and John Cranko.

Now in its 13th edition, Singapore's most celebrated event, *Ballet Under The Stars*, returns with a special 20th anniversary line-up featuring past highlights of the dance company's repertoire and the best works that made SDT what it is today. At Fort Canning Park from July 25 to 27. Tickets from Sistic.

HIGH-T WITH ...

Goh Soo Khim

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WAXES LYRICAL ABOUT THE COMPANY'S DANCING FAME

TITTLE TATTLE: *What is the key to SDT's famed reputation?*

GOKH: Anthony Then, co-artistic director, and I established Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988 with the aim of being a premier company and the pride of the nation. Suitable dancers are key to SDT's success. In addition, there needs to be a repertoire that stretches them. Engagement with government, corporate partners and our audiences is also a critical factor. A platform such as *Ballet Under The Stars* appeals to wide audiences.

TT: *How do you nurture dancers?*

GOKH: We develop dancers to handle both classical and contemporary styles. They attend daily classes, master classes and rehearsals by visiting choreographers and ballet instructors. Every work they are involved with brings out new expressions.

TT: *How many ballets are staged every year?*

GOKH: SDT stages six seasons each year at venues including the Esplanade Theatre, Victoria Theatre and Fort Canning Park.

TT: *Ballet Under The Stars - how did it start?*

GOKH: After seeing the outdoor performance stage in Perth, we introduced *Ballet Under The Stars*. We also wanted a showcase that could be performed where our studio is - Fort Canning Park. Now Singaporeans are able to see ballet in a different light.

TT: *What are your major fund-raising events?*

GOKH: This year, our Celebrations In Dance Anniversary Gala on July 19 is the major fundraiser. Next year, a Cinderella Ball ties in with the staging of Graham Lustig's classical masterpiece at the Esplanade Theatre.



Ballet Under The Stars