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Media Contact: Kathryn Eustis, 209-559-5988

Studio 4 Dance Theater's Spring Showcase Spotlights Talented Local Choreographers

(Angels Camp) – There's more to our local Studio 4 Dance Theater than "The Nutcracker."

Artistic Director Tammie Lee has developed the holiday ballet classic into an area attraction over the past eight years, and nurtured a highly skilled corps of classical and contemporary dancers. But she's also cultivated a remarkable group of ambitious young choreographers. Studio 4 Dance Theater's annual Spring Showcase is a mix of ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance that gives Lee's students a chance to both spread their wings and strut their stuff. The Spring Showcase 2014 is coming up May 2-3 at Bret Harte Theater in Angels Camp.

The first act of this year's production is "Peter and the Wolf," Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev's 1936 narrated ballet children's story. The second act is jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance, featuring two dynamic new full-company dances created by Tammie Lee and showcasing the works of several other Studio 4 Dance Theater choreographers.

One of those choreographers is Elise Williams of Arnold, 26, who is creating a hip-hop dance to the song "Dead Silence" by Slicey. This is Elise's fourth year teaching at Studio 4 School of Dance and choreographing for the S4DT Spring Showcase. Her previous works include "So What/4 Minutes" in 2011 when she also co-choreographed "She's No Good"; "Cinema" and "Good Feeling" in 2012; and "Thrift Shop" in 2013.

"Working at S4SD is amazing and I am so grateful to have found a dance family with Tammie Lee and Studio 4 School of Dance," said Elise. "Teaching choreography to my students is very fulfilling and energizing, and I love seeing the students progress as hip hop dancers. Our spring showcase is such a rewarding experience and I can't wait to see all the dancers perform."

"Elise has grown so much a choreographer; she comes with new and fresh ideas every year that are sure to excite the audience," said Tammie Lee. "I am so proud of Elise and her growth as a dancer and choreographer and privileged that she is a part of our family at Studio 4 School of Dance and Studio 4 Dance Theater. We look forward to many more wonderful works created by Elise Williams."

Studio 4 Dance Theater's Spring Showcase 2014 will be presented 7pm, Friday, May 2, and 3pm, Saturday, May 3, 2014, at the Bret Harte Theater in Angels Camp. Tickets to the Spring Showcase 2014 are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Tickets are general admission and are available at **Angels Sewer & Drain**, 4467 Hwy 4, Vallecito, 8:30-4:00 M-F and **Studio 4 School of Dance**, 4868 Hwy 4, Vallecito, 11:00-2:00 on Saturdays, or **at the box office** one hour before each show, cash or check only. For further information, the public may contact Tammie Lee at 209-728-5347.

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