

# Callie Ste. Marie. Star In The Making

BY AGENT ERIN HOLDEN

Callie Ste. Marie may be only 14 years old, but she already knows that stage performance is the life for her. The Ascension Episcopal School student is especially interested in musicals and has been singing since she was three.

At age eight, Callie performed in the Christian Youth Theater production of "The Wizard of Oz." She played a munchkin, and recalls that she "was too nervous to audition at first, so I got a little, tiny part, but it was okay. I started auditioning more and getting bigger roles."

Most recently, Callie performed in the Ascension production of "The Phantom of the Opera." Along with being Carlotta's understudy, she played a hairdresser and an attendant. "It was so much fun!" she said.

"The hairdresser – that was a really fun part to play. I loved doing the hair and makeup. That was my favorite role of all time." Some of Callie's other roles include Mama Ogre and a storyteller in "Shrek the Musical," an ancestor in "The Adams Family," and a singing role in a Christmas play.

Callie and her younger sister, Chloe, took lessons with Dolly Hawthorne, who passed away recently. "She taught us everything we know," says Callie. "Also, we now go to Ms. Valerie Keiter and she is teaching us really well too."

Finding a balance between going to school and her performances can be a difficult challenge. Callie had five performances in one weekend for "The Phantom of the Opera." Sometimes the rehearsals even go on until 11 p.m. "It was really tough," she recalled, "but we made it through. It went well. There is a lot of stress and crying, but I usually have periods of time during practice that I can do work and focus on my studies."

Ideally, Callie would like to have a leading role in a play or musical, and she hopes to get involved with CYT again next year. Her advice to any first-time actors is this: "Don't be nervous. They aren't watching you to see you fail. They're watching you to see you succeed."

