

Photo Release

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Summit Christian Academy Students Soars onto Big Screen

(Lee's Summit, MO) – A casual look at Aliya Finch, a 5th grade student at Summit Christian Academy, suggests that she is like all little girls her age. And while her painted toes, stylish sandals, and coordinated outfit reveal her flare for fashion, they do not hint at her industriousness, tenacity, creativity, or her heart. Aliya's sweet, unassuming presence disarms and attracts, and those who meet her are easily taken with her.

Ask Aliya what she enjoys doing, and she would say that dancing and acting are high on her list. In fact with a little prodding, she might share about how she has shone in both arenas. Aliya, a dance student at Wynn Twins School of Dance in Raytown, won 3rd place for Best Solo Performance in Jazz for the Primary Division at the 2013 Dance America National Competition in Chicago. But more impressive is her acting debut in *Unlimited*, a major motion picture that is inspired by the life of Aliya's grandfather, Dr. Harold Finch. Dr. Finch was also executive producer of the film, which stars veteran screen actor and former Senator Fred Thompson as Dr. Finch.

"The movie is about God's unlimited power, that we shouldn't give up on Him," commented Aliya. "It is a Christian movie, about Grandpa—a little," she said.

Dr. Finch, a previous member of the SCA Board of Education and superstar in his own right, grew up during the Great Depression. However, his life challenges did not thwart the significant contributions that he has made in several arenas, including science and business. Dr. Finch believes that "God gives individuals challenges and each his own dreams. Each (person) has his own story to tell." He said, "We have seen miracles that only God could do" as production of the movie was underway.

Unlimited loosely parallels Dr. Finch's life and tells the story of a young man who makes an incredible scientific discovery and finds himself in a very unusual circumstance. Dr. Finch suggested that this movie and his life come into focus through Matthew 19:26: "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." *Unlimited* is an appealing story that creatively balances drama and action, with very limited violence. Dr. Finch said, "This is God's message, really. It is purposeful, to draw the lost and to create discussion." Tickets are available to see the movie and can be used as an evangelistic tool for churches and groups. *Unlimited* premieres October 11, 2013 and can be viewed at AMC theaters around the metro area. SCA has tickets for sale for the Friday and Saturday matinee. Contact the Development Department at (816) 525.1480.

Although Aliya is Dr. Finch's granddaughter, she was afforded no favors in landing her role. Because she wanted to be in *Unlimited*, Aliya took the initiative and auditioned for the part of the lead orphan in the film. She competed with several other girls, but established herself as the top choice with the independent casting director. Aliya also impressed the film's director, Nathan Frankowski, who said, "Her stage presence, confidence, and facial expressions really set her apart." Fred Thompson added, "To see Aliya, who has the largest nonspeaking part in the film, it was hard not to tear up." Mark Finch, Aliya's dad, partly credits her theatrical talent to her training in dance. He suggested that Aliya's ability to sit through the long hours of taping while maintaining an engaged and attentive posture came from her personal work ethic and determination.

"It was cool to be on the set with other actors and actresses," said Aliya. "I had fun and I want to do more Christian movies that tell about God. It is really inspiring for others," commented Aliya. Her role in *Unlimited* has garnered for Aliya several leads for other opportunities to work in the field.

We are so proud of Aliya and Dr. Finch for their accomplishments in *Unlimited* and congratulate them for this wonderful testament to the Lord's unlimited power. We are excited about the film's release and look forward to all that the Lord will do through this project to glorify Himself.

Summit Christian Academy (SCA) is an independent, nondenominational Christian school serving over 685 preschool through high school students. Established in 1989, SCA is located on a 36-acre campus and holds dual accreditation through North Central Association and Association of Christian Schools International.

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