

Gainesville Ballet
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GAINESVILLE BALLET COMPANY GRANTED NON-PROFIT STATUS

GAINESVILLE, Va. – The Managing Director of Gainesville Ballet Company and School is pleased to announce the professional ballet company formed in April of 2013 was granted federal non-profit status under the classification of a public charity on August 12, 2014. Under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, a qualified organization operates under tax-exempt status in accordance with governing law. Gainesville Ballet Company is an international arts organization based



in Northern Virginia, with a values-based philosophy grounded in the broader principles of local, regional and global responsibility. Gainesville Ballet School is the for-profit educational branch of the arts organization, and was recognized by the Prince William County Arts Council as *Outstanding Arts Organization* during the 2012 Seefeldt Awards for Arts Excellence.

With the founding of Gainesville Ballet School in 2005, the upcoming 2014-15 season marks the 10th anniversary of the Virginia arts institution. Professional performers Shady Aly Mohamed, Stephanie Parkinson, Onica Patalive Hobbs, Tiffani Thomas, and Mallory Miller will come together with local youth in Gainesville, Virginia under the leadership of Artistic Director and Principal Dancer, Rafik Hegab, and Managing Director, Elysabeth Muscat. These members will form the core upon which the new season is built with the annual tradition of a *Nutcracker Tea with Clara*, outreach performances, adaptive dance, master classes, in-house demonstrations, and three mainstage productions at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. The programming will feature *The Nutcracker* with two shows on Thanksgiving weekend, *Carmina Burana* in March, and a spring show in June. Professional guest artists will enrich the strong foundation of talent, with a growing circle of dancers to include Carolina Boscan, Nour Eldesouki, Alexandru Glusacov, Evgenia Singur, Melissa Zoebisch, Aly Mahmoud, Valeriia Ivlieva, and New York City Ballet principal dancers, Teresa Reichlen and Ask la Cour.

Gainesville Ballet Company - *Swan Lake, Act II, May 2013: Artistic Director Rafik Hegab (Siegfried), international guest star Evgenia Singur (Odette) and youth dancers from Gainesville Ballet School: Caroline Beard and Abigail Mumma (Small Swans)*

This Fall, the award-winning arts organization will launch a dedicated program for children with special needs to build access to the arts as a rich medium for communication and expression. The leadership donates free performance tickets to those who have served in the American military through the Veteran Tickets Foundation, and helped fund equine-assisted therapy in Haymarket, Virginia for wounded veterans from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Gainesville Ballet is a proud member of the Prince William County Arts Council, and performed at Arts Alive! 2014 as the opening act in Merchant Hall at the Hylton Center for the fourth annual community arts festival. Elysabeth Muscat was elected to serve on the board of directors for the arts council in 2014 for a two-year term. To learn more about Gainesville Ballet, visit www.gainesvilleballetcompany.org.

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