

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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Release No: 48/NOV16-0/91/11/22**SPEECH BY MR ONG TENG CHEONG, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR
SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE'S OFFICIAL OPENING OF ITS PREMISES
AT FORT CANNING ON FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 1991 AT 6.45 PM**

This official opening marks another milestone in the progress of the Singapore Dance Theatre. Barely four years ago, the Singapore Dance Theatre started from scratch. It did not have a home of its own and it faced much financial constraint. Thanks to the tremendous support and enthusiasm of its well-wishers, the Singapore Dance Theatre has, in a short time, taken root and started fulfilling its mission.

No doubt, both the administrative staff and dancers are happy with the excellent facilities now available at Fort Canning Centre. The three dance studios and other amenities will serve as an incentive for the dancers to practise harder. The Dance Theatre can embark on more challenging programmes in the years ahead.

I wish to thank the National Arts Council, the National Parks Board and the Public Works Department for their assistance and co-operation in providing the Singapore Dance Theatre this beautiful home.

I also wish to thank the Keppel Group of Companies for having kindly donated four beautiful pieces of dance sculptures. These are the works of Singapore's leading artists. I am sure they will give that extra aesthetic touch to the ambience of the Company's new premises.

The Singapore Dance Theatre has indeed been fortunate to also receive considerable support from a host of national and multi-national companies such as the Shell Group of Companies, Singapore Press Holdings, Singapore Airlines, Hong Fok Corporation and Goodwood Park Hotel. Special thanks go to Hoxan Corporation for its contribution of a generous sum of \$250,000 this evening.

The Singapore Dance Theatre has made good progress over the years. The quality of its dancers has improved significantly, and the number of dancers has grown to 18 from its original seven dancers four years ago. The Company is developing a repertory of new dances which will entail collaboration among artistes in the region. The Singapore Dance Theatre is planning to venture into full-length classical works, such as "The Nutcracker" to enrich its repertoire.

Apart from performing, the Company will continue to work towards creating an appreciation of the dance through its Education Programme. It also runs a Scholarship Scheme designed to enlarge its pool of talented dancers.

As the Singapore Dance Theatre grows, it will not only provide Singaporeans with cultural entertainment but also make its presence felt regionally as well as internationally.
