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**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

Presents

Swan Lake

20 to 23 December 2007, at 8pm at The Esplanade

Singapore, 18 September 2007 – Coming this December, Singapore Dance Theatre proudly presents one of the best-loved ballets in the world, *Swan Lake*, at the Esplanade Theatre.

Swan Lake is the gold standard of ballet. It is the most easily identifiable classical ballet of all time and has been danced around the world since the first successful performance was given in Imperial Russia in 1895 by at the Maryinsky Theatre. The music for the ballet was commissioned by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and the choreography by Petipa/Ivanov defines what is now considered to be definitive of ballet to this day.

Swan Lake revolves around Odette, the tragic Princess captured by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart and turned into a swan, and who, under the curse, can only reveal her true human form in the night. Only the promise of true love from a man true of heart and deed can rescue her and render the spell powerless. One night, Prince Siegfried finds the Princess and enamored by her beauty, he promises 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, thereby 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.

Swan Lake promises to enthrall the audience as it showcases an array of extraordinary sets, beautiful costumes and a full cast of dancers in the evening work. It is undeniably one of the most memorable evenings of dance that would be shared by audiences internationally.

Swan Lake is part of the three most well-known of the Petipa/Tchaikovsky ballets which include Nutcracker and Sleeping Beauty. As with all the classics of the ballet repertoire, Swan Lake has been the subject of many re-stagings and revisions. Traditional adaptations, based on the original 1895 version, have been mounted by every major ballet company in the world from Russia to Europe, America to Australia. Famous partnerships in dance such as Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Natalia Makarova, Antony Dowell and Antoinette Sibley have made legendary performances in the lead roles of Odette/Odile and Prince Siegfried. In addition, Swan Lake has been re-interpreted into many forms, including an extremely modern cutting edge version by Swedish choreographer Mats Ek, as well as the all male swans version by British choreographer Matthew Bourne.

In this large-scale production, SDT has specially created more than 80 hand-crafted costumes, 50 headpieces as well as numerous wigs and detailed jewelry. More than 50 different set pieces and backdrops will also be built and painted for the four separate acts. Prior to that, the dancers will take part in about 180 rehearsing hours for this major year-end production.

Don't miss this opportunity to catch one of the world's most beloved and popular ballets performed by our very own dancers in this premiere performance by Singapore Dance Theatre.

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FAST FACTS

Programme Title	<i>Swan Lake</i>
Date	20 to 23 December, 2007
Venue	Esplanade Theatre
Time	8.00 pm

Ticket prices: \$88, \$68, \$58, \$48, \$38 (not inclusive of \$2 SISTIC charge)

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 and SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg. and SDT office from at 6338-0611 or ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

Discounts Schemes :-

- 25% discount for SDT Friends with no minimum purchase
- 25% discount for early bird bookings for a minimum purchase of 5 tickets for any combine price categories (till 22 Nov)
- 15% discount to DBS credit card holders with no minimum purchase
- 15% discount for a minimum purchase of 2 tickets for any combine price categories to:-
 1. Kinokuniya Privilege Card holders
 2. PAssion Card
 3. International Researcher's Club Card
- 10% discount with no minimum purchase to SDT partners:-
 1. PrettyFIT/BeetleBug/Silverline card holders
- Sweet Sixteen tickets at \$16 per ticket available to all full-time students and NSmen & Senior Citizens. The label on the ticket will read as "Sweet Sixteen".

- Schools can use the TOTE Board Arts Grant subsidy for up to 60% of ticket price.

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

All prices exclude SISTIC handling fee of \$2 per ticket for \$20 and above.

BIOGRAPHY Janek SCHERGEN



Janek Schergen 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.

In June 2007, he was appointed Assistant Artistic Director of Singapore Dance Theatre. He staged all of the ballets for the September 2007 season, The Legacy of Goh Choo San, and was responsible for making it one of SDT's most successful seasons in recent years.

Priscil Poh
Sets Designer

Priscil Poh received her BA from Curtin University of Technology, WA with distinctions in Product Design and Computer Graphics. In recognition of her academic performance, she was on the Vice-Chancellor's List in 1994. She later served as a designer in Australia for 5 years, further developing and refining her skills before returning to Singapore.

In 1995 she started her 1st design company, P'art1 1 Design Private Limited primarily creating designs for international showcase. Her initial projects would include World Stamp Exhibition, The Straits Times 150th Anniversary and Singapore Food Festival, just to name a few. Three years later, she set up her own factory which helped her earn a reputation for developing successful designs, events and shows. Over the years, Priscil has worked with many companies and organizations, including National University of Singapore, Ministry of Education, People's Association Chingay Parade, North East Community Development Council, The Lee Foundation, Moscow Circus, Infocomm Asia Holdings, Singapore Dance Theatre, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Housing Development Board, Mediacorp and the list goes on.

Priscil Poh has received several awards in national competitions both in Singapore and Western Australia since 1990 which includes the most outstanding design voted by Singaporeans for the Chingay Parade Float Design Competition in 1991. She has also garnered consistent recognition in the local creative circles. Her success lies in the creative process articulated within a disciplined interpretation of the client's practical demands.

Some twenty years in the design scene has made Priscil Poh one of the most sought after designers. Inspirational and cutting edge ideas together with a creative and reliable crew in her company help to produce her ideas and keep her ahead of the competition in the fast paced design business. Her extensive portfolio ranges from print to furniture, products, props, interior design to stage and theatre set designs for event launches, dance performances and musicals. Priscil's designs have been regularly and extensively praised by clients, and media. The latest testimony for her work was mentioned in The Straits Times for Singapore Dance Theatre's performance, Coppelia:

"Set designer Priscil Poh created a set which was eerily gloomy but wonderfully kitsch. Littered with hanging human figures, treasure chests and colourful dolls, the set was a visually stunning platform which allowed the dancers to play."

LIFE! ARTS, THE STRAITS TIMES TUESDAY, MARCH 27 2007.

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.

Summary of Track Record

- Senior Costumer for the mega-launch of Disneyland Hong Kong
- Winner of the Best Costume Design, Hong Kong Dance Award 2005 for Hong Kong Ballet's production, Legend of the Great Archer
- Over 14 years of costume experience, with over 10 years of as Department Head of the Hong Kong Ballet, producing over 72 productions
- Outstanding knowledge of the Hong Kong costume vendor market for costume design and production
- Strong people management and operation skills
- Strong budget management skills
- Native Hong Kong Resident

Qualifications

11/2004 – DISNEYLAND, HONG KONG
11/2005 SENIOR COSTUMER, ENTERTAINMENT

Oversee and supervise all of the costume production for the launching of Disneyland Hong Kong.

Responsible for

- Led costume design for Festival of the Lion King, Golden Mickey, Day Parade, opening show, as well as the park scenarios and themed hotel costume set.
- Trained at Disney in Orlando and Los Angeles
- Material Sourcing and production
- Managed a creative team of four
- Responsible for budget management, staff management, administrative organization and accountability to the Disney U.S. team.

1994 – 2004 HONG KONG BALLE – HEAD OF WARDROBE

Oversea an internal staff of five, and a vendor pool of approximately 20 external companies and freelancers.

Responsible for

- Costume Design for a cast of 45 dancers
- Manage make-up artist, dressers, hairdressers, and all other ancillary costume staff both internally and externally.
- Material Sourcing
- Production, manage in-house workshop, and external workshops.
- Show management
- Tour management
- Liaise with an international design pool
- Budget management, staff management, administrative organization

Sample History
of Shows:

Sleeping Beauty, The White Snake, La Bayadere, Mulan,
Romeo and Juliet, La Fille Mal Gardee, Lady of Camilia,
Beauty and the Beast, Giselle, The Nutcracker, The
Emperor and Nightingale, The Last Emperor, Two Pigeons,
Peter Pan, Swan Lake, Raymonda, Snow Queen, Coppellia,
Anna Karenina, Legend of the Great Archer

Tours include: Three North American Tours, Multiple tours in
China, European Tour, Singapore Tour, Two Canada Tours.

1993 & 1994 HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL - WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Working with top designers including Christina Giannini, fulfilled the role as supervisor, to chief cutter, produced and managed three operatic shows, Der Rosenkavalier, Un Ballo In Maschera and the Magic Flute, each with a cast of approximately 80 cast members per show.

1993 – 1996 URBAN COUNCIL OPERA - WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Working with one of the finest directors, Mr. Lo King-Man, fulfilled the role as Wardrobe Supervisor and Chief Cutter, produced and managed four operatic shows, Rigoletto, La Traviata, Lucia di Lammermoor, Turandot, each with a cast of approximately 80 cast members per show.

Corporate and Industrial Work

- 1993 Louis Vuitton, Marguee
Launch Event, interior design and model's stylist
- 1994 Cats Production
Tour group's local wig and make-up specialist
- 1997 Hennessy Concert Opera
Opera Rigoletto, Wardrobe Supervisor for a U.S. cast
for an production in Beijing.
- 2000 Red Boat
Extremely high-profile local Hong Kong television show,
Wardrobe Supervisor for two shows, Costume for local
Hong Kong stars that include Chan, Po Chu and Tony
Leung, and Lau, Ka Ling.

Education

- Certificate in Pattern Making & Design 1998
- Academy of Performing Arts, Diploma in Technical Arts, Costume Technology (Distinction) 1991
- Beauty Specialist Certificate – Credit 2003
- Aestheticienne Diploma/Beautician– Credit 2003

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. 2005 will mark the 10th anniversary of the popular BUTS series.

“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, one of Singapore's newest arts centres. 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 March this year, SDT made its debut in London at the invitation of the Sadler's Wells Theatre to perform at Peacock Theatre. And, in September 2005 SDT has a two-week season in Australia.

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