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Rosa Park, a mother of one-year-old twins, is the latest addition to the Singapore Dance Theatre. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

## Korean is Swan Lake lead

**tara tan**

Ballerina Rosa Park, 29, first fell in love with dance when she saw a performance of Swan Lake as an 11-year-old.

So it is apt that the Korean dancer will make her major Singapore debut as Odette in Singapore Dance Theatre's (SDT) Swan Lake this month.

Park, a former dancer with the Korean National Ballet Company, moved to Singapore last year with her husband, who works in a bank. She joined SDT in July.

She says: "Ballet has so many stories but I love Swan Lake the most because of its dramatic emotions and plot twists."

To be staged at the Esplanade Theatre from Dec 17 to 20, the classic ballet by Tchaikovsky is about a princess who is turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer.

She turns back into human form at night and the spell can be broken only by true love. A prince chances upon the prin-

cess one night and falls in love with her. But by some trickery, he ends up professing his love to the sorcerer's daughter, Odile, instead.

Looking at her slender frame, you would never have thought that she is the proud mother of a set of one-year-old twins.

"I have never taken a break from ballet since I was 11. When I quit the company to move to Singapore, I was actually quite relieved. I had a totally different life and experienced new things," she says.

But her passion for dance never died and she kept seeing posters for the SDT around town, which triggered her desire to get back on stage.

Landing the plum role for Swan Lake

was an unexpected surprise.

She had initially joined the adult classes which SDT organises and auditioned to join the company after being persuaded by one of the dancers.

She was an understudy to Chihiro Uchida when the latter fell ill. Park then rose to the occasion to fill the role.

"I am so happy but I am also feeling quite stressed," she says with a laugh.

"There are so many more opportunities in Singapore than in Korea, where the dance companies are very big and it can be quite difficult to get the attention of the director or ballet master."

"Here, dancers can discuss or talk about things quite openly with the directors. It is a very intimate community, almost like family."

**book it**

### SWAN LAKE

**Where:** Esplanade Theatre  
**When:** Dec 17 to 20, 8pm  
**Admission:** \$50 to \$110 from Sistic (log on to [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg) or call 6348-5555)