

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

presents

Ballet Under The Stars – 15th edition

17th – 19th July 2009

Fort Canning Green, 7.30pm

Pre-show performances from 6.30pm onwards

Pop and poise are a winning mix for this year's **Ballet Under the Stars (BUTS)**, already at its 15th edition!!! Once again Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT), the country's premiere dance company delivers a unique mélange of classical and contemporary dance pieces sure to awe audiences with their technical and stylistic prowess.

If you enjoyed last year's rendering of **Ballet Under the Stars** for SDT's 20th Anniversary Celebration you cannot miss the 2009 season which will be filled with crowd-pleasing performances set to rousing and entertaining music and choreographed by the dancers and artistic staff of SDT. An exciting ballet medley awaits ballet lovers and newbie watchers alike, among the verdant and grassy fields of Fort Canning Park.

Pre-show Performances, starting from 6.30 to 7.15pm

Aiming to appeal to an even wider range of audiences Ballet Under the Stars mixes it up further this year with pre-show presentations by local schools from primary to tertiary institutions. This includes contemporary dance performances by National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, LASALLE College of The Arts and School of The Arts, Youth Dancers (Singapore). Other leisure activities catered for the youngsters to enjoy are face painting and glitter tattooing.

Performances at BUTS

Alluding to Grecian practice of open area performances be captured by the terpsichorean spirit of 'modern day muses' in the form of SDT's company dancers. Sure to be the night's 'focal pointe' they will dance and dazzle the crowd with their thrilling repertoire.

Stand Up For Singapore

In conjunction with National Day's celebrations, the first performance of the night will feature "*Stand Up For Singapore*", a piece specially choreographed by SDT's Ballet Master, Mohamed Noor Sarman for National Day 2007, featuring SDT's full cast of company dancers.

Sleeping Beauty - Act 3

An excerpt from Act 3 of *Sleeping Beauty* will be performed as a Pas De Trio (Dance for Three) which will feature a celebration of dance by the precious jewels – namely Gold, Silver and Diamond for the wedding celebration of the Prince and Princess Aurora.

Double Contrasts

A ballet piece by renowned choreographer Goh Choo San, *Double Contrasts* first premiered at The Washington Ballet and was widely toured around the world. This witty and energetic ballet is both elegant and classical in dance form. The black and white costumes in this ballet not only suggest piano keys—the solo instruments featured in the music Concerto for Two Piano and Orchestra by Francis Poulenc—but also convey an air of chic elegance.

Pop!

A high point in the BUTS ballet pastiche, *Pop!* is a collaborative choreographic creation by SDT's full cast of dancers with directions headed by its Artistic Director, Janek Schergen. *Pop!* will be an electrifying 20-minute display of dance segments which includes solos, duets and corp de ballet, with eye-catching and slyly humorous moves.

Pop! consists of 7 pieces, which will be matched with popular tunes like *Keep Young and Beautiful* from Annie Lennox, a Grammy award-winning pop musician and vocalist; *Kiss* by Grammy-award winner for Best New Artist Tom Jones; Kodo Drummers's *Strobe's Nanafushi*; Shirley Bassey known for her vocals in multiple 007 soundtracks with *History Repeating* (a collaboration with Propellerheads which made her known to younger audiences); *De Ushuaia ala Quiaca* by Gustavo Santaolalla, an Academy Award Winner for Best Original Score; and They Might Be Giants' *The Lady is a Tramp*.

Classical Sequence- Raymonda

One of the lasting ballet pieces choreographed by Marius Petipa, *Raymonda* was performed by SDT in its inaugural performance in 1988. This BUTS' *Raymonda* will spotlight a pas de dix (dance for ten) classical divertissement from Act III.

So break out your blankets, dust off your baskets and savour ballet performances in an unforgettable night of dance in an outdoor setting with **Ballet Under the Stars**.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Ballet Under the Stars 2009
Date	:	17 – 19 July 2009
Venue	:	Fort Canning Park
Time	:	7.30pm (Gates open from 5pm for picnic) (Pre-show performances start at 6.30pm)
Ticket prices	:	Standard Ticket: \$25 Children/Student/NSmen/Senior Citizen: \$15 Free admission for children below six years old
Tickets are available at	:	All SISTIC outlets; SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and 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 4 May onwards

Discount Schemes

Ticket prices:

- Standard Ticket Price: \$25
- Student* / NSmen/ Senior Citizen: \$15

Free admission for children below the age of six years old.

No discount available for tickets purchased at the door on the day of performance.

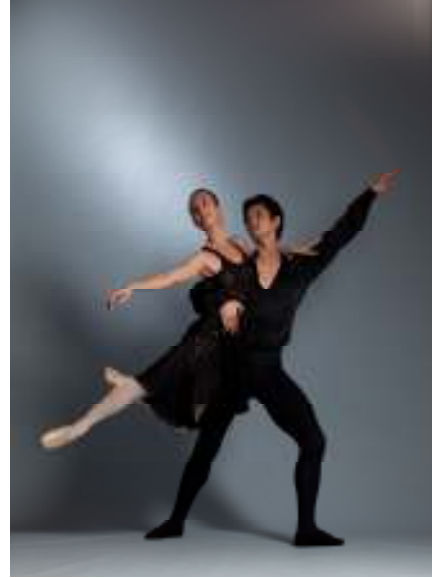
This is a rain or shine event and no raised seating are allowed.

Discount Scheme (4 May – 19 July 09)

- 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 20% discount for corporate/group booking with minimum purchase of 20 tickets.
- 20% discount for staff of Singapore Press Holdings
- 15% discount for staff of Rendezvous Hotel Singapore
- 15% discount for Kinokuniya cardmembers
- 15% discount for UOB cardholders
- \$20 special deal for Passion cardmembers (Usual Price: \$25).
- \$60 package deal for IKEA cardmembers, include 2 adult and 2 children tickets, subsequent ticket bookings at 10% discount.
- Keppel Nights 50% Subsidy for 19 July 2009 show, limited tickets available, first-come-first-serve basis.
- School bookings: For every booking of 20 students, 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.

Terms & Conditions:

- ∞ Not valid with any other promotion and/or discount
- ∞ All relevant cards must be produced in order to enjoy the discounts at the time of purchase.
- ∞ Prices indicated excludes SISTIC booking fee
- ∞ Discount stated are not available at the door on the day of performances.



#

For additional information,

visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com or call 6348 5555

Media Contact:

Tim De Guzman, Sirius Art Pte Ltd
Tel: (65) 63248723;
Email: tim@siriusart.com.sg

Wendy Lee, Singapore Dance Theatre Ltd
Tel: (65) 6338 0611;
Email: wendy.lee@singaporedancetheatre.com

Lyana Wang, Singapore Dance Theatre Ltd
Tel: (65) 6338 0611;
Email: lyana.wang@singaporedancetheatre.com

ABOUT SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

Co-founded by the late Anthony Then and current Artistic Director Ms Goh Soo Khim, the Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) is one of the premier professional dance companies to have emerged from the Asia-Pacific region. An accomplished ballet professional herself, Ms Goh leads the company of 22 dancers who hail mainly from various Asia-Pacific countries.

Performing six seasons in a year, The Company holds a repertoire which ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, including works from well-known choreographers like Jean-Paul Comelin, Stanton Welch, George Balanchine, Jiri Kylian, Nacho Duato, Boi Sakti, Goh Choo San, Sakiko Oshima, Ohad Naharin and Marie-Claude Pietragalla. SDT seasons include performances at the Esplanade Theatre, Performing Home of the SDT and at the Fort Canning Green, residence of the widely popular Ballet Under the Stars (BUTS) series. BUTS has to date, attracted over 160,000 audience from all walks of life and have seen many converted to dance aficionados.

CHOO SAN GOH (1948-1987)

Goh Choo San's was a choreographer garnered worldwide acclaim for his fresh and innovative works. His love for dance started at the tender age of 10 and from there, his passion and commitment to dance developed and he would perform at every opportunity he had. He went on to become a soloist with the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam and soon started to create his own pieces. He was soon discovered by Mary Day, Director of Washington School of Ballet, who offered him the position of the Resident Choreographer and company teacher.

While at Washington Ballet, he choreographed numerous works which were showcased in Europe, South America and the Far East. Some of these famous works included *Fives*, *Variations Serieuses*, *Birds of Paradise*, *In the Glow of the Night*, *Unknown Territory*, and *Schubert Symphony*. In 1986, he was presented the Washington Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and a year later, he was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest award for artistic achievement. In 1992, the Choo San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation was set up to fund aspiring choreographers and to develop their choreographic talents.

BIOGRAPHIES

JANEK SCHERGEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE



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. In the past 14 years 72 Awards have been made and more than \$750,000 has been dedicated 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.

The company of 22 dancers is currently headed by Artistic Director Mr Janek Schergen since Jan 2009.

YOUTH DANCERS SINGAPORE

Youth Dancers Singapore, in association with Singapore Dance Theatre and National Arts Council is a performing group that is drawn exclusively from students selected from Ballet Associates Course (BAC).

BAC is a series of Master classes taught by SDT's Artistic Director, Janek Schergen, and is held on a regular basis throughout the year, to enhance and develop their dance training and education. Students in the course were first selected through an audition session held over 2 days, and were participated by more than 150 students from various dance schools in Singapore.

The first performance of Youth Dancers Singapore will take place at the Seoul International Dance Festival in May 2009, followed by many performance opportunities in Singapore.

DANCERS' PROFILE

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 deux 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* and *Continuum*.

ROBERT MILLS



Born in Sydney Australia, Robert graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance in 2002 and danced with The Royal New Zealand Ballet in their 2001 National Tour. Since joining SDT in January 2003, he has danced in Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land* and *Stamping Ground*, Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*, David Dawson's *A Million Kisses to my Skin*, and performed as the Nutcracker Prince in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker*. He has also danced works by Jorma Elo, Ohad Naharin, Graham Lustig, Natalie Weir, Choo San Goh, Marie-Claude Pietragalla, and Stanton Welch. In 2006, Robert's debut choreographic work *Paradise Falling* was featured at *Ballet Under The Stars*. His other SDT repertoire includes *Graduation Ball*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Bolero*, *La Sylphide*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Giselle*

In The Park. He was most recently seen in Tan's *Sometimes I Think I Remember* and Kuik Swee Boon's *Pellucid*.

TORU OKADA



Graduated from The Australian Ballet School and received the Keith M. Christensen Award for Excellence and Australian Multicultural Foundation scholarships. As a student, danced in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*. Performed in *Coppelia* and *Manon* with The Australian Ballet and *Romeo and Juliet* with the English National Ballet. Joined SDT in April 2003. Performed in Sakiko Oshima's *Le Festin d'Immortalité*, Marius Petipa's *Paquita*, 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*, *Reminiscing the Moon* by Boi Sakti, and Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker*. He also performed as the Drummer Boy in David Lichine's *Graduation Ball* and Gurn in *La Sylphide*. Toru took the lead role in *Coppelia*, and had principal roles in *Impressions* and *Ballet Under The Stars 2007*. Recent involvements are *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In The Park*, *FireFives: A Mixed Bill* and *Sometimes I Think I Remember* and *Pellucid in ReDoubled*.

GINNY GAN



Obtained NAC Bursary to New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) and graduated in Nov 2007. During her training in Singapore Ballet Academy from 1999 to 2004, she was involved in SDT's *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, *Red Shoes*, *Coppelia* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2000, Ginny won the 1st prize in the Asia-Pacific Dance Competition in the Modern Group Category and in 2003, she clinched the 1st prize in the Modern Solo category of the Perth Theatrical Festival Dance Competition. In NZSD, she participated in performances like *Balanchine's Divertimento No. 15 & Agon* and was given the featured role in *La Sylphide*. In July 2007, she was one of the two students chosen by NZSD to attend an exchange program with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School before joining SDT as a full-time member. She was also a guest artiste with *Lalala Human Steps* in Amjad. She has since performed in SDT's productions including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle In the Park*, *Continuum* as part of the Singapore Arts Festival 08.

HEATHER CHIN



Heather Chin hails from Washington D.C., USA. Her dance training began at The Academy of Dance Arts in Chicago, under their former principal dancer Sherry Moray (1993-2002). Heather won The Youth American Grand Prix in 2000, and in 2002, received a scholarship to train at School of American Ballet. She then clinched a scholarship to study for three years at The Royal Ballet School in London. Upon graduation, she joined the Stuttgart Ballet and was involved in many of the Company's 2005-2006 Season, including dancing as Rosalinde in John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*, Freuden Mädchen in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Bianca in John Neumeier's *Othello*. More recently, she danced in Balanchine's *Theme & Variations*, and Cranko's *poeme del'extase*. She has also danced in *Lady of the Camillias* (Neumeier), *Gaite Parisienne* (Béjart), *Swan Lake*, *Les Sylphide*, *Le sacre de printemps*, *Hamlet* (Kevin O'day) and *Sandman*. Heather joined SDT in January 2009 and was part of the cast of *Cinderella* in the role of the Evil Stepmother.

NATALIE CLARKE



Graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 1993 and joined SDT in 1994. Featured roles include *Lambarena*, *Birds of Paradise*, Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Fate in *Romeo and Juliet* and Blue Bird in *The Sleeping Beauty*. In June 2001, Natalie joined The West Australian Ballet. Performance highlights include: Ted Brandsen's *Romeo & Juliet* pas de deux, Hans Van Manen's *Black Cake* and Ashkat Galiamov's *Le Corsaire* variations partnered by guest artiste Sergey Pevnev from St Petersburg Ballet. Rejoined SDT in June 2004 and since then has danced in Jean-Paul Comelin's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Boi Sakti's *Reminiscing the Moon*, Marie-Claude Pietragalla's *Les Noces* and *Rite of Spring*, and Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker*. She has also played the lead roles in *The Little Mermaid*, *La Sylphide*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* *In The Park* and involved in recent productions like *Continuum* and *FireFives: A Mixed*

Bill.