



Contact: Ashley Paige Romines  
School Director  
Tel. 417.862.1343  
Email: [apromines@springfieldballet.org](mailto:apromines@springfieldballet.org)  
[www.springfieldballet.org](http://www.springfieldballet.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Springfield Ballet Dancer Recruited by Charlotte Ballet** ***15 year old dancer packs up her pointe shoes for the East Coast***

*Springfield, Missouri – August 27, 2014 – **Springfield Ballet is proud to announce that student Ashlan Grace Zay has been offered a merit scholarship to dance year-round with Charlotte Ballet’s Pre-Professional Division as a Conservatory student in Charlotte, North Carolina.*** Zay, a 15 year old sophomore in the International Baccalaureate program at Central High School, has danced for more than a decade. Most recently, she was seen dancing the principal role in Springfield Ballet’s *Cinderella*, performed last May at the Landers Theatre. Local audiences may also remember seeing Zay perform as Clara in Springfield Ballet’s 2011 and 2012 productions of *The Nutcracker*, as well as White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Act III. Zay was awarded a merit scholarship to, and attended, Charlotte Ballet’s (formerly North Carolina Dance Theatre) 5-week summer intensive this year.

***“While I am excited to embark on this new adventure, leaving Springfield Ballet has a bittersweet feeling. I would never have had this opportunity without the experience I have had at Springfield Ballet. I thank everyone here for their continued support as I proceed into this new chapter of my life,”*** said Zay.

Founded in 1970 and currently directed by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride (former principal dancers of New York City Ballet), Charlotte Ballet has received national critical recognition for excellence in programming, education and outreach, and dance training. Charlotte Ballet’s mission is to provide artistically excellent programming to diverse audiences in its home city of Charlotte, the Southeast region, and to the varied communities it serves while on tour across the nation. The company is a Charlotte-based, world class repertory dance ensemble. It performs classic, contemporary and cutting-edge dance with virtuosity, energy, and artistic excellence for local, statewide and national audiences.

**For more information** or to arrange an interview, contact School Director, Ashley Paige Romines, at (417) 862-1343 or [apromines@springfieldballet.org](mailto:apromines@springfieldballet.org).

*Springfield Ballet, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the art of ballet through premier education, performance, outreach and collaboration.*

###