

## Artistic Director Janek Schergen awarded Public Service Medal at National Day <u>Awards 2017</u>

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Singapore Dance Theatre's Artistic Director Janek Schergen was conferred the Public Service Medal (PBM) by the President of Singapore during the recent National Day Awards 2017 as the Arts Advisory Panel in National Arts Council, Artistic Director of Singapore Dance Theatre, and Founding Artistic Director of Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation.

"Receiving a wonderful recognition such as the Public Service Medal from the President's office has deeply touched me. What has made it so special is that it is being presented to me not only for my involvement with Singapore Dance Theatre but also my efforts on behalf of the National Arts Council and the Choo-San Goh & H. Magee Foundation. I have always felt great pride in association in all these institutions," says Schergen.

Having been involved in the company's growth since its inception in 1988, Schergen has contributed significantly and sacrificially to the dance and arts scene in our little nation.

Janek was appointed Artistic Director of Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) in 2008. Since then, he has initiated the monthly One @ the Ballet, Ballet Associates Course, Scholar's programme, SDT Choreographic Workshop, and the Ambassador's Circle. He also created his own three-part children's ballet series of Peter & Blue's Forest Adventure, Peter & Blue Go Around the World, and Peter & Blue's Birthday Party.

As founding Artistic Director and a board member of The Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation; he has staged more than 120 of Choo-San Goh's ballets worldwide. He is the Chairman of the Awards Committee for the Choo-San Goh Awards for Choreography and has staged 11 of Choo San's works for SDT. He also authored a monograph on Choo-San Goh, which was published in 1997.

Over the past nine years, he has been part of several panels and committees for National Arts Council, and has been frequently invited to judge at international ballet competitions. He was also honoured with the 'Award for Culture' by Singapore Tatler at the Leadership Awards 2015, a prestigious award that recognises the contribution of influential leaders in Singapore.