



For immediate release

Giselle: The most dramatic and beautiful of ballets is coming to Singapore

Experience one of the world's most loved ballets live on stage as it features some of ballet's most dramatic scenes and other worldly images

Singapore, February 20, 2017 – Base Entertainment, one of Southeast Asia's leading presenters of live entertainment, is bringing Giselle, the greatest romantic ballet performed by the oldest theatre in the world, San Carlo Theatre of Naples and Ballet Company from Italy to The Mastercard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands.

Giselle runs for a limited season from 26 April and tickets are now on sale.

Wonderfully passionate, Giselle is a story of how the power of forgiveness and redemption can overcome the anguish of love and betrayal. The story unfolds against the ghostly backdrop of a forest haunted by Wilis vengeful spirits of abandoned brides.

First staged in Paris in 1841, Giselle is one of the oldest ballets in the international repertory which is still enjoyed by audiences around the world. The music by French composer Adolphe Adam is one of the first full length ballet scores ever to be composed.

This production of Giselle at The MasterCard Theatres is staged by multiple award-winning Italian dancer, Giuseppe Picone, who trained at the Ballet School of Teatro San Carlo in Naples itself and is now the appointed artistic director of Corp de Ballet of the Teatro San Carlo in Naples.

Picone said: "Italians are famous for their wonderful taste and I believe the scenery and costumes are truly wonderful. We as a ballet company have performed many difficult ballets like Swan Lake and Corsaire ecc. Giselle is a romantic ballet loved by all dancers and ballet lovers. We have performed this wonderful masterpiece many times and it is always a joy to show it to the public."

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Picone is also one of the two noted performers of the leading male role in *Giselle*, Albrecht, who betrays the innocent village girl Giselle and causes her death, only to be protected by her spirit beyond the grave.

Multiple award-winning dancer and soloist Ekaterina Oleynik will dance the role of Giselle, while former soloist prima ballerina and étoile Anna Razzi will be re-imagining the choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot for *Giselle*.

It has been 25 years since *Giselle* was staged by an international production company in Singapore and it will be the only continent in Asia where the ballet will be performed.

Chief executive officer of Base Entertainment Asia Chantal Prudhomme said: “*Giselle* has not been in Singapore in a very long time. There is a huge following of people in Singapore that really love the ballet. I think *Giselle* itself is a wonderful love story, story of never ending love and it reaches out and connects with the masses and the Asian community and will be very well received. I am hoping it is going to touch people, through the dancing and music, and leave the audience with a great satisfaction and wanting to come back again and to see more of that genre that we will have here every year.”

About *Giselle*:

Giselle is often regarded as the quintessential Romantic ballet. The scenario for *Giselle* was provided by the poet and novelist Théophile Gautier (1811 – 1872) with the assistance of the dramatist Vernoy de St Georges. It contains many of the features that have become hallmarks of classical ballet, including technically challenging pas de deux and solos for the main characters, mime sequences, extended passages of dancing en pointe, and a corps de ballet dressed in long white tutus.

About San Carlo Theatre of Naples:

The Teatro di San Carlo is a famous opera house built in 1737 and when it was first built, it was the biggest opera house in the world. The theatre immediately became an object of admiration and was soon held to be without equal for the majesty of its architecture and perfection of its acoustics. Today, it is still one of the biggest opera houses in Italy and the oldest working theatre in the world. It is also the oldest opera house in Italy. Many operas were first performed at the Teatro di San Carlo. Seventeen of Donizetti's operas and eight of Rossini's operas were first performed there.

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About Ballet Company:

San Carlo Ballet Company is as ancient and prestigious as its name Theatre: its first performance was, in fact, for the opening night of November 4th 1737. Since then it has grown in its prestige for centuries and at the end of the war the Company established its place by hosting the greatest soloists of our time, from Margot Fonteyn to Carla Fracci and Ekaterina Maximova, from Rudolf Nureyev to Vladimir Vassiliev, to whom the choreography of many performances have been entrusted. The contribution of Roland Petit has been significant in recent years and we fondly remember Il pipistrello and Duke Ellington Ballet. Following on from Luciano Cannito, Elisabetta Terabust, Anna Razzi, Giuseppe Carbone and Alessandra Panzavolta. The ballet company is famous in Italy and abroad and the works of the great choreographers as Roland Petit or Bigonzetti are presented as well as historical works by Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa. Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo often develops a beautiful prestigious concert season with the arrival of artists like Neville Marriner, Vadim Repin, Daniel Barenboim, Fabio Luisi, Yefim Bronfman, Piotr Anderszewski, Alexei Volodin and many more.

About

Giuseppe

Picone:

Giuseppe Picone is an Italian ballet dancer. (Born in Naples 21-2-1976)

Giuseppe Picone was born in Naples (Italy) and trained at the Ballet School of Teatro di San Carlo di Napoli and at twelve years old was chosen by Beppe Menegatti to dance the role of the young Nijinsky in the World Première of the ballet "Nijinsky" with Carla Fracci and Vladimir Vassiliev.

He also trained at the Accademia Nazionale di Danza of Roma and won both competitions of Rieti and Positano.

Under the invitation of Pierre Lacotte at sixteen years old, he joined Ballet National de Nancy as a soloist, and danced in the leading roles of Petruska (M. Fokine), La Sonnambula (G. Balanchine), Paquita (M. Petipa), and L' Ombre (P. Lacotte). In 1993 he joined the English National Ballet in London as demi-soloist, where he danced until 1997, and then, at age 21, he was the first male Italian dancer to enter the American Ballet Theatre in New York as a soloist, with his debut in Ben Stevenson's Cinderella.

With Nina Ananiashvili danced the world première of Le Corsaire earning a nomination for the prestigious International Prize Benois pour la Dance. He was invited in Japan at "Nina Ananiashvili and Friends" and at the Gala "Stars of Ballet 2006".

He is a guest artist of several important ballet companies as Royal Ballet of London, Boston Ballet, Bolshoi Theatre, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Vienna State Opera, Het National Ballet of Amsterdam, Los Angeles Dance Theatre, Bucarest National Opera, Ballet National of Cuba, Ballet National de Bordeaux, Ljubljana National Ballet, Teatro San Carlo di Napoli, Arena di Verona, Teatro Massimo di Palermo and at International Festival and Galas'.

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John Clifford, Director of the Los Angeles Dance Theatre, created the role of Humphrey Bogart in the Dance Musical Casablanca.

Under the invitation of Renato Zanella he was the first Italian to guest at the New Year's Concert 2005 live worldwide from Vienna.

In Italy guested in many TV broadcasting including, Festa della Repubblica from Rome, the final night of the famous Festival of Sanremo 2009, Premio Caruso from Sorrento and in 2010 was the leading dancer of the Italian New Year's Concert from the Theatre la Fenice of Venice.

In March 2010 he was the only Italian dancer to take part at the New York City Center Theatre Galà Tribute to a dance legend - Vladimir Vassiliev. Andrea Bocelli invited him to his famous annual concert in Lajatico (Italy), with such star as Carreras and Italian Pop Star Zuccherò. In December 2010 he recorded in Pisa the Galà Concert of Bocelli "Notte Illuminata".

Since 2004 he has been Artistic Director of the Gran Gala' (PICONE and The Giants of Ballet).

Since 2016 he has been Director of the Teatro di San Carlo di Napoli Ballet Company.

About

Ekaterina

Oleynik:

Ekaterina Oleynik graduated from Belarusian State Choreographic College (2007) and Belarussian State University of Culture and Art (Management of comparative arts, 2012). She was a soloist with the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Republic of Belarus in 2007–2014, being also a guest soloist with the Washington Ballet in 2013–2014 (the title role in Adam's "Giselle", Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen in Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" and soloist parts in contemporary ballets). Since autumn 2014 she is a soloist with the Estonian National Ballet. Her repertoire includes Tchaikovsky's Odette/Otilie ("Swan Lake"), Aurora ("The Sleeping Beauty") and Masha, Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy ("The Nutcracker"), Minkus' Quiteria ("Don Quixote"), Nikiya and Gamzatti ("La Bayadère") and Paquita ("Paquita"), Cinderella (Prokofiev's "Cinderella"), The Sylph (Bournonville's "La Sylphide"), Giselle (Adam's "Giselle"), Zarema and Maria (Asafiev's "The Fountain of Bachchisarai"), Lisa (Seifert's "La fille mal gardée") Gulnare (Adam's "Le Corsaire"), Sheherazade (Rimsky-Korsakov's "Sheherazade"), etc. She has won several awards, including the Chrystal Shoe International Youth Classical Dance Contest in Kharkov (2004), 2nd place at the International Ballet Competition in Varna (2006), Diploma at the International Ballet Competition in Shanghai (2007), Diploma at the Rudolf Nureyev International Ballet Competition in Budapest and the Maya Plisetskaya special prize for the interpretation of the role of Otilie (2008), bronze medal at the 11th International Ballet Competition in Moscow (2009), winner of the 2nd Korean International Ballet Competition (2009), Capezio prize of the 9th International Ballet Competition in Jackson (USA, 2010), Honorary prize of the first International Ballet and Choreography Competition in Beijing (2011), winner of the 8th Tanzolymp International Ballet Festival (2011),

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Francysk Skaryna Medal for outstanding creative achievements, professionalism and considerable contribution to the development of national culture and arts (2012) and the 3rd prize at the Helsinki International Ballet Competition (2012).

About

Anna

Razzi:

Born in Rome where she graduated at the Opera School of Dance, Anna Razzi began her career in France and England. Called Scala solo, soon became Prima Ballerina, and *Étoile*. To hone her interpretative and expressive skills attended the Academy of Dramatic Arts conseguendone graduation; also she participates as an actress in theater and television shows. It works mainly at La Scala until 1985, year in which leaves the Milan Theater to devote herself to an intense international activity. Guest of the biggest theaters and foreign companies, particularly important collaboration with the Ballet Royal de Wallonie, which are created for her roles of Romeo and Antonina Meliukova in the choreography of the late Jorge Lefebvre. Invited to the Cuba Festival, representing Italy, has the honor to dance Swan Lake with the National Ballet of Cuba, upon invitation Alicia Alonso.

In her repertoire includes all the major classical ballets, as well as creations of the greatest choreographers of our time, including Roland Petit, Lorca Massine, and Amedeo Amodio. Dance alongside the greatest dancers of our time: Rudolf Nureyev, Paolo Bortoluzzi, Fernando Bujones, Peter Schaufuss, Yves Lormeau, Richard Cragun, Patrick Dupond and others. With the Teatro alla Scala or dance as a guest in the major theaters in New York with Nureyev in *Giselle and Romeo and Juliet*; in Richmond with Pierin it Swan Lake; in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires with Schaufuss and Lormeau in *Giselle*; in Monte-Carlo will *Nutcracker and Romeo and Juliet*; in Toulouse in *The Sleeping Beauty and La Sylphide* with Lormeau; Istanbul, *Swan Lake and La Bayadère*; Liege, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Luxembourg, *Romeo and Juliet*. She was a guest of the Ballet du XXème Siècle of Maurice Béjart, Ballet de Marseille Roland Petit, and the Zürcher Ballet Heinz Spoerli. Dance in *Aida* at the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy. She participates in international gala and numerous tours alongside Rudolf Nureyev. Among the most recent exhibitions, the new edition of *The Sleeping Beauty*, which inaugurated the Nervi Festival of 1986, the production of *Swan Lake* by Franco Zeffirelli, the new production of *The Nutcracker* by Nicholas Beriozoff Arena di Verona with Patrick Dupond, creating Massimo Moricone the daughter of Iorio for the Verona Philharmonic Theatre and *La fille mal gardée* of *Herold* for the Teatro Nuovo in Turin. In 1988 she founded the Ballet of Lombardy, for which they were created *Francesca da Rimini*, *The merry wives of Windsor* and above a sonnet by Dante, with which it is particularly active in the work of dissemination and decentralization in the Province of Milan. Among the numerous awards and honors, are Meritorious Town of the Province of Milan and the Decree of the President of the Republic, Merit. Since 1990 he is Director of the San Carlo Theatre Ballet School in Naples and, from the 2006/2007 season, Director of the Corps de Ballet of the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Season Details

Giselle

Season: From 26 April 2017

Venue: Mastercard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands

Cast: Italian Cast

Performance Times:

Wednesday, 26 April – 8PM

Thursday, 27 April 2017 – 8PM

Friday, 28 April 2017 – 8PM

Saturday, 29 April 2017 – 3:30PM & 8PM

Duration:

Act 1: 50 minutes

Intermission: 20 minutes

Act 2: 50 minutes

Total running time 120 minutes

Ticket Prices:

Cat 1, VIP – SGD225

Cat 2, A Reserve – SGD175

Cat 3, B Reserve – SGD145

Cat 4, C Reserve – SGD115

Cat 5, D Reserve – SGD85

Cat 6, E Reserve – SGD65

Cat 7, VIP BOX – SGD225

Cat 8, BOX SEAT – SGD115

**Excludes booking fee of SGD4 per ticket*

For bookings via:

Internet: www.MarinaBaySands.com/ticketing or www.sistic.com.sg

Phone: +65 6688 8826

In-person at: Marina Bay Sands Box Offices (Museum, Theatres, SkyPark, Retail Mall and Hotel Tower 1 Lobby).

For more information please log onto - www.MarinaBaySands.com/ticketing

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For exciting ticket package options including accommodation at Marina Bay Sands please visit: www.marinabaysands.com/packages

About Base Entertainment Asia:

Base Entertainment is a live entertainment company with offices New York, Las Vegas, Houston and it opened its Asia headquarters in Singapore in 2010. Base Entertainment Asia has since become one of Southeast Asia's leading presenters of live entertainment. It is the resident developer, producer, programmer and manager of live entertainment at Singapore's MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands. The company has presented over 150 of the world's most recognised shows of varied genres:

- Musicals - the Phantom of the Opera, Disney's The Lion King, Wicked, Jersey Boys, CATS, My Fair Lady, Annie, Mamma Mia!, The Sound of Music, Blue Man Group

- Stage magic- The Illusionist

- Circus – Le Noir, Cirque Adrenaline, Cirque Eloize

- Concerts - Michael Bolton, Bjorn Again, Cliff Richard, AR Rahman, Air Supply, Elvis Costello

- Performing arts - Cavalia

- Classical concert – The Music of John Williams

- Ballet – Superstars of Ballet Gala

- Children – Disney Live, Hi-5

In 2016, Base Entertainment Asia launched BasXclusive, the client services and group sales division.

Along with supporting international content, it is part of Base Entertainment Asia's on-going efforts to give Asian content a platform to showcase their talent – Kabuki (Ebizo, Takizawa), Cai Xiao Hu, Kit Chan, The Lee Kuan Yew Musical and more. In 2016, Base Entertainment Asia started its arts education, the Applause Program. The company collaborated with leading arts and entertainment talents from around the world to develop the Musical Theatre Workshop for Singapore's aspiring artists. The Musical Workshop is not only an opportunity

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for performers to refine their skills but also for anyone with a passion for the arts to learn skills for being on stage and to meet others who share the same passion and interest. Base Entertainment Asia conducts these workshops annually.

Base Entertainment Asia pursues a 360-degree approach in its consideration of entertainment property production and development - creative value, audience appeal, differentiation of product, assessment of market competition, anticipated show performance, commercial viability and investment yield. Base Entertainment Asia regularly consults on entertainment properties and productions across the globe and has capabilities of managing entertainment venues worldwide. For more information please visit www.BASEentertainmentAsia.com

About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd:

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About Mastercard (NYSE: MA):

www.mastercard.com, is a technology company in the global payments industry. We operate the world's fastest payments processing network, connecting consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. MasterCard's products and solutions make everyday commerce activities – such as shopping, traveling, running a business and managing finances – easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Follow us on Twitter @MastercardAP, join the discussion on the **Cashless Pioneers Blog** and **subscribe** for the latest news on the **Engagement Bureau**

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