

## ANNEX – BIODATA

### **Ted Kivitt – Artist in Residence**

From 14<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January, the Department of Dance had the distinct privilege to have had Mr. Ted Kivitt, a former star of the renowned American Ballet Theatre, teach classes as well as mount a classical ballet work on the students of the department. This is an excerpt from the full length ballet, ***Don Quixote***. Entitled “The Dream”, this small extract comes from Act II of the ballet. (In this particular scene, Don Quixote falls asleep in the forest which is transformed into the bright kingdom of the dryads. Among them is Kitri who has assumed the form of Dulcinea, the queen of his heart. Cupid/Amour presents Don Quixote to the Queen of the Dryads. The nymphs are grateful to him for an act of heroism, and dance for their deliverer.)

Mr. Kivitt has had extensive experience as a principal dancer and then as Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Ballet, a major regional ballet company in the United States. It came to the fore in inspiring the selected dance students to aspire to greater professional heights. Part of this great passion for perfection was his frequent exhortations for the students to always do better and never to be satisfied with what they had achieved that day.

Mr. Kivitt, a native of Florida, joined American Ballet Theatre and within six years, rose from the corps to the ranks of Soloist and Principal Dancer. He performed all over the United States and internationally as a noted classical dancer in the ballets ***Swan Lake*** and ***Giselle*** among others, and partnered ballerinas Cynthia Gregory, Eleanor d'Antuono, Lupe Serrano, Carla Fracci and Natalia Makarova. He performed on television and at the White House for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson as well as a command performance for President Carter. Following his ABT career Mr. Kivitt performed with the Pennsylvania Ballet where he met and married the prima ballerina Michelle Lucci. As Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Ballet, he brought more than 50 of the world's finest works from the classical, contemporary, modern and Americana repertoires to the Company. He has also served on national dance panels for Dance USA and the National Endowment for the Arts. Ted has always had an exceptionally strong technique. Currently, Ted is an Assistant Professor on the dance faculty of Purchase College.

## **Stephanie Tooman**

Stephanie has a MFA degree from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance and a BFA degree from the Julliard School. She taught at The Conservatory of Dance at Purchase as well as at The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Additionally, she has taught extensively internationally, including being on the faculty at The Netherlands Dance Theater, 1st and 2nd Companies, (The Hague, The Netherlands), The Rotterdam Dance Academy (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), and the Institute del Theatre (Barcelona, Spain). She is a previous member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Stephanie has performed with many companies and is currently working with Reggie Wilson Fist and Heel Performance Group and Merian Soto/Pepatian. She has danced and has been rehearsal director for Kazuko Hirabayashi most notably in Tokyo at the New National Theater for Ms. Hirabayashi's full length Faust. Stephanie has also been rehearsal director for Neta Pulvermacher, Errol Grimes and the Purchase Dance Corps. She is an Assistant Professor in modern dance in the Conservatory of Dance.

## **Lim Fei Shen – Head of Studies, NAFA**

Cultural Medallion winner Lim Fei Shen has been a driving force in Singapore's modern dance scene. She received her Masters in Fine Arts from New York University's Tisch School of Arts in 1992 and trained at Folkwang Hochschule for music, theatre and dance in Germany under Kurt Jooss. In 1969, she joined the Hong Kong Television Broadcasting Corporation as a choreographer and dancer and from 1985 to 1991, was Artistic Director for People's Association Dance Company, the first Singapore modern dance company presented in Paris at the Maison Des Cultures du Monde. Her notable works include Xi Fang Ping, Eddies and A Dance Through Fire, presented in New York at La Mama Theatre, among many more. In 1993, she was invited by Canadian multimedia company L'Ecran Humain to choreograph Garden of Earthly Delight presented in Montreal. She is NAFA's Head of Studies for Curriculum Development, Dance, and is adjunct lecturer at National Institute of Education. She is also an Arts Resource member of the National Arts Council.

## **Li Xue Xin**

Xue Xin started on her professional study of traditional Chinese dance techniques at The Art Performance College of Chinese People's Liberation Army in 1995. After completing a five-year Diploma course in 2000, she worked as a full-time dancer at the Battlefront Song and Dance Ensemble of the Political Department of Nanjing Military Region of the Chinese People's Liberation Army for almost five years. During that period, she was sent abroad many times by the State to give touring performances and also participated in numerous performances both within and out of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

During the course of her Dance Diploma studies in NAFA, Xue Xin had performed in the Esplanade Dance Festival - "Aspiration" (2006) and "The Third Space Series" (2007); Chinese Cultural Festival (2006); NAFA graduation shows "Revota" (2006) and "Juxtaposition" (2007), as well as the Tari'07 International Dance Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2007).

## **Leong Jian Hao**

Leong Jian Hao started dancing with Jitterbugs Swingapore as a Lindy Hop dancer before joining the company as a dancer and he subsequently performed in various events such as NAC-Shell outreach programmes. In 2004, he joined NAFA to further his studies in dance and was awarded the NAFA Scholarship for the whole programme. Throughout his studies, he has been privileged to dance exquisite works such as Ah Hock and Peng Yu's (In Place), Mdm Lim Fei Shen's (Ice Nymph) and Ms Gillian Tan's (Loft). All these experiences have been very beneficial to the development of his interest in choreography. He is now majoring in choreography and intends to further his studies in this area after graduation. His work, "In the Ashes" has been chosen to be performed along with the works of Mdm Lim Fei Shen (Cultural Medallion) and Stephanie Tooman (Purchase, USA) at the NAFA dance diploma showcase "Crossings".