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**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

proudly presents

Cinderella

March 6-7, 2009 8pm and March 8, 2009 3pm

Esplanade Theatre

DECEMBER 15, 2008— A pinch of magic and a dash of ballet make the perfect recipe for a sweeping fairytale romance with Singapore Dance Theatre's *Cinderella*. The storybook classic of overcoming adversity to live a happily ever after ending features the familiar characters, captivating setting and enduring storyline embraced by many cultures. A modern masterpiece adapted from a much beloved traditional tale and translated into dance by internationally renowned choreographer, Graham Lustig, Artistic Director of the American Repertory Ballet.

Cinderella is a happily ever after story that tackles age-old themes of love, beauty, envy, cruelty and the triumph of kindness that has arrested the hearts of children and adults for many generations. In this version by Lustig, the path to true love between Cinderella and the Prince is embellished with modern-day trappings and strung together by brilliant and witty choreography that is set to Sergei Prokofiev's unforgettable score. The clever blend of contemporary facets and traditional elements will surely connect with the audience.

Injecting a present-day twist on narrative components *Cinderella* makes SDT'S production concurrent and fresh, with movements crafted by Lustig from elements of contemporary dance and current raiment for costumes. Despite the updated take Prokofiev's music will continue to resonate in the production.

Cinderella, 6 to 8 March 09, Esplanade Theatre

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This good-humored full-length ballet, that features in true Prokofiev fashion a wicked stepmother and stepsister combo with an equally wicked sense of humor, returns for the fourth rendition since its premiere staging by Singapore Dance Theatre in November 1996 at Victoria Theatre.

SDT retelling of *Cinderella* revisits a work in the tradition of the old classical ballet and spins a latter-day performance as charming and as enchanting and sure to leave a lasting impression in the hearts of viewers who are fond of the fairytale and the ballet alike.

Sergei Prokofiev's *Cinderella*

The Sergei Prokofiev ballet was a commission from Kirov Ballet and is deemed one of the most charming stagings of the Charles Perrault fairytale. Composed between 1940 and 1944 it was halted in part by the German invasion of Russia and Prokofiev working on his opera *War and Peace*. *Cinderella* was finally completed by the summer of 1944.

This *Cinderella* by Prokofiev is characterized by jubilant music, lush scenery and for the hilarious double-roles of the stepsisters pegged by some as more nutty than bad in treatment.

In creating the music for this ballet in three acts the Russian composer said “What I wished to express above all in the music of *Cinderella* was the poetic love of Cinderella and the Prince, the birth and flowering of that love, the obstacles in its path and finally the dream fulfilled.”

Both Prokofiev and the librettist N.D. Volkov gave much thought to the dramatic aspect of the music and set it in three basic themes: first theme—Cinderella, abused and ill-treated; second theme—Cinderella, chaste, pure, pensive; third theme—Cinderella in love, radiant with happiness.

Story of Cinderella

In the world over there are folk tales that share the plot of the modest and graceful girl rewarded with remarkable fortune after enduring much hardships. Cinderella's universal theme can be found in tales from Japan, China, North America and going back even as far as classical Greek antiquity with over 3,000 versions. The most famous and well-accepted version of the story however is of the one written by French author Charles Perrault in 1697 as his narrative incorporated the adored aspects of pumpkin-carriage, fairy-godmother and glass slippers.

Act 1:

Cinderella and her step-sisters fight and argue over who is going to the Prince's ball. After the sisters' leave, the fairy god-mother transforms Cinderella into a beautiful princess to send her to the ball and warns her, she must return by midnight before the spell is broken.

Act 2:

Cinderella enters the ball and everyone is awestruck by her beauty and she danced together with the prince. At the stroke of midnight, Cinderella rushes away from the palace and leaves behind one of her slippers.

Act 3:

The Prince sets off on a journey to find Cinderella which leads him to the step-sisters' house. Upon finding her, he declares his love for her and together they dance a pas de deux, sealing their vow of love.

FAST FACTS

Title :	<i>Cinderella</i>
Date :	March 6-8, 2009
Venue :	Esplanade Theatre
Time :	6 to 7 March, 8pm & 8 March, 3pm
Ticket prices:	\$138 (VIP Box), \$108, \$88, \$68, \$48
Tickets are available at:	All SISTIC outlets; SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg and SDT office from 2 January at 6338-0611 or ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

* We apologise that infants in arms and children below 6 years old shall not be admitted.
Children from 6 years old will require a ticket for admission.

Discount Schemes:

Ticket prices:

- \$138 (VIP Box), \$108, \$88, \$68, \$48
- Student / NSmen concession tickets at \$25 (for \$68 and \$48 category)
(*SISTIC booking fees apply*)

Early Bird Discount (2 Jan – 23 Jan 09)

- 20% discount with minimum two tickets purchase

Discount Scheme (24 Jan – 8 Mar 09)

- 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 15% discount for Passion cardmembers
- 15% discount for Kinokuniya cardmembers (min two tickets purchase)
- 15% discount for all UOB cardmembers

Family packages

- \$300 for 2 Adults and 2 children** tickets (\$108 Category)
- \$250 for 2 Adults and 2 children** tickets (\$88 Category)

Keppel Nights (KN) Subsidy Tickets

- 50% off \$88 and \$68 category (for 6 Mar show only, limited to 100 seats max)

For bulk / school bookings, contact marketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

* For students with valid student passes, including tertiary education

** For children aged 6 to 16 years old.

Cinderella Ball 2009

Date: 28 Feb 09, Saturday

Time: 7pm

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Island Ballroom

Based on the popular fairytale *Cinderella*, this thematic fundraising gala dinner draws inspiration from the ballroom scene, where the Prince has his first encounter with Cinderella. Held on the 28th of February at the Island Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel, the Cinderella Ball is jointly organised by Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) and the Singapore Council of Women's Organisation (SCWO). This inaugural partnership is significant for the fact that *Cinderella* celebrates the spirit of women's empowerment and emancipation. In the character of Cinderella, we see a heroine who, despite her daunting environment, overcomes the odds to make her dreams come true. Of course, the help of a kind soul, in the form of her Fairy Godmother, moves things along in the right direction.

In similar fashion, both SDT and SCWO are visionary organisations with ideals that can only become reality with the help of generous fairy godmothers such as individual donors and corporate benefactors. These fairy godmothers, through their contributions in cash and kind, help the two organisations to bring the joy of dance and the comfort of an understanding and supportive listening ear to its respective target audience. By purchasing a table at the Cinderella Ball, supporters will be ensuring that SDT can continue to stage high-quality ballet productions and engage with young audiences through its ongoing school and public outreach programmes. Funds raised through this event will also provide SCWO with the ability to continue working with its 56 member organisations to advance the status of women in Singapore through initiatives like The Star Shelter and The Women's Register.

For donations of \$20,000, guests will be seated at a VIP "**Fairy Godmother**" Gala Table for 12 diners. A contribution of \$10,000 will entitle the guests to a "**Cinderella**" Gala Table for ten, while a contribution of \$5,000 will secure a "**Prince Charming**" Gala Table for ten. Guests at the Cinderella Ball will enjoy a sumptuous 3-course Western dinner, and watch an excerpt of the ballet *Cinderella*, performed by SDT dancers. Surprise entertainment segments also await all participants.

Members of the media are invited to publicise this event to raise awareness and support for the Cinderella Ball. Photo opportunities with guests at the Cinderella Ball on 28 Feb 2009 are available for registered media. Interested media are requested to lodge their interest to attend this event with Ms Wendy Lee of the SDT on wendy.lee@singaporedancetheatre.com or contact her on 6338-0611.

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.

ABOUT SINGAPORE COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) was established in 1980 to serve as the national coordinating body for women's organisations in Singapore. With 56 member organizations, SCWO work towards a common goal of advancing the status of women in Singapore regardless of race, language, religion or background.

Besides working with the member organizations, SCWO initiate several programmes such as; **The Star Shelter** which provides temporary refuge for women and their children who have been abused, **Women's Register** which works towards promoting and nurturing women to take up leadership roles in society and the work place, **IT Hub** which provides IT training to retirees, housewives and the unemployed and observing and promoting the Convention To End Discrimination Against Women. These are just to name a few services we provide for women to get access to a better life.

SCWO main goal is to provide access to women to programmes that will enable them to achieve their dreams – for girls to learn to love themselves for who they are, for young women to learn how to be future leaders and better mothers, for women leaders to share their success stories and a place where women can find comfort.

BIOGRAPHY

GRAHAM LUSTIG
CHOREOGRAPHER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE



Photo: Eduardo Patino

Graham Lustig, an internationally recognized director and choreographer of over 60 works that have been performed on four continents, has been Artistic Director of American Repertory Ballet and ARB's Princeton Ballet School since 1999. At ARB has introduced numerous new works to ARB by choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Dominique Dumais, Val Caniparoli and Kirk Peterson. As part of *Dancing Through the Ceiling*, an initiative he devised to showcase women choreographers working in the classical genre, twelve new works have been commissioned.

Mr. Lustig has also directed and choreographed for opera, theatre and film: *Eugene Onegin*, Cleveland Opera, *Aida*, Boheme Opera of New Jersey, *Carmen*, Princeton Festival, plus collaborations with Christopher Nupen on the biographical film, *Tchaikovsky's Women*, and with Robert Allen Ackerman on the award-winning production of *When She Danced* starring Vanessa Redgrave.

Formerly dancing as a soloist with both Dutch National Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, Mr. Lustig performed a diverse selection of leading roles in works by Ashton, McMillan, De Valois, Cranko and van Dantzig including Balanchine's *Prodigal Son*, Profiteer in Kurt Joos's *Green Table* Willie Mossop in Bintley's *Hobson's Choice* and Fokine's *Petrushka*.

Mr. Lustig is a charter member of the Artists Council for Americans for the Arts and has served numerous times as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. This season he has premiered *Between Stillness* for Louisville Ballet, *Shadows in the Attic* for American Repertory Ballet and *West Side Story*, that he both directed and choreographed, for Boheme Opera of New Jersey. His ballet *Evening* will be featured in the upcoming Singapore Arts Festival.

BAT ABBIT
REHEARSAL ASSISTANT
BALLET MASTER OF AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE



Began his professional career with the Nashville Ballet. He joined the North Carolina Dance Theatre where as a soloist he danced leading roles in works by Paul Taylor, David Parsons, Peter Pucci, and George Balanchine. He also performed works by Salvatore Aiello, most notably Fritz in *The Nutcracker*, and Miles in *The Turn of the Screw*. Mr. Abbit first worked with Mr. Lustig in 1997 when he created a role in *Pomp* for North Carolina Dance Theatre. Upon joining American Repertory Ballet in 2000, he danced the role of Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cadenza*, *Borderlines*, *Paramour*, *Urban Tangos*, Autumn in *Cinderella*, and created roles in *Silkscreens*, as well as the roles of Fritz and the Nutcracker in *Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker*. Mr. Abbit is a founding member of Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance in Asheville, North Carolina and has danced with them for three summers.

In 2000, he began maintaining select pieces of the repertory. In 2003 joined the Artistic Staff of the American Repertory Ballet as a Rehearsal Assistant and became Ballet Master in 2004. Mr. Abbit has rehearsed the students of ARB's Princeton Ballet School in *Coppelia*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake* as well as each year in *Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker*.

For ARB Mr. Abbit has choreographed two ballets specifically for younger audiences, *Jump, Frog, Jump!* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* plus several new works for the Summer Intensive program.

In 1993, his pas de deux, *Into The Light*, won the Nashville Dance Project's Choreographers' Competition and lead to the creation of two more works for that company. He has assisted Jerri Kumery in staging Salvatore Aiello's *Rite of Spring*, and has mounted a full length *Coppelia* for the Carolina Ballet. His choreography for *Bending Towards the Light*, *A Jazz Nativity* can be seen annually in New York and New Jersey.

When leaving North Carolina Dance Theatre, Mr. Abbit was given a royalty free license for *Tarantella* by noted New York City Ballet ballerina Patricia McBride for whom the legendary George Balanchine created the ballet. He has since performed this work for audiences all over New Jersey and Delaware to much acclaim.

As a teacher Mr. Abbit has served on the faculties of the School of the Nashville Ballet, Vanderbilt University, Western Kentucky University, and DancePlace the official school of the North Carolina Dance Theatre. Mr. Abbit holds a BFA from Western Kentucky University.

XIA HAI YING
CINDERELLA



Trained in Beijing Dance Institute of China, Hai Ying joined SDT in 1993 and has danced principal roles in SDT's classical repertoire including Anna in *Anna Karenina*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Giselle in *Giselle*, *Victoria Page* in *The Red Shoes*, Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Other leading roles include George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land*, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat*, Stanton Welch's *Maninyas*, Goh Choo San's *Birds of Paradise*, *Momentum*, *Unknown Territory* and *In the Glow of the Night*, Marie-Claude Pietragalla's *Les Noces* and *Rite of Spring*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Lambarena* and *Stetl*. She won the 1st prize in Tao Li Cup Dance Competition of China in 1991 and the Grand Prix Prize at the 7th Asia Pacific International Ballet Competition in 1999. She was nominated for Benois de La Danse Prix 2003

and performed at the Gala at Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow. She was involved in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker*, *QUEST*, *Legacy of Goh Choo San* and played the lead roles in recent productions of *La Sylphide*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.

CHIIRO UCHIDA
STEPSISTER - REGINA



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). She has performed in The Australian Ballet's production of Graeme Murphy's *Swan Lake* (2002). In 2003 & 2004, she performed with The Australian Ballet's Dancers Company in *Nutcracker*. She also performed the Blue Bird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty* in the school's 40th Anniversary. Recipient of the Estate of Lady Nathan Scholarship from the ABS (2003, 2004). 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 recent

productions like *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.

LIU XIAO MI
DIVINA



Trained at the Beijing Dance Institute, China. While studying, performed in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Paquita* and *Don Quixote*. She joined SDT in July 2001 and danced in Anthony Then's *The Nutcracker*, Jean-Paul Comelin's *Giselle*, Aaron Khek's *Bowl of Containment*, Joanne Lee's *b.r.e.a.k.d.o.w.n.*, Joachim Schloemer's *Petruschka*, Sakiko Oshima's *Le Festin d'Immortalite*, Petal Miller-Ashmole's *The Red Shoes*, David Lichine's *Graduation Ball*, Boi Sakti's *Reminiscing the Moon*, Stanton Welch's *Madame Butterfly*, Graham Lustig's *Cinderella*, Paul DeMasson and Jeffrey Tan's *The Little Mermaid*, and Marie-Claude Pietragalla's *Les Noces* and *Rite of Spring*. She has performed in *The Nutcracker* by Jeffrey Tan and danced the role of Effy in *La Sylphide*. She has also danced in recent productions like *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.