

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2015  
Media Contact: Kathryn Eustis, 209-559-5988

## **Don't Miss Studio 4 Dance Theater's Spring Showcase, May 1-2, 2015 in Angels Camp**

### *A Fusion of Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop and Ballet*

(Angels Camp) –Studio 4 Dance Theater's Spring Showcase 2015 promises to be the most exciting and ambitious yet, with dances ranging from contemporary ballet to hip hop. The Spring Showcase has only two performances: 7pm, Friday, May 1, and 3pm, Saturday, May 2, 2015, at the Bret Harte Theater in Angels Camp, and is appropriate for all ages. Tickets to the Spring Showcase 2015 are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under, available at [www.studio4dancetheater.com](http://www.studio4dancetheater.com) or by calling 1-800-595-4849, 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.

Studio 4 Dance Theater's spring performance features all new dances in an eclectic mix of ballet, jazz, hip hop and contemporary dance. "Part of our mission at Studio 4 Dance Theater is to educate both our dancers and our audience, and the Spring Showcase allows us to do that," said Artistic Director Tammie Lee. "While the music may be familiar, the dances will be a new experience for all of us. I am very proud of that."

The first act each year is a ballet performance by the company. For 2015, Tammie Lee is challenging her dancers with an original contemporary ballet interpretation of "Pictures at an Exhibition," Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky's well known tribute to artist and architect Viktor Hartmann, a friend of his who died suddenly at age 39 from an aneurysm. A prolific and intense artist, Hartmann's death rocked the Russian art world in 1873, and he was memorialized in a 400-work exhibition in 1874. The exhibition so inspired Mussorgsky that he composed "Pictures at an Exhibition" in just six weeks. "Pictures" was not intended as a ballet, but it has been interpreted by several choreographers before Tammie Lee -- most recently by Alexei Ratmansky for the New York City Ballet in October 2014. The music and the dances are dark and mysterious, passionate and intense.

The second act is a showcase of ten new works by both new and seasoned choreographers from Studio 4 School of Dance and Studio 4 Dance Theater. Dances range from ballet to lyrical to jazz to tap to hip hop, with an equally wide variety of music, eye-catching costumes and creative lighting designs. Three new choreographers will be presenting their first works for an audience: Molly Johnson has created an ensemble pointe piece, Daniel Ernst is doing a contemporary solo,

and Leah Cottrell is performing a solo tap number. Returning choreographers Elizabeth Ernst and Elise Williams are creating hip hop dances, Brianna Gilbert is doing a contemporary piece and Ruby Eustis-Smith is presenting a lyrical dance. Candace Collum is returning this year as both a choreographer and a dancer, and is creating a contemporary number for the company. The finale will be “Sing, Sing, Sing,” developed by Tammie Lee based on the original choreography by Bob Fosse.

The Spring Showcase has grown in complexity and ambition each year, as Studio 4 School of Dance Director Tammie Lee’s dancers and choreographers continue to mature and evolve. Students from Studio 4 School of Dance have been invited to pursue their dance careers at Juline Regional Youth Ballet, American Ballet Theater Summer Intensive Program, Ballet San Jose, Contra Costa Ballet, and San Jose State.

###