

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

presents

Swan Lake

17 to 20 December 2009, 8pm
at The Esplanade Theatre

2 SEPTEMBER 2009, SINGAPORE –This December, be mesmerized as Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) presents another holiday favourite with *Swan Lake*. Considered as one of the greatest classical ballets of all time, *Swan Lake* is a spellbinding tale filled with princes and princesses, a sinister sorcerer (albeit one with feathers on his mind rather than one obsessed with conquering the universe), and magic spells that can only be broken by the purest form of love.

A return to classicism, amazing choreography after Marius Petipa, re-staged by the company's Artistic Director Janek Schergen and great composition from celebrated Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky come together for the second staging of this ballet in four acts by Singapore's premiere dance company. Revered for its technically challenging movements and emotionally moving story, *Swan Lake* is an enduring ballet piece that captures the spirit of the holidays.

In this ballet offering, *Swan Lake* will enthrall the audience by showcasing an array of sumptuous sets, beautifully crafted costumes and a full cast of brilliant dancers assembled for a dazzling evening performance. It will undeniably be a spectacular staging of dance that will be shared by a wide-ranging audience.

A large-scale production, SDT has brought together a multitude of stage elements such as over 80 hand-crafted costumes, 50 headpieces along with numerous wigs and detailed jewelry to bring to

life the beloved fairytale. Helping to achieve a dreamlike setting more than 50 different set pieces and backdrops will be built and painted for the four separate acts. The company's own dancers will themselves take part in about 180 rehearsal hours for this major year-end production.

Swan Lake, A Tale of Enchantment

Through evocative music and skillful dance *Swan Lake*, unfurls the story of Odette, the tragic Princess captured by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart and turned into a swan. Under the curse, she can only reveal her true human form at night. Only the promise of true love from a man pure of heart and deed can rescue her and render the spell powerless. One night, Prince Siegfried finds the Princess and enamoured by her beauty, he professes his undying love to her. However, the Prince is deceived by the sorcerer and, in a cruel twist of fate, gives the sorcerer's daughter Odile his promise of devotion instead, unwittingly breaking his vow of love to Odette. Now, only Siegfried's defeat of the sorcerer can free them both and reunite them in their love.

The first *Swan Lake* was choreographed by Julius Reisinger and premiered in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre and was Tchaikovsky's first ballet music attempt. It was in 1895 that Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov created their masterpiece that would later have them deemed synonymous with *Swan Lake* by ballet enthusiasts. Since then many versions and interpretations of *Swan Lake* have come about, including a thirty-five minute *Swan Lake* choreographed by George Balanchine in 1951, set as the first traditional ballet of the New York City Ballet repertoire.

Spectacular staging, resplendent raiment, and breathtaking ballet movements be treated to a stunning masterwork of one of the world's most beloved ballet with Singapore Dance Theatre's *Swan Lake*.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Swan Lake
Date	:	17 to 20 December, 2009
Venue	:	Esplanade Theatre
Time	:	8.00 pm
Ticket prices	:	\$110 (VIP Box), \$90, \$70, \$50 (not inclusive of SISTIC charge) Student / NSmen/ Senior Citizen: \$25

We apologise that infants in arms and children below 3 years old are not able to enter. Children from 3 years old will require a ticket for entry.

Tickets are available at : All SISTIC outlets
SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555
SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg
*SISTIC booking fees apply
And SDT office at 6338-0611 or ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com
Tickets will be available from 16 October 2009

Discounts Schemes :-

- 1) 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 2) 20% discount for corporate/group booking with minimum purchase of 20 tickets.
- 3) 15% discount for Kinokuniya, UOB, NUS Alumni
- 4) School bookings: For every booking of 20 tickets, 1 complimentary ticket will be provided for the accompanying teacher. Schools can also use the TOTE Board Arts Grant subsidy for up to 60% of ticket price.
- 5) Keppel Nights 50% Subsidy for 19 Dec 09, Saturday show only. Limited tickets available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Log on to www.keppelnights.com for more details. Conditions apply.

All relevant cards must be produced in order to enjoy the discounts. Discounts above are not valid with any other promotions/or discounts.

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For additional information,
visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6348 5555

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SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE – The Company

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and the late Anthony Then. Under the directorship of Goh Soo Khim, SDT has developed into a premier professional dance company that has grown from seven to 24 dancers. Over the years, The Company performs five to six seasons, including the widely popular Ballet Under The Stars (BUTS) at the Fort Canning Park.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers and staging directors like Goh Choo San, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Stanton Welch, Marie-Claude Pietragalla, Thierry Malandain, Mauricio Wainrot, Val Caniparoli, and Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo and Edmund Stripe.

With the appointment of Janek Schergen as Artistic Director in January 2009, the Company is poised for new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. 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 also actively reaches out to the public to create greater awareness of dance through outreach to schools with our Arts Education Programme (AEP), Dance Appreciation Series (DAS) jointly presented with Esplanade Co., and One@The Ballet – a new initiative to help public gain more understanding about life as a dancer at SDT. To know more about SDT, visit us at www.singaporedance theatre.com

JANEK SCHERGEN

Artistic Director

Staging Director – Swan Lake



Janek Schergen is from Göteborg, Sweden. He studied ballet with Richard Ellis and Christine Du Boulay of the Sadlers Wells Ballet, and continued at the American Ballet Center and the Harkness House for Ballet Arts in New York. In 1971 he joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the following year became a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet in Philadelphia, under the directorship of Barbara Weisberger and Benjamin Harkarvy, spending 11 years with the Company. In 1978, under the guidance of Mr. Harkarvy and Lupe Seranno, he began teaching in the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet. In addition to maintaining his career as a dancer and teacher, he began staging the works of Mr. Harkarvy for Pennsylvania Ballet and other companies.

In 1981, he was invited by Mary Day, the Director of Washington Ballet and Choo San Goh, the Company's Resident Choreographer, to guest teach for the Washington Ballet. He joined Washington Ballet in a full time position as ballet master and teacher and toured with the Company through the Far East, Europe and South America, as well as the United States.

In 1988 he was invited to be ballet master and Company Teacher for the Royal Swedish Ballet in Stockholm, rehearsing full-length classics such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and La Bayadere, as well as works by Sir Frederick Ashton and Sir Kenneth MacMillan. In 1991 he completed his studies in written dance notation in London, receiving his certification in Benesh Movement Notation.

In 1991 he became a ballet master for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where he rehearsed the full length classics and important additions to the repertoire such as MacMillan's Elite Syncopations, Lynne Taylor-Corbett's Great Galloping Gottschalk, John Cranko's The Taming of the Shrew and Balanchine's Apollo, Ballet Imperial, Serenade, Allegro Brillante, Concerto Barocco, Theme and Variations as well as others in the repertoire. He has staged his own production of The Sleeping Beauty for Ballet Met (1994) The Milwaukee Ballet (1995), Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (1996, 2000, 2005) Pennsylvania Ballet (1997, 2002) and the Norwegian National Ballet (2006).

In January, 1994 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Nashville Ballet, as well as Director of the company's School. He remained with the organization for three seasons. From 1997 to 2002 he taught Company and School classes for Ballet Pacifica as well as Inland Pacific Ballet.

In addition, as Artistic Director and a Board Member of The Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, he continues to stage the works of Mr. Goh for various companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and the Far East. He has staged more than 120 productions worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Awards Committee for the Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography which annually gives out choreographic grants to such organizations as Het Nationale Ballet, Limon Dance Company, San Francisco Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Pilobolus, New York City Ballet and many others. Over the course of the last four years, 78 different grants have been made devoting more than US\$700,000 to the creation of new works of choreography through the efforts of the Foundation.

Since the establishment of the Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988 he has been staging the ballets of Choo San Goh for the Company's repertoire. To date he has staged thirteen works for them and in December 2000 mounted the full length Romeo and Juliet for the Company. At the request of SDT he was asked to author a monograph on the career and ballets of Choo-San Goh. The book, with his text, was published in Singapore in September, 1997.

From 2002-2006 he was ballet master and staff teacher of the Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo. He was responsible for rehearsal of many full length works (Swan Lake, Othello, Cinderella, Taming of the Shrew, Onegin, Sleeping Beauty) in addition to contemporary works and the most recent Balanchine repertoire including Symphony in C, Agon, Serenade and Four Temperaments. The production he created of Tornerose for NNB was broadcast on NRK television in December 2006.

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Virginia Chu Costume Designer



Virginia Chu is an award winning costume designer with over 15 years of costume experience. For 10 years, she was the Costume Department Head of the Hong Kong Ballet, producing over 72 productions, such as Swan Lake, Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, the Last Emperor, Coppellia, Romeo & Juliet..... In 2004, she is recipient of Hong Kong's Best Costume Design for her work in Legend of the Great Archer.

Later the year she left the Ballet to work as the Senior Costumer for the mega-launch of Disneyland Hong Kong producing costumes for Festival of the Lion King, Golden Mickey, Day Parade, opening show, as well as the park scenarios and themed hotel costume set.

She is currently working independently, designing and producing costume for Venetian Hotel, Macau opening launch, The King & I, Asia Tour and SpongeBob, the musical presented by Broadway Asia Entertainment, US.

***** Only email interviews**

DANCERS' PROFILES

Chihiro Uchida



Began dancing at Classical Ballet Academy S.O.U. in Japan. In 2001, she won the Idemitsu Kousan Scholarship at the 8th Asian Pacific International Ballet Competition in Tokyo and was accepted into The Australian Ballet School (ABS). Graduated from the school in 2004 and joined SDT in July 2005. Her first performance with SDT was *Reminiscing the Moon* by Boi Sakti followed by *The Nutcracker* by Jeffrey Tan. She was involved in productions like *La Sylpide*, *Coppelia*, *Impressions*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In The Park* and *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*. She has also taken on lead roles in SDT's recent productions *Continuum* and *Pellucid* in *ReDoubled* and performed as Clara in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker* in December 2008. In 2009, Chihiro performed as Cinderella in *Cinderella*, and had taken on other lead roles in *Season of Brilliance*.

Rosa Park



Rosa Park started dance training at Sunwha Arts School and obtained a B.A. Degree in Dance from Ewha Womens University as well as a Master's Degree in Dance Sejong University of Korea. While she was in university, she was offered to dance for the Korean National Ballet Company (KNBC) in 2002 and made her debut as a professional dancer in Yuri Grigovich's *The Nutcracker*, in which she danced as Marie.

As a soloist, she participated in a number of renowned dance pieces such as *The Nutcracker* (Marie), Balanchine's *Symphony C*, *Swan Lake* (Pas de tríos , Four Swans, Napoli, Princess, etc.), *Giselle* (Friends pas de duex, Two willy), Rudolf Nurey's *Sleeping Beauty* (Teanderness Fairy, Pas de Cliq), *Le Corsaire* (Odalisc), *Don Quixote* (Two Friends, Cupid), *La Fille mal Garde's* (Eight Friends), Jean Christophe Maillot's *Dove La Luna*, and Gala Pas de duex (*The Flame of Paris*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *Sleeping Beauty*). She was also a guest dancer to Royal Swedish Ballet (Soloist *Swan Lake*) and Korean Ballet Theatre (Principle, *Raymonda* and *Mongyudowondo*).

Of the many competitions she had participated in were Korean Dance Association Competition (Gold prize, 2002), Dong-A Competition (Sliver prize, (1998), Bronze price, (2002)), Korean Ballet Association Competition (Sliver prize (1997), Bronze prize (1995)), and Kirov & UBC Competition (Sliver prize, 1995). She joined SDT as a full-time member in 2009 and has performed in SDT's production of *Season of Brilliance*.

Chen Peng



Trained at the Beijing Dance Institute and joined as full member of The National Ballet of China from 2003 to 2005. He has performed the pas de deus in *La Corsaire*, *The Nutcracker* and *Raymonda*, as well as *The Red Lantern*, *The Red Detachment of Women*, *Ettude*, *Yellow River* and *Sylvia* among others. Chen Peng joined SDT in September 2005 and was involved in productions like *Coppelia*, *Impressions*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Ballet Under The Stars* and *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*. He has also taken on lead roles in SDT's recent productions of *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In The Park*, *Continuum*, *The Nutcracker*, *Prince in Cinderella*, and key roles in *Ballet Under the Stars 09*.

Wang Hao



Graduated with a Bachelor from the Beijing Dance Academy in 2006. As a student, Wang Hao had danced in *Bluebird*, *Flower Festival*, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. He joined the Guangzhou Ballet team in 2006 and was the key dancer in many performances such as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Theme and Variations*, and modern ballet of *The Dream of the Red Mansion*, *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai*, *The Yellow River* and *Mei Lanfang*. Wang Hao joined SDT in 2008 with *Giselle In The Park* as his first production. He also participated in *Continuum*, *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*, a collaboration with NUS Centre For the Arts, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* and *Ballet Under the Stars 09*.

Chen Wei



Trained at the Beijing Dance Institute in China. Upon graduation, became a member of the Tianjing Ballet Company for a year before joining SDT in November 2002. Performed in most of the SDT repertoire including Petal Miller-Ashmole's *The Red Shoes*, Sakiko Oshima's *Le Festin d'Immortalité*, David Lichine's *Graduation Ball*, Jiri Kylian's *Stamping Ground*, Stanton Welch's *Madame Butterfly*, Graham Lustig's *Cinderella*, Jean-Paul Comelin's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Marie-Claude Pietragalla's *Les Noces* and *Rite of Spring*. He performed the role of Mayor in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker* and Hilarion in *Giselle In The Park*, and was also involved in *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake*, *Glow-Stop* in *Continuum*, *FireFives: A Mixed Bill*, *Sometimes I Think I Remember* in *ReDoubled*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* and *Ballet Under the Stars 09*.