So long, farewell

Veteran arts managers Ng Siew Eng and Lena St George-Sweet are changing jobs

Hong Xinyi

Although it appears difficult to replace the experience of Ms Ng Siew Eng (above) and Ms Lena St George-Sweet (left), neither of them feel they are indispensable.

These two ladies have made huge headways for the arts scene!

TheatreWorks Artistic Director Tay Tong

Together, the perception that dance was inaccessible, she launched Ballet Under The Stars in 1995. The annual ballet performance at Fort Canning Park has helped to promote and develop talent in the dance field. During her management, SDT has also expanded considerably and toured extensively in the United States, Europe and the Asia Pacific region.

SDT chairman Mr Tock Wing Cheong described her as "probably the most experienced and accomplished arts manager before and perhaps even Sir Andrew Davis SGD, who has a master's degree in English language from the National University of Singapore. Ms Ng, who has a master's degree in English language from Australia's Monash University, joined SDT in 1985 after working in the United States, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. SDT's operations manager Mr Tock Wing Cheong said: "Ms Ng has been an emotional driver of the group for the last 15 years."

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But Ms St George-Sweet is not worried. She said she had no formal training in arts management, while "young people nowadays are armed with all kinds of qualifications."

Similarly, Ms Ng said: "I believe that things will sort themselves out." However, she continued to bemoan "the stresses" about her new job. "People expect a lot from me, so there is that pressure."