

**For Immediate Release**

**Singapore’s Multi-Ethnic Dances Come on Stage for New Stamp Issue**



Complete set of stamps



Pre-cancelled First Day Cover

**Singapore, 15 May 2007** – Singapore’s multi-ethnic society showcases a rich kaleidoscope of cultural dances – Chinese, Indian, Eurasian and Western, and Malay – which are vividly captured on this new stamp issue.

This set of four stamps come in 1<sup>st</sup> Local (25¢), 2<sup>nd</sup> Local (31¢), \$1.10 and \$2 denominations, a potpourri of cultural rhythms and styles that is truly a feast for the senses. The splashes of brilliant colour motifs on the stamps express the flow and energy of the dancers, and at the same time, the harmonious blend of these ethnic groups’ diverse cultures and artistry.

Its designer Mr Tze Ngan, 28, has also designed other local stamp issues such as the 117<sup>th</sup> International Olympic Committee Session in Singapore in 2005 and Vanishing Trades in 2006. On his ideas and inspirations for the stamp design, he said, “In my opinion, the beauty of a dance is derived from the combination of rhythm, culture, facial expression, body language and hand gestures. It is the expression of the soul through dance that I wanted to convey with this design.” According to him, dominant brush and coloured ink techniques were used in his illustrations to express a fluid sense of artistry and freedom that is demonstrated in each dance while the dancers’ facial expressions and body language are captured at their most genuine state.

The Chinese dances which are featured on the 1<sup>st</sup> Local stamp were originally steeped in folk tradition – performed at communities and celebrations. With the flowering of arts and culture in the Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD) and Tang Dynasty (618–907), more Chinese dance forms were created, especially for imperial court entertainment.

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An expressive Indian classical dancer takes centre stage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Local stamp. In Indian culture, dance is a form of worship and an expression of human emotions. They often include other art elements like Indian mythology, literature, music and poetry and dancers usually enact stories through a series of facial expressions, elaborate body movements, hand symbols and postures.

Spinning to the rhythm on the \$1.10 stamp were different forms of Eurasian and Western dances. Being a former British colony, Ballet and western dances like the Waltz and Tango are in integral part of Singapore's culture, while the local Eurasian community's dances are a unique mixture of Portuguese and Malay folk dances such as the Branyo.

Finally, the \$2 stamp shows the graceful and rhythmic Malay dances among which the most popular ones are the Ronggeng and the Joget. The traditional folk dances were usually performed in villages for joyful occasions such as weddings and engagements, while the ethnic-tribe dances were related to rituals such as the harvest festival.

The complete set of stamps, first day cover and presentation pack will be on sale from 16 May 2007 at all post offices. All the stamp products of this issue can also be ordered at our online shopping portal *vPOST*, <http://shop.vpost.com.sg>.

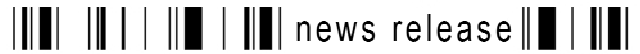
#### Information and enquiries

For more information on these new stamps, please call the Singapore Philatelic Bureau at telephone numbers 1800 741 4111 (toll-free within Singapore) or 6845 6756 during office hours or visit <http://www.singpost.com> or email us at [sinstamp@singpost.com](mailto:sinstamp@singpost.com).

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## ANNEX

### FACT SHEET

#### Items on Sale

| <b>Items</b>                                                         | <b>Price (inclusive of 5% GST)</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Complete set of stamps                                               | S\$3.66                            |
| Pre-cancelled First Day Cover<br>affixed with complete set of stamps | S\$4.45                            |
| Presentation Pack                                                    | S\$5.40                            |

#### Technical Details

|                   |                                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue:    | 16 May 2007                                                     |
| Denominations:    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Local & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Local, S\$1.10 and S\$2 |
| Stamp size:       | 50mm x 30mm                                                     |
| Perforation:      | 14 x 14                                                         |
| Paper:            | Unwatermarked                                                   |
| Printing Process: | Offset Lithography                                              |
| Printer:          | Southern Colour Print                                           |
| Sheet Content:    | 50 stamps per sheet                                             |
| Designer:         | Tze Ngan                                                        |