

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JANEK SCHERGEN

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# A Grand Opening to the 2015 Season Singapore Dance Theatre Revives Sleeping Beauty



In celebration of the New Year, Singapore Dance Theatre will enchant audiences with *Sleeping Beauty*, a ballet often considered as the pinnacle of classical repertoire. Staged by Artistic Director Janek Schergen featuring choreography by Marius Petipa, Singapore Dance Theatre will reawaken this beloved fairytale to life at the Esplanade Theatre from 12 to 15 March 2015, with stunning costumes, spectacular sets and principal dancers of incomparable technique.

A treat for all ages, audiences will be captivated by this timeless tale about a beautiful princess, a spell of 100 years sleep, a charming prince and a true love's kiss which awakens the kingdom's slumber. *Sleeping Beauty* is a visual spectacle of music and dance with a rich score by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and stunning costumes designed by Tracy Grant Lord.

Janek Schergen comments, "Sleeping Beauty is the turning point for technique for a company, and is often considered as the finest achievement in classical ballet. Sleeping Beauty remains a production that fully demonstrates the artistic achievement and maturity of SDT on stage. This entirely classical version was first produced for the company in 2010 and was a milestone moment for the company at the time. In the 5 years since bringing Sleeping Beauty to the stage, it more and more reflects what SDT has become today, in terms of confidence and authority in classical ballet productions in our repertoire. The sets and costumes, by Tracy Grant Lord, and the magnificence of Marius Petipa's original vision, remain a testament to why the ballet remains such a strong and memorable part of our ever growing repertoire."

With its awe-inspiring opulence and outstanding choreography, *Sleeping Beauty* is set to turn heads this year. Be spellbound by one of the most famous ballets in the classical repertoire!

#### **SYNOPSIS**

The tale begins as the court assembles for Princess Aurora's christening. In their excitement, the royal family forgets to invite the wicked and powerful fairy, Carabosse. Furious at being overlooked, Carabosse turns up unannounced and places a curse on Aurora. She declares that Aurora shall die for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday after pricking her finger. The Lilac Fairy, equal in power to Carabosse, intervenes. She gives her own blessing – the princess, instead of dying, will fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years. She will only be awoken by true love's kiss.

For 16 years, Princess Aurora is kept safe, but tragedy strikes on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. She pricks her finger and falls into a deep sleep. The Lilac fairy casts a spell to ensure that the kingdom slumbers with her. A hundred years later, Prince Florimund is hunting in the woods. The Lilac Fairy appears and shows him a vision of Princess Aurora. He immediately falls in love with her and embarks on a quest to break the spell. The ballet ends in a grand finale celebrating the wedding of Princess Aurora and Prince Florimund.

#### The Characters

For this production of *Sleeping Beauty*, the main cast are:
Princess Aurora Chihiro Uchida/ Rosa Park
Prince Florimund Kenya Nakamura/ Chen Peng

Lilac Fairy Li Jie / Elaine Heng Carabosse Emma Hanley Jones

## **FAST FACTS**

**Title** : Sleeping Beauty

**Date** : 12-15 March 2014 (Thursday to Sunday)

Venue : Esplanade Theatre
Time : 12 & 13 Mar 8pm

14 Mar 1pm & 8pm 15 Mar 1pm & 7pm

**Ticket prices**: \$30, \$50, \$70 (excluding SISTIC charge)

Discounts available for:

Students/NSF/Senior Citizens

Package of 4 Group Bookings

## Tickets are available at all SISTIC outlets and SDT office from 1 January 2015.

Enjoy up to 25% discount when you purchase your tickets with Maybank credit cards. We apologise that we are unable to admit infants-in-arm and children below 6 years old. Children 6 years old and above will require a ticket for entry.

Please visit www.singaporedancetheatre.com for more information.

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## MEDIA CONTACT

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## **ARTISTIC TEAM**

Artistic Director	Janek Schergen			
Ballet Master	Mohamed Noor Sarman			
Principal Artists	Chihiro Uchida	Rosa Park	Chen Peng	Kenya Nakamura
First Artist	Elaine Heng Etienne Ferrère	Li Jie Zhao Jun	Maughan Jemesen	May Yen Cheah
Artists	Akira Nakahama Chua Bi Ru Ma Ni Sun Hong Lei	Alice Lin Cao Emma Hanley Jones Mai Suzuki Xu Lei Ting	Alison Carroll Kwok Min Yi Marina Yatsushiro	Beatrice Castañeda Lisha Chin Nanase Tanaka
	Huo Liang Lewis Gardner	Jake Burden Nazer Salgado	Jason Carter Stefaan Morrow	Kensuke Yorozu
Apprentices	Ruth Austin Lu Ye Shi Yue	Ines Furuhashi-Huber Peter Allen	Chen Rui Feng Reece Hudson	Dianyu Wu Shan Del Vecchio

## THE COMPANY

SDT was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premiere professional dance company comprising. In the course of each year, the Company performs six main seasons, including the widely popular *Ballet Under the Stars* at the Fort Canning Park, two full length classics, *Masterpiece in Motion* which brings together three works of the finest international choreography and *Passages* Contemporary Season.

As an ambassador for dance and for Singapore, the company aims to be an internationally well-regarded professional dance company that is known for its unique ability to shine in classical, neo-classical and contemporary repertoire with works that are timeless and inspiring.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers like Goh Choo San, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Stanton Welch, Marie-Claude Pietragalla, Xing Liang, Natalie Weir, Val Caniparoli, Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo, Edmund Stripe, Adrian Burnett, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christe, Toru Shimazaki and Christina Chan.

In 2008, Janek Schergen was appointed as the Artistic Director of SDT, after his extensive involvement with SDT since its inception years in 1988. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. In the last six years, the Company has added 20 world premieres and 14 company premieres to the repertoire, in addition to numerous revivals of the existing Company's repertoire. Janek is also the Artistic Director of the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation which oversees the licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

SDT actively reaches out to the public to create greater awareness of dance through outreach to schools with its Arts Education Programme, Dance Appreciation Series (jointly presented with Esplanade Co.), Adults Dance Classes, Scholars Programme for students considering dancing as a career, *Passages* choreographic workshop focusing on local emerging talents and One @ The Ballet, an initiative to help the public gain a better understanding of the different aspects of dance.

In 2013, SDT moved to a new premise with four state of the art studios. Additionally the Company will be enhancing efforts in Education and Outreach, bringing greater awareness and appreciation for dance to a wider audience.

#### SDT REPERTOIRE 2009 - 2014

Swan Lake

Choreography after Petipa/Ivanov Staging Janek Schergen

Cinderella

Choreography Graham Lustig Created for SDT

**Glow-Stop** 

Choreography Jorma Elo

A Million Kisses To My Skin Choreography David Dawson

Piano Concerto #2, Opus 102 Choreography Edmund Stripe Created for SDT

Concerto Barocco

Choreography George Balanchine

Unknown Territory

Choreography Goh Choo San

**Raymonda Divertissements** Choreography Marius Petipa

**Double Contrasts** 

Choreography Goh Choo San

**Pellucid** 

Choreography Kuik Swee Boon Created for SDT

**Sometimes I Think I Remember** 

Choreography Jeffrey Tan Created for SDT

**Evening at the Ritz** 

Choreography Molly Lynch Created for SDT

Giselle

Choreography after Coralli / Derrot Staging Janek Schergen

Allegro Brilliante

Choreography George Balanchine

Don Quixote Pas De Deux

Choreography Marius Petipa

Peter & Blue's Forest Adventure

Choreography Janek Schergen Created for SDT

Oneiros

Choreography Adrian Burnett Created for SDT

**Sleeping Beauty** 

Choreography after Marius Petipa Staging Janek Schergen

**Hold The Fourth** 

Choreography Daniel Roberts Created for SDT

As Above So Below

Choreography Edwaard Liang Created for SDT

**Nameless** 

Choreography Xing Liang Created for SDT

Serenade

Choreography George Balanchine

Romeo and Juliet

Choreography Goh Choo San

The Winds of Zephyrus

Choreography Edwaard Liang Created for SDT

**Maninyas** 

Choreography Stanton Welch

**Fearful Symmetries** 

Choreography Nils Christe

The Nutcracker

Choreography and Staging Janek Schergen Created for SDT

Paquita

Choreography after Marius Petipa

Age of Innocence

Choreography Edwaard Liang

Zin!

Choreography Nils Christe

Chant

Choreography Val Caniparoli Created for SDT

**Organ Concerto** 

Choreography Nils Christe Created for SDT

Jabula

Choreography Natalie Weir

Divertimento No. 15

Choreography George Balanchine

Peter & Blue Go Around The World

Choreography Janek Schergen Created for SDT

**Absence of Story** 

Choreography Toru Shimazaki Created for SDT

Waiting...

Choreography Christina Chan Created for SDT

Coppélia

Choreography after Arthur Saint-Léon Staging Janek Schergen

Opus 25

Choreography Edwaard Liang Created for SDT

4Seasons

Choreography Natalie Weir Created for SDT

Theme and Variations

Choreography George Balanchine

Peter & Blue's Birthday Party Choreography Janek Schergen

Created for SDT

Slide

Choreography Kinsun Chan Created for SDT

Shift or Go

Choreography Christina Chan Created for SDT

**Bittersweet** 

Choreography Natalie Weir Created for SDT

Swipe

Choreography Val Caniparoli

**Traces We Left Behind** 

Choreography Christina Chan

Shadow's Edge

Choreography Ma Cong

**Blue Snow** 

Choreography Toru Shimazaki

**Don Quixote** 

Choreography after Marius Petipa Staging Cynthia Harvey

**REPERTOIRE ADDITIONS – 2015** 

**Bournonville Divertissements** 

Choreography August Bournonville

New works by

Max Chen, Gigi Gianti, and Kinsun Chan

**Midnight Waltzes** 

Choreography François Klaus