

For Immediate Release: April 19, 2014

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### **Studio 4 Dance Theater's Spring Showcase Nurtures Local Talent**

(Angels Camp) – Wonderful as it is, “The Nutcracker” just isn’t for everyone.

Elizabeth Ernst of Vallecito has been dancing with Studio 4 Dance Theater for the past three years, yet she’s never appeared in their most prominent production. That’s because Elizabeth isn’t a ballerina; she’s a hip-hop dancer and choreographer, and she’s about to premiere another new work in Studio 4 Dance Theater’s upcoming Spring Showcase.

The Spring Showcase is a mix of ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance that offers Studio 4 School of Dance students the opportunity to spread their wings a bit. 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.

Elizabeth Ernst, 16, is one of those choreographers and is creating a hip-hop dance to the song “How I Feel” as well as a solo dance. Elizabeth has taught hip hop at Studio 4 School of Dance for over a year and helped choreograph last year’s Frog Jump Parade dance. She first showcased her choreography in last year’s Spring Showcase with Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ “Can’t Hold Us.”

“In her first dance for our company, Elizabeth blew audiences off their seats with her high energy choreography,” said Artistic Director Tammie Lee. “We are honored to have Elizabeth as a choreographer and I’m so pleased with her progress as both a choreographer and a dancer. She has an exciting career ahead of her.”

“Ever since I could walk I've been dancing - it's where I can express myself and be whoever I want,” said Elizabeth. “Having this opportunity to create and choreograph new dances has been such a wonderful experience. Tammie has opened up so many new worlds to me, and I can't wait to explore them! Studio 4 School of Dance is an incredible community where dancers of all walks of life and different styles can come together and encourage one another. I'm so grateful to be able to learn all that I can with Tammie Lee at our great studio!”

The Spring Showcase 2014 will also feature dances choreographed by veteran hip hop choreographer Elise Williams and first-timers Sydney Klann, Brianna Gilbert, Ruby Eustis-Smith, Fiona Swift, Michaela Jarnagin and Madison Pelland.

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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