

Bookends

Magdalen Ng

Professional dancer Nonoko Tanaka has not been home for three months.

Since September, the 22-year-old joined the Singapore Dance Theatre as a full-time member and is busy practising for Swan Lake, which is being staged at the Esplanade Theatre.

"I'll be going home for a while after Swan Lake and I'm really looking forward to it," says Tanaka, who is from Kagoshima Prefecture at the south-western tip of Kyushu island.

She started dancing at the age of three and trained at England's The Hammond School and the Dutch National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam.

The petite ballerina also enjoys watching movies and will watch one or two movies every weekend. "I particularly like The Last Samurai for its plot."

What are you reading now?

Addicted To Ballet by Tamiyo Kusakari, a Japanese dancer for the Maki Asami Ballet Company in Tokyo.

This book is about her life and how she started her dance career. She's really a beautiful dancer and I have come to respect her a lot.

Another Japanese book that I just read is One Person, Don't Be Afraid. I can't remember who the author is.

This book is about staying alive in this society especially when one is alone in a different place far away from home. It is never easy to adapt and I am

reading it because it makes me stronger when I think about my family in Japan.



PHOTO: SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

If your house were burning down, which book would you save?

I will definitely save 1Q84 (left) by Haruki Murakami because he is my favourite author.