

Goh Ballet tours China

By Jessica Werb, August 25, 2011



A group of 34 young dancers from the Goh Ballet will leave Monday (August 29) for a two-week tour of China that will see them visit Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Hangzhou, Suzhou, and Beijing.

The dancers, aged 14 to 21, were specially selected to take part in the tour, which came at the invitation of the Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, a governmental organization in the People's Republic of China, said Goh Ballet Academy director **Chan Hon Goh**.

"It's a very rare invitation," said Goh, who noted students had toured China once before, in 2009. "This time we're going to cities that we've never visited before, with the exception of Beijing. All the other cities are new to us, and we've been told that in these cities we're at their newly built performing-arts centres. So it will be quite enriching, I think, to see their cultural development."

Goh, a former principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, said the trip will serve as an important stepping stone in the young dancers' careers: "What they take from this tour will be so invaluable, aiding their career paths and, I think, enriching them as young people. You know, like the experience of getting to know different audiences, different cities, and travelling to such a faraway place."

Goh said seven staff members will accompany the students, including two chaperones. The dancers will give five performances of works, including *Les Sylphides*, excerpts from full-length ballets *Yellow River*, *Murals*, and *Talisman*, and a commissioned work by local dancer-choreographer **Meredith Kalaman**, *Compositions in Rouge*. In addition, the performers have learned the traditional Chinese fan dance, which they will do as a surprise for their audiences.

The public will be able to follow news of the tour on [Facebook](#) (Goh Ballet) and on [Twitter](#)

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