

FRI

**NATURE'S EMPIRE** A unique collection of 477 natural history drawings donated by GK Goh in 1966, the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History, will be showcased in its entirety for the first time. Commissioned by Farquhar during his stay in Melaka, the collection is one of the earliest and most comprehensive records of the flora and fauna of the region. The National Museum of Singapore until October 21. Tickets from the National Museum

5SAT

**BEAMING** First commissioned by Carnegie Hall for cellist Yo-Yo Ma, *Beaming Dreams* is a remarkable work by American-based Chinese composer Bright Sheng. Now transcribed for the violin, Cho-Liang Lin performs with the SCO. The renowned violinist has an impressive slew of recordings under the Sony classical label. At the Esplanade Concert Hall



Cho-Liang Lin

9WED

**FLORIN CAMPAIGNS** A tongue-in-cheek look at the boundaries of fearless expression, this fantastical account of an unlikely petition to publicly recognise an unsung hero unfolds into a wildly imaginative "what-if" exploration of possible official actions. Staged by Wild Rice, *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ* promises to be an exciting, fun and thought-provoking roller coaster ride. At the Esplanade Centre Theatre until October 7. Tickets from Sistic

TitleTattle



Janek Schergen

HIGH-T WITH

Janek Schergen

BACK STAGE WITH **JANEK SCHERGEN**, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE'S MOST CELEBRATED PRODUCTION, *THE LEGACY OF GOH CHOO SAN*

**SINGAPORE TATLER:** *What does it mean to be staging the ballets of Choo San Goh?*

**SCHERGEN:** I have been staging Choo San's ballets for more than 20 years and every time I do so it reminds me of both my greatest friend, as well as confirming to me that he was one of the most original, talented and creative choreographers I have ever encountered.

**TATLER:** *Who designed the costumes?*

**SCHERGEN:** Carol Garner Kingston designed almost all of Choo San's sets and costumes. She was a visual artist who retrained as a theatrical designer. Sandra Woodall designed costumes for one of the ballets, *Double Contrasts*. She works for companies such as the San Francisco Ballet, The Bolshoi Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Norwegian National Ballet.

**TATLER:** *Did you cast Singaporeans in this production?*

**SCHERGEN:** Yes, there are Singaporeans and there have been many who have danced in Choo San's ballets.

**TATLER:** *Why and at what age did you decide on ballet as a career?*

**SCHERGEN:** I began training seriously in my teenage years. I have never wanted to do anything else and I was in a professional company at 19 years old.

**TATLER:** *What is your favourite ballet of all time?*

**SCHERGEN:** I would say probably *Sleeping Beauty* from the 19th century and Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* from the 20th. My favourite of Choo San's ballets is a piece called *Variations Serieuses*, which, much to my sadness, we haven't been able to programme for this particular evening. I will happily be distracted from this by how wonderful and amazing I find the eight pieces of Choo San's that we have selected.

THE LEGACY OF GOH CHOO SAN

Paying tribute to the remarkable dancer and choreographer Goh Choo San, the Singapore Dance Theatre stages a spectacular show. Work by renowned choreographers and recipients of the Choo-San Goh & H Robert Magee Foundation grants for choreography, Christopher Wheeldon, Val Caniparoli and Graham Lustig, will also be performed. The staging director is Janek Schergen, artistic director of the Choo-San Goh & H Robert Magee Foundation. Goh's ballets have been performed all over the world and the City of Washington presented him with the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1986. The following year, Singapore, Goh's home country, awarded him the Cultural Medallion, the county's highest honour for artistic achievement. At the Esplanade Theatre on September 7 and 8. Tickets from Sistic.



The Legacy of Goh Choo San