

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“COLOURS OF BALLET”**  
**AN INTERACTIVE BALLET PERFORMANCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

Presented by *Singapore Dance Theatre*  
With the support of *ACTs of Life*



SINGAPORE  
DANCE  
THEATRE



ACTs of life

Performance Dates and Times:  
Saturday, 27 June 10am **(SOLD OUT)**, 11am

**Venue: Victoria Theatre**

**APRIL 29, 2009**— For the first time in SDT’s 21-year history, Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) presents an interactive ballet performance for young children entitled *Colours of Ballet*. This show also marks SDT’s special collaboration with ACTs of Life, an educational company providing children’s enrichment programmes through the medium of speech and drama and more.

*Colours of Ballet* is the ballet-based brainchild of the SDT and ACTs of Life, incorporating inputs from the two companies through a highly consultative and collaborative manner. Janek Schergen, Artistic Director of SDT, who is the choreographer of two segments within the piece – “Colourpointe” and “The Colours Game” – says: “*Colours of Ballet* is an interactive show that is tailor-made for audiences between the ages of three and seven.” Another segment, “La Belle Histoire” is choreographed by the Company’s Ballet Master, Mohamed Noor Sarman, and is inspired by Edward Degas 1922 bronze sculpture, “Little Dancer”, which according to AFP reports in February this year, was sold at an auction in London for a record S\$28.8 million.

The educational elements of the performance are conceptualized by John Cunningham, founder and creative director of ACTs of Life. John Cunningham is an experienced children’s enrichment programme director with a 20 year history of helping and inspiring national arts organizations in Singapore create programmes and performances for young children aged two to seven years-old. He has worked with the Singapore Repertory Theatre and Singapore Symphony Orchestra prior to this current collaboration with Singapore Dance Theatre.

*Colours of Ballet*, 27 June 09, Victoria Theatre

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This engaging ballet performance for children will start with an immersive learning environment when children arrive at the theatre. Educational stations about the artist Edgar Degas and the 12 linking elements of colours, words, and objects will be individually introduced to the audience. Specific ballet movements will also be taught by a dedicated team of facilitators, thus enriching the experience for the young audience.

During the show, they will also not be allowed to remain passive. Instead, there will be ongoing opportunities for interaction between the children and the dancers on stage, which will be facilitated by an actor dressed up as Edgar Degas, a child actor and an interactive session with SDT's Artistic Director, Janek Schergen. From simple dance steps to more elaborate movements, the children will feel as if they are enrolled to become a part of the performance.

The participation of children to the show is the key element of *Colours of Ballet* and it aims to awaken children's artistic imagination and to stimulate their curiosity. The experience of being part of this interactive show will last long after they leave the theatre.

In addition to the main show, the audience is also encouraged to sign up for pre-performance activities where they can tour SDT's premises or book workshops at their schools to prepare them for the educational components in the show.

While SDT has produced other shows for family audiences like *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *The Little Mermaid*, this is the first time that a special one-hour performance is staged with the shorter attention spans of young children in mind. "Once we have got the formula perfected, we intend to tour this special ballet for children all over schools in Singapore, in theatres during the holidays, as well as overseas at children's festivals around the world," adds Janek Schergen.

SDT also intends to produce future versions of such educational ballets and hopes to continue to attract more young audiences to such performances as a holistic way of expanding its audience base and for building future generations of ballet-lovers.

#### FAST FACTS

**Title :** *Colours of Ballet*

**Date/Time:** June 27 10am (**SOLD OUT**), 11am

**Venue :** Victoria Theatre

**Ticket prices:** \$20 (Adult) / \$10 (Child)

**Tickets are available at:** SDT office from 21 April onwards at 6338-0611 or through emails to [ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com](mailto:ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com)

\* We apologise that infants in arms and children below 3 years old shall not be admitted. Children above 3 years old will require a ticket for admission.

**Discount Schemes:**

- ❖ 25% for Friends of SDT members

Group bookings:

For every booking of 20 tickets, 1 complimentary ticket will be given.



*Painting by ACTs of Life's teacher Ezzam Rahman*

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*For additional information, visit [www.singaporedancetheatre.com](http://www.singaporedancetheatre.com) or call 6338 0611*

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**ABOUT SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE**

Co-founded by the late Mr Anthony Then and 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. The company of 22 dancers is currently headed by Artistic Director Mr Janek Schergen.

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 and the Fort Canning Green, residence of the popular Ballet Under the Stars (BUTS) series. BUTS has, to date, attracted audience figures of over 160,000, with fans from all walks of life, many of whom have become dance aficionados due to their exposure to ballet through BUTS.

*Colours of Ballet, 27 June 09, Victoria Theatre*



## **ABOUT ACTS OF LIFE**

A Singapore educational company of experts that provides high-energy, resource rich Speech & Drama classes to young children at childcare centres. ACTS of Life believes in connecting children and their families through Singapore Arts & Historical Organizations through unique field trips.

### **Preparing CHILDREN for LIFE through THE ARTS!**

ACTs of Life reaches out to the community by offering specialized services of pre-concert storytelling / workshops, extended teaching and learning opportunities and “edu-tainment”, to national organizations, schools and organizations.

Its themes are supported by rich resources including famous award-winning books, music & songs, dances, arts & crafts, soft toy puppets and fun educational materials sourced internationally.

ACTs of Life offers unique opportunities to actively integrate children's academic readiness through the learning of the Arts & History, while developing in each a more in-depth knowledge of themselves and others.

#### **History & Company Leaders**

John Cunningham (JC) Creative Director, founded ACTs of life Pte. Ltd. in 2002 after successfully running 10 years of Children's Speech & Drama Classes at The Singapore Repertory Theatre as Creative Director and teaching Speech & Oral Communication for 10 years at The Japanese School in Singapore.

Rashmi Vasishta (RK) Director - Co-ordination / Senior Teacher, joined the team at the formation of the company. Her vast experience includes having worked in an international school, and having facilitated workshops in Singapore, Malaysia, and USA. Both her experience and skills in business and people relations has ensured the growth and successful running of ACTs of Life.

ACTs of Life currently has over 1,000 students enrolled in weekly speech and drama programmes. Students come from over 50 childcare centres throughout Singapore.