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CHRISTINA SALERNO RECENTLY NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SALT CREEK BALLET

WESTMONT, IL – Having received her formative ballet training and performing experience with Salt Creek Ballet as a young pupil, Christina Salerno has an extensive knowledge of the company and was thrilled to recently be named as Executive Director. Previously, Ms. Salerno served as Director of Development and Communications at Salt Creek.

Raised in Westmont, IL, Ms. Salerno graduated high school in three years, in the top two percent of her class, in order to focus more intensely on her ballet training. She completed her ballet training as a scholarship student at San Francisco Ballet School.

After graduating from San Francisco Ballet School, Ms. Salerno took a position with Boston Ballet II under the directorship of Laura Young. Bruce Marks invited her to join the full company the following year. Ms. Salerno danced eight seasons with Boston Ballet, rising to the rank of Soloist. Ms. Salerno left Boston Ballet to pursue a dance career in Europe, initially joining Zurich Ballet as a Soloist. Ms. Salerno was then invited by Monica Mason to join Royal Ballet in London, where she spent five years as a Soloist, performing principal and soloist roles in *La Bayadere*, *Les Patineurs* (Ashton), *Danses Concertantes* (MacMillan), *Cinderella* (Ashton), *Symphonic Variations* (Ashton), *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Apollo* (Balanchine), among others. While in London, Ms. Salerno had the opportunity to work with dance luminaries including Natalia Makarova, Antoinette Sibley, Anthony Dowell, David Howard and Mikhail Messerer. She was also featured in the world premiere of Wayne MacGregor's *Qualia*.

Ms. Salerno has toured the world extensively, performing on the Bolshoi stage in Moscow, the Maryinski in St. Petersburg and other opera houses and theatres in Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Mexico, the United States, France, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

Ms. Salerno has also taught ballet technique classes in and around Boston, teaching nine year olds through adults, at the Boston Ballet School and the Young Dancer Summer Workshop of Boston Ballet. She taught for two summers at Nina Alonso Hathaway's Fresh Pond Ballet in Cambridge, MA. While in England, Ms. Salerno taught at the Sadler's Wells Summer School in London, England with other professional dancers of the Royal Ballet.

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Ms. Salerno completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in Nonprofit Administration from Skidmore College in 2006. She has appeared as a guest lecturer for Loyola University's Dance Department and was hired as Director of Development and Communications for Salt Creek Ballet in 2008 and promoted to Executive Director in 2009. Her roles with Salt Creek Ballet include developing a fundraising plan, working with donors, supporters and volunteers, grant writing, venue contracting, substitute teaching and developing a new website for the company. Ms. Salerno has also initiated various community outreach programs, including a joint collaboration with Community Unit School District 201, Westmont entitled Literacy through Dance. The six week dance program for second graders was funded, in part, by a grant written by Ms. Salerno.

Salt Creek Ballet was established in 1985 to present professional quality dance programming to west-suburban audiences, provide high-level performance opportunities for area dancers, and encourage appreciation and awareness of dance in an underserved area. For more information, visit www.saltcreekballet.org.

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