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**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

In celebration of SDT's 20th Anniversary

Singapore, 28 February 2008 - A Vision of Dance: Singapore Dance Theatre's 20/20 celebrations

What does it take to create and sustain a professional dance company? A healthy portion of gumption, two dozen lithe and limber bodies - ever-ready to take the stage by storm - and most importantly, a vision of dance that has not wavered since the day it was articulated.

Founded in 1988 by Ms Goh Soo Khim and the late Mr Antony Then, the performance seasons for Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) 20th Anniversary fuse an eclectic mix of classical and contemporary ballet, as well as commissioned dance pieces. **This programming plan manifests the company's 3C pillars of Classical, Contemporary, and Commissions, with a keen eye on exploring works that will have legs to carry the company into the international arena.**

MARCH 2008

First to the stage is *Giselle In The Park*, a first for SDT, which last performed *Giselle* at the Kallang Theatre in 2002. With the moving of the ballet from an indoor to an outdoor stage, audiences will also be transported into the realistic surrounding of Fort Canning Park, where the immersive atmosphere is bound to enhance the viewing pleasure of this timeless tale of love beyond the grave. "*Giselle In The Park*" runs from 27 to 30 March, 7.30pm at Fort Canning Park, with tickets at \$26 now available through SISTIC.

JUNE 2008

SDT is proud to present a stellar season of works by renowned choreographers David Dawson (United Kingdom), Jorma Elo (Finland), and Graham Lustig (USA) in the Singapore Arts Festival 2008. Titled "Continuum", this triple bill features the Asian premiere of "The Grey Area" by David Dawson, "Glow-Stop" by Jorma Elo, and "Evening" by Graham Lustig. Created for the American Ballet Theatre, "Glow-Stop" has been described as "dynamic and devilish" with gravity-defying gyrations, kinetic and static from one moment to the next. Set to music by Mozart and Philip Glass, "Glow-Stop" engages the audience in a breathtaking flow that is reminiscent of a light that is switched on, then off, in rapid succession, in an unfettered passion of movement that is the trademark of Elo. An original electronic score by Niels Lanz lulls five dancers with echoes of Bach that are punctuated with rumbles of thunder. Exploring the oblivion of people towards one another even when pulled in close proximity, Dawson's "The Grey Area" speaks of the tenacity and fortitude present as we face our darker days. "The Grey Area" won the international Benois de la Danse award for best choreography in 2003. "Evening" plays out like a lyrical poem, set to Benjamin Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings (Op. 31). Expressing the limbo between sunset and nightfall, Lustig draws heavily from the evocation of light and darkness to bring out dance movements that delight the eye even as they tug at the heartstrings. **"David Dawson, Jorma Elo, and Graham Lustig are world-class choreographers who have wowed the international dance scene in recent years," says Goh Soo Khim, Artistic Director of SDT, "Their willingness and readiness to work with the Singapore Dance Theatre speaks volumes of SDT's ability to take to the world's stage, and I will definitely look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with them on new works in the near future."** "Continuum" will debut at the Esplanade Theatre on 13 & 14 June 2008, 8pm. Tickets at S\$80, S\$60, S\$50, S\$40, and S\$30 are already available through SISTIC.

JULY 2008

Returning to the stage with its 13th edition is one of SDT's must-see events - Ballet Under The Stars (BUTS), which, for this joyous occasion, will kick-off with a family carnival. Audiences can expect an array of fun-filled activities such as face painting and tattoos for children as well as a hassle-free and scrumptious meal on the lawn before the show begins, courtesy of specially packaged picnic baskets from Rendezvous Hotel Singapore, the event's Official Caterer. **Fans of SDT will get to relive the glorious productions of the past and reminisce under the stars with the company. Starting the evening off is Goh Choo San's "Beginnings", which was the very**

first piece performed by SDT when it was formed with an original cohort of 7 dancers in 1988. Other performances include excerpts from some of the best works of SDT's repertoire, from the regal splendour of classics such as Graham Lustig's well-received *Cinderella*, to the revelry of Paul Ocampo's *Why Not* with music by Queen. Also not to be missed is a restaging of late co-Founder Anthony Then's *Schumann Impressions*. So be sure not to join in the celebrations at BUTS 2008 for the rare opportunity to see these evergreen dance works. BUTS 2008 runs from 25 to 27 July at Fort Canning Park, with \$30 tickets going on sale in May through SISTIC.

Singapore Dance Theatre marks its 20th year of excellence in dance with a commemorative book. Written in the first-person account, this 112-page tome will feature over 50 commissioned photos taken by SDT's resident photographer, Tan Ngiap Heng. These new photographs will be juxtaposed with archival shots of the company in rehearsal, at performances, and on tour over the 20 year period of 1988 to 2008. It covers SDT's finest moments in dance and achievements over the years. The commemorative coffee-table book will be on sale during BUTS 2008 and will also be sold through selected bookstores. Hard-cover, autographed copies of the book will be auctioned as part of the company's fundraising efforts for 2008.

A special Gala Fundraising Season for SDT will take place at Victoria Theatre on 18 & 19 July with guest performances by principal dancers from dance companies like The Australian Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, and Washington Ballet. Fundraising tickets, priced at \$100, \$200, and \$300 will be available from SDT from May.

JUNE/SEPTEMBER 2008

With the dual objectives of encouraging new choreographic talents and the enhanced engagement with and understanding of contemporary dance, SDT and co-organiser NUS Centre for the Arts will launch the inaugural ProviDANCE Choreographic Camp. In the June holidays, through an intensive and immersive 3days-2nights format, 30 participants from NUS will get to experience the rigors of working on the process of creating new dance works, from choosing the music, dancers, and right through to blocking, staging entrances and exits, and even to providing a suitable synopsis so that the work can be aptly-marketed to its target audience. **Performances of**

the best short listed works will take place during the NUS Centre for the Arts' annual Dance Reflections Festival in September, as the curtain-raiser for SDT's "Firefives" Mixed Bill season. "Firefives", which features works by Jeffrey Tan, Edmund Stripe, Graham Lustig, and Paul DeMasson, will take place at the University Cultural Centre on 26 & 27 September, with tickets going on sale in July.

DECEMBER 2008

To round off the year, SDT brings back to the stage a perennial crowd-pleaser, "The Nutcracker". What better way to celebrate the festive joy than immersing oneself in the Christmas season with this full-length production choreographed by Jeffrey Tan, resident choreographer of SDT. A familiar favourite with children and adults alike, this enchanting fairytale ballet has a joyous Christmas's eve setting that has never failed to delight audiences with its idyllic package of dazzling costumes, magical sets and props, and fantasy sequences and energetic dancing. The Nutcracker will perform at the Esplanade Theatre on 12 & 13 Dec, and 17 to 20 December. Tickets at \$48, \$68, \$88, \$108, \$138 (VIP Box) will be available from SISTIC in October.

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For additional information,

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SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE - THE COMPANY

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT), co-founded by the late Mr. Anthony Then and Artistic Director Ms Goh Soo Khim, is one of the finest and leading professional dance companies in the Asia-Pacific region. The accomplished Ms Goh leads a company of 22 professional classical dancers that hails mainly from the Asia-Pacific region.

With a repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, of 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, the Company performs six seasons in a year. Its seasons include performances at the Esplanade Theatre, Performing Home of the SDT and at the Fort Canning Green, resident of the widely popular Ballet Under The Stars (BUTS) series of our outdoor performances. BUTS has to date, attracted over 160, 000 audience from all walks of life and have seen many converted to dance aficionados.

“The way SDT dancers’ move, the way they are built, they are exciting to watch as dancers.” commented Sylvia McCully, an established dance teacher.

Artistic Director of Houston Ballet, Stanton Welch added, “SDT is the most contemporary company I’ve worked with. But they do classical classes and they are on Pointe. They are very fast in picking up contemporary movement, which classical dancers can find it hard to do. And they are very expressive, which comes without you having to pull it out from them.”

SDT constantly receives international acclaim for its works both locally and overseas. Described as an “Asiatic gem” by Graham Watts of Ballet.com.UK for its London debut, SDT has captivated audiences from the Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe. Dance Magazine, UK, has complimented the SDT for being “an outstanding company of versatile dancers” and for its “full and mixed repertoire that could grace stages worldwide”

Additionally, in 2002, the SDT was given the single honour to stage a commissioned work, “Reminiscing the Moon” by Indonesian dance artist Boi Sakti, for the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay. This commission established the Company’s status as a leading arts institution in Singapore as well as in the Far East region.

International Touring

During these recent years, SDT has captivated many audiences in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Korea, China, Australia, France and the United States. The Company has participated and performed at numerous international festivals and events such as Le Temps d’Aimer la Danse a Biarritz in France, Mexico’s Festival Internacional Cervantino, ChangMu Arts Festival in Korea, Philippines Festival of Dance, and part of the Victorian Arts Centre’s Made to Move subscription series. Frequent invitations to perform in Russia, Spain and return visit to Australia, attest to the Company’s growing reputation in the dance world.

In 2006, SDT was invited to participate at the Seoul International Dance Festival (SIDANCE 2006) in South Korea. And in October 2007, SDT also performed for the first time in Shanghai at the Shanghai Grand Theatre as part of the Singapore Season in China.

Nurturing Choreographic Talents

Besides constant development of its repertoire, the company aims at nurturing young choreographic talents in Singapore as well as the Asia-Pacific region. Its widely popular Ballet Under The Stars seasons at Fort Canning Green have become a viable working space for up-and-coming choreographers, who present their creations through the Singapore Young Choreographers' Platform and the Asia Pacific Choreographic Workshop.

Arts Education Programme and Outreach

As a major grant recipient from the government and in keeping with the SDT's commitment to bring the finest in dance to the public audience, on-going education and outreach programmes are organised to provide people with opportunities to appreciate dance. SDT continues to make extensive school visits and offer special courses for non-dancers and adult students with the aim to make dance more accessible to the masses. Through these events, the Company hopes to spread dance's beauty and passion to as many people as possible.

For more information on SDT, please visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com