

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SINGAPORE
DANCE
THEATRE**

proudly presents

The Nutcracker

A Timeless Ballet Classic for the Holiday Season

December 12, 13, 17 to 20, 2008
Esplanade Theatre, 8pm

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008—An ageless tale of dreams and bravery comes to life as Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) presents *The Nutcracker* this December, as conceptualized and choreographed by its resident choreographer Jeffrey Tan. The mega-production of the enchanting classical ballet will transport audiences into magical places such as the Land of Snow and Land of Sweets; in a delightful world of toy soldiers, fairies, snowflakes, candy children, gingerbread people, and clock mice. Featuring an alternating cast of 200 dancers dressed in colorful costumes, fascinating projections, animated backdrops and enthralling stage sets, this ballet is the central production for the year-end holiday season of SDT.

Not only will *The Nutcracker* feature the dance prowess of the premiere ballet company's dancers but it will showcase talented artists from various dance groups who will be working with SDT, including endearing routines from children as young as 6 years old, with a total of 180 extra dancers. To bring to reality the captivating world, detailed

sets that depict the varied locations matched by equally immaculate costumes breathe verve to the charming characters many have come to love, the world over.

Living up to its 2005 performance of this timeless piece, this year again promises to delight the senses as viewers experience the coming together of dance and theatrical flair with the various elements that meld in this performance.

ABOUT THE NUTCRACKER

Set in a joyous Christmas's eve occasion, *The Nutcracker* is a light-hearted story of Clara and her adventures after she receives a beautifully-crafted nutcracker doll from her godfather Dr. Drosselmeyer. Her brother Fritz promptly breaks the gift in a bout of childish jealousy.

At the stroke of midnight, the Nutcracker doll comes alive and rescues her when her room is invaded by an army of mice. The Mouse King is defeated by the Nutcracker Doll, with Clara's help and the mice army runs away. The Nutcracker then transforms into a Prince. The Nutcracker Prince then treats Clara to a fantastical journey through the Land of Sweets, where she is captivated with sights of Spain, France, Istanbul, Russia, China and Holland and later on greeted by the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy. After the Sugar Plum Fairy treats them to a dance Clara awakens to find herself by the Christmas tree holding onto her beloved Nutcracker.

Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman "*The Nutcracker and The Mouse King*", the first Nutcracker was performed in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1892 to music scored by composer Peter Tchaikovsky, which was a wondrous complement to the ballet then choreographed by Marius Petipa. A performance of two acts and three scenes, *The Nutcracker* is a wonderland of dance and features a flurry of dances such as The Spanish Dance, The Arabian Dance, The Russian Dance, The Chinese Dance, The

Mirliton Dance and The Waltz of Flowers and the well-known pas de deux between the Sugar Plum Fairy the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.

The Nutcracker is the most popular ballet performed anywhere around the world during the Christmas season and catching SDT's performance of this glittering classic is a surely heartwarming and memorable experience of a spectacular festive treat for the family, the young and the young-at-heart.

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.

FAST FACTS

Title :	<i>The Nutcracker</i>
Date :	12, 13, 17 to 20 December, 2008
Venue :	Esplanade Theatre
Time :	8:00 pm
Ticket prices:	\$138 (VIP box), \$108, \$88, \$68, \$48 (not inclusive of SISTIC charge)
Tickets are available at:	All SISTIC outlets; SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555 and SISTIC website: www.sistic.com.sg (17 Oct) and SDT office from 17 Oct at 6338-0611 or ticketing@singaporedancetheatre.com

* 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.

Discount Schemes:

A) From 3/10/08 to 16/10/08:

Priority Booking

20% discount for all UOB credit cards off normal ticket prices

B) From 17/10/08 to 20/12/08

Public sales

- 25% discount for Friends of SDT members
- 20% discount for staff of Singapore Press Holdings (staff pass to be produced upon purchase)
- 15% discount for staff of Singapore Airlines (staff pass to be produced upon purchase)
- 20% discount for Bulk/School booking of 20 tickets and above
- 10% discount for Kinokuinya card, Passion arts card and NUS Alumni card.
- 15% discount for UOB credit cardmembers

Family packages

- \$300 for 2 Adults and 2 children tickets (Cat 2)
- \$250 for 2 Adults and 2 children tickets (Cat 3)
- Exclusive for UOB cardholders, 10% discount off family packages (from 17/10/08 onwards)

Concession tickets (For students & NSmen)

- \$28 (includes SISTIC fees) - Limited to 100 tickets per performance night. (Cat 4 and 5 only)

BIOS

JEFFREY TAN RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER & SENIOR ARTISTE



Jeffrey's first principal role was as Franz in St. Leon and Marius Petipa's full-length classic, *Coppelia*. Other principal roles included, The Prince in *The Nutcracker*, Good Boy in *Graduation Ball*, Albrecht in *Giselle*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Armand in *La Traviata*, *Anna Karenina* and *The Red Shoes*. Jeffrey has also danced in one-act masterworks by George Balanchine, Goh Choo San, Graham Lustig, Jean-Paul Comelin, Val Caniparoli, Stanton Welch, Thierry Malandain, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Boi Sakti, Marie-Claude Pietragalia, amongst many others.

In 2000, Jeffrey was awarded the National Arts Council's Young Artiste Award for Excellence In Dance. In 2003, being awarded an educational grant from the National Arts Council, Jeffrey took a sabbatical to complete his Master of Fine Arts at the Queensland University of Technology.

His first choreographic attempt, *Tribal Rhythm*, had its inaugural performance in 1996. This was followed by *Elán* and *Façade* in 1999 and *Memoir* in 2001. With the desire to further explore and experiment with his choreographic abilities, he later created *Un Reve Curieux* and *Sojournic Serenade* in 2003, *Last Watch of the Night* and a site-specific performance at the Old Government House, Brisbane in 2004. His recent accolades included staging his work at the New Zealand Ballet School in 2004 and an invitation for SDT to perform *Façade* in the Queensland Ballet Gala in 2005.

Upon his return to SDT, he was appointed the Resident Choreographer, a newly created post in the Company in 2004. Jeffrey's first choreographic output for SDT was *Last Watch* for Ballet Under the Stars 2004. Other works include *Duet*, *Trio* and *The Little Mermaid* with Ballet Master Paul De Masson in 2005, the hugely successful production of *The Nutcracker* in December 2005, and most recently, *F.U.S.E.* for the 2006 Singapore Arts Festival Gala Performance, *QUEST*, as well as *Negro Y Blanco* for SDT's Impressions season in May 2007, and *Breath Of Love* for *Ballet Under The Stars* 2007.

DANCERS PROFILE

ROBERT MILLS THE NUTCRACKER DOLL



Graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) in 2002. Whilst at NZSD, he performed works by George Balanchine, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Natalie Weir, and leading roles in Goh Choo San's *Beginnings* and *Double Contrasts*. He also danced with The Royal New Zealand Ballet in their 2001 National Tour. Since joining SDT in January 2003, he has performed in Natalie Weir's *Dark Lullaby*, Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land*, Graham Lustig's *Cinderella*, and Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*. Other SDT repertoire include *Stamping Ground*, *Maninyas*, *The Lost Space*, *Graduation Ball*, *In the Glow of The Night*, *Birds of Paradise*, *Tabula Rasa*, *Le Festin d'Immortalite*, *Reminiscing the Moon*, *Madame Butterfly*, Marie-Claude Pietragalia's *Les Noces*, Thierry Malandain's *Bolero*, and the world premiere of *Quest*. He performed the role of the

Nutcracker Prince in Jeffrey Tan's *The Nutcracker* and danced in Jeffrey's Tan *Trio*, *Last Watch*, *Negro Y Blanco*, and *Breath of Love*. In 2006, Robert's debut choreographic work *Paradise Falling* was featured at *Ballet Under The Stars*. His recent involvements are *Legacy of Goh Choo San*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle In The Park*.

CHIIRO UCHIDA
LITTLE CLARA



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*.

SINASI ALAK
KING RAT



Born in Melbourne, Australia, Sinasi graduated from the Australian Dance Performance Institute (A.D.P.I) and joined SDT in May 2008. Whilst studying in A.D.P.I, he participated in dance competitions in Brazil, where he won a gold medal in New Zealand and Australia. He continued on to win scholarship grants from Lady Mollie Askin Scholarship, Society of Dance Arts and Marianne McIntyre memorial scholarship. He then furthered his training at the Hamburg Ballet School, having the opportunity to work with John Neumeier in the school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. After this, he joined the Suzhou Ballet Theatre under the artistic director, Stephen Jeffries and was given the featured role of lead devil in the production of *Voyages*.

NATALIE CLARKE
SUGAR PLUM FAIRY



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* and *Giselle In The Park*.

**PAUL DEMASSON
DR. DROSSELMAYER**



Born in Western Australia, Paul DeMasson was trained in ballet from the age of 8, with Kira Bousloff and Kiril Vasilkovsky. At 14, he joined the West Australian Ballet. In 1972, he danced with Roland Petit's Ballet de Marseilles. He performed in Petit's *Pink Floyd*, *La Rose Malade*, with Maya Plisetskaya in the title role and toured with the company to Paris. Later, he joined the London Festival Ballet, where he worked with Leonard Massine, Jack Carter, Anthony Tudor, John Taras, Mary Skeaping, Rudolf Nureyev, Barry Moreland and others.

After touring Australia in 1975 with London Festival Ballet's production of Nureyev's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Paul was invited to join the Australian Ballet as a Senior Soloist by the artistic director, Sir Robert Helpmann in 1976. He was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1980 and danced in all the major classics, as well as many one-act ballets by Glen Tetley, Jiri Kylian, Sir Frederick Ashton, Goh Choo San, George Balanchine and Domy Reiter-Soffer.

In 1988, Paul embarked on a freelance career and performed as actor/dancer in the play, *Pastrana*, in Melbourne which earned him a nomination for best supporting actor in the Melbourne Greenroom Awards. He has also made guest appearances and has been guest teacher with The West Australian Ballet, the Queensland Ballet, Philippines Ballet Theatre, Singapore Dance Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada. He also worked as Ballet Master and Principal/Character Dancer with Bern Staatsopera, The Australian Ballet and The Royal Danish Ballet. Paul had assisted Jiri Kylian, John Neumeier, Maurice Bejart, Ronald Hynd, Jean-Paul Comelin, Stanton Welch, Stephen Baynes, Boi Sakti as well as co-produced and staged Nureyev's *Don Quixote* with Maina Gielgud for The Royal Danish Ballet.

Paul was the Ballet Master with John Neumeier's Hamburg Ballet before returning to SDT in January 2003.

He has created the concept, narrated, arranged the music and co-choreographed *The Little Mermaid* with Jeffrey Tan for the recent tribute to Hans Christian Andersen for BUTS. He performed the role of Madge in SDT's 2006 production of *La Sylphide* and staged *Coppelia* for the Company in March 2007. Most recently, he choreographed *La Rose Malade* for Ballet Under The Stars 2007.

In June 2008, he staged Serge Lefar's *Suite en Blanc*, for the Hong Kong Ballet and also in August of this year, he performed in *The Exquisite Hour*, with Maina Gielgud in Maurice Bejart's adaptation of Samuel Beckett's play *Happy Days*, to critical acclaim.