



4005 Lee Vance View, Suite 100, Colorado Springs, CO • 80918 • (719) 272-7078 • [info@danceinthesprings.com](mailto:info@danceinthesprings.com) • [www.coclassicalyouthballet.com](http://www.coclassicalyouthballet.com)

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Skolnik, Marketing Consultant  
719-666-9373; [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com)

### **Ballet Society Students excel at local and regional competitions: Receive more awards than any other studio**

The **Ballet Society of Colorado Springs** is proud to announce the names of eight dancers who recently won awards in Colorado ballet competitions held in 2009. At the *Esther Geoffrey Dance Scholarship Competition* held this past Feb. by the **Colorado Springs Dance Theatre**, Ballet Society students received three of the available five awards. At the **Denver Ballet Guild's Young Dancer's Competition** earlier in March, Ballet Society students received eight of the available 37 awards.

"I always make sure our dancers know they are winners already because of what they have done to prepare," said Patricia Hoffmann, Founder and co-Artistic Director of Ballet Society and its pre-professional performing company **Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet**. "Even still, it is still rewarding to see how well they fared in a competitive environment. After all, many of our dancers will be seeking to continue their careers in college, university and professional company settings. Being able to perform in a competitive setting then becomes crucial to their success."

"We're proud of them," said co-Artistic Director Holly Marble. "This is valuable reinforcement for our winners as well as for all of our students. It helps them see that the hard work and commitment we ask for really does make a difference."

**Joshua Allenback**, age 16, resides in Pueblo and has been dancing for one and one-half years with Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. He was awarded a \$250 scholarship from the Esther Geoffrey Competition and a \$1500 scholarship from Denver Ballet Guild, where he earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in *Senior Men's Division*. Josh will be attending the *Joffrey Summer Intensive* in New York City for eight weeks on scholarship this coming summer.

**Julianna Bicki**, age 17, is from Monument/ Palmer Lake and has been studying for three years with Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. She received a \$500 scholarship from the Esther Geoffrey Competition and a \$500 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as the 5<sup>th</sup> place winner in the *Senior Women's Division*. Juliana is in the process of auditioning for a position in a professional dance company for the 2009-2010 season.

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**Charlotte Coltrin**, age 13, is a Homeschooled student from the Colorado Springs Wolf Ranch area. She has been dancing for 6 years with Ballet Society and 5 years with the Youth Ballet. She earned a \$200 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as one of 10 finalists in the *Junior Girls' Division*.

**Tyler Gum**, age 18, hails from Falcon and is a freshman on scholarship at the **University of Arizona**. Tyler has danced for one year with Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet with whom he continues to perform. He still receives coaching from Patricia Hoffman. Tyler was awarded a \$2000 scholarship from Denver Ballet Guild as 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher in the *Senior Men's Division*. He also is the *Youth America Grand Prix* winner in the semifinalist competition in Denver by placing 1<sup>st</sup> in Classical Ballet and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Contemporary Dance in the *Senior Men's Division*. Tyler will travel to New York City at the end of April to compete as a finalist in the YAGP national competition. This summer, Tyler will be attending the *Joffrey Summer Intensive* in NYC for 3 weeks and *Pacific Northwest Ballet Summer Intensive* for 5 weeks, both on full scholarship.

**Paige Hupy**, age 17, resides in northeastern Colorado Springs and is a junior at **Air Academy High School**. She has had three years at Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. Paige received a \$100 scholarship from the Esther Geoffrey Competition and a \$250 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as one of 10 finalists in the *Senior Women's Division*. She will be attending *Julliard Summer Dance Intensive* in NYC this summer.

**Hillary MacPhee**, age 17, resides in Stetson Hills and is a Homeschooled student dancing for seven and one half years with Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. She received a \$250 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as one of 10 finalists in the *Senior Women's Division*.

**Mariah Plutt**, age 15, attends **Timberview Middle School** and has been with Ballet Society and 4 years with the Youth Ballet for four years. She received a \$200 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as one of 10 finalists in the Junior Girls' Division.

**Amanda Townley**, age 13, lives in Woodland Park and has been with the Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet for one year. She received a \$200 scholarship from the Denver Ballet Guild as one of 10 finalists in the *Junior Girls' Division*.

Ballet Society of Colorado Springs, founded in 1997, has a mission of training young dancers with a focus on excellence, health, and integrity. Ballet Society offers extensive training in classical ballet, as well as programs in contemporary dance, tap, worship dance and Pilates for children and adults. The studio launched Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet Company in September of 2003. This group of 50 young dancers, who study and rehearse year-round, presents classical and contemporary ballet to audiences throughout Colorado Springs. They have been featured in two ballet presentations with the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic** this season: Suites from the *Firebird* and *Coppelia* this past Oct. and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Jan. The company will offer a full-length *Coppelia* on Saturday, May 16 at 3 pm and 7 pm in the *Rampart High School Theatre*. Company and studio information and a full schedule of upcoming performances are available by calling (719) 272-7078 or online at [www.danceinthesprings.com](http://www.danceinthesprings.com) and [www.coclassicalyouthballet.com](http://www.coclassicalyouthballet.com).