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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 14, 2008

CATCO To Produce Jeff Daniels' *Escanaba In Love* Oct. 15-Nov. 9

Hilarious prequel to the best-seller Escanaba In Da Moonlight

Love, laughter and moonshine are brewing this fall at the Soady family deer camp, deep in the woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (da U.P.)! It's 1944, and the Soady men-folk have all gathered to give 18-year-old Albert Soady a great send-off before he joins the fight against Adolf Hitler.

But sparks fly when young Albert breaks the "no-girls-allowed" reverie of the hunting camp by bringing his new bride to meet the family (surprise, surprise!). "Big Betty" Balou is her name – Albert "won" her in a kissing contest at a bar! Holy wha, the Soady family deer camp will never be the same! Come back for a return visit to Escanaba, Michigan, where deer season is always "like Christmas with guns" and where this fall love is a-brewin!

This hilarious prequel to one of CATCO's all-time best-sellers, *Escanaba In Da Moonlight*, presented in 2003, is written by playwright and actor Jeff Daniels, the star of *Terms of Endearment*, *Speed*, *Dumb and Dumber* and *Gettysburg*. Daniels also is the founder of the Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea, Mich. *Escanaba In Love* will open CATCO's 25th anniversary season Oct. 15-Nov. 9, 2008, at the Vern Riffe Center, Studio One Theatre, 77 S. High St.

The *Escanaba In Love* cast includes Mark Mann (Albert Soady Sr.), Jon Farris (Alphonse Soady), Brian David Evans ("Salty" Jim Negamane), Jake Jones (Albert Soady Jr.) and Ashlee Mundy (Big Betty Balou). Mann, who appeared in *Escanaba In Da Moonlight* at CATCO as Jimmer Negamane, has performed in numerous other CATCO productions including *Uncle Vanya*, *Proof*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Shorts Festival 2004*. He is joined by Farris, who also has performed numerous times at CATCO, including roles in *Taking Sides*, *Sleuth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *You're My Boy*, *Tuna Christmas* and *Greater Tuna*.

Newcomers to the CATCO stage are Evans, who teaches theatre at Ohio University and has performed at South Coast Repertory, Porthouse Theatre and the Colorado, Illinois and California Shakespeare festivals; Jones, a recent graduate of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, where he appeared in *The Elephant Man* and *Heroes*; and Mundy a theatre student at The Ohio Student University, whose favorite roles include Alice in *Closer*, Cassandra in *Trojan Women 2.0*, and Sooze in *Suburbia*.

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Jon Putnam, CATCO's Associate Artistic Director, who also directed *Escanaba In Da Moonlight* in 2003, will direct *Escanaba In Love*. Putnam, who has acted in or directed dozens of shows at CATCO since 1986, directed *The Drawer Boy* and *The Foursome* last season. Other directing credits include *Bad Dates* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.

CATCO's 2008-09, 25th anniversary season is being sponsored by support from the Fred B. and Mabel Dean Hill and Eileen M. and Josiah Brooks Heckert Funds of the Columbus Foundation, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Nationwide Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council, which funds CATCO with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The season's media sponsor is Time Warner Cable. CATCO's sponsor for \$11@11 performances is Chase Bank. The encore sponsor for *Escanaba In Love* AEP; applause sponsor is Jones Day.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *Escanaba In Love*: Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 11 a.m. and Thursday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$32.50 for the main level (rows A-M) and \$20.50 for the balcony for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for the main level (rows A-M) and \$25 for the balcony, and include admission to a post-performance party in the theatre lobby.

\$11@11 Matinees

For *Escanaba In Love*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: the first preview Wednesday, Oct. 15, and Oct. 22 and 29. CATCO's \$11 @ 11 is an offering for theatre-goers who want to see a play mid-week (Wednesday) and mid-day (11 a.m.) at a great price (\$11 plus a 50-cent restoration fee). For ticket information, please call 614.469.0939 or visit ticketmaster.com.

Dramaturg/Actor Talkbacks

For a deeper understanding of each play, CATCO presents talkback sessions for audiences. For *Escanaba In Love*, the dramaturg talkback will follow the Sunday, Oct. 19, matinee; the actor talkback will follow the Sunday, Nov. 2, matinee.

Audio Description

On the last Sunday of each production, CATCO provides an audio-described performance for the visually impaired along with free headset rental. The audio description for *Escanaba In Love* will be Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m.

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for regular performances are \$40 for the main level (rows A-M) and \$25 for the balcony. Students and senior may purchase half-price tickets the day of performances (does not apply to \$11@11 performances) based on availability and valid I.D. All tickets can be purchased at the box office at 41 E. State St., next to the Ohio Theatre, by calling 614.469.0939 or by visiting

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ticketmaster.com or by calling or visiting any central Ohio Ticketmaster location. Performances are in the Studio One Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center, located at 77 S. High St. in Downtown Columbus at the corner of State and High streets. Attached parking is available in the Riffe Center garage, which is entered from Front Street.

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio's professional Equity theatre company. Its mission is to produce diverse, high- quality, and exciting theatrical work that celebrates our common humanity. For more information, visit **catco.org**.

Subscriptions for CATCO's 25th anniversary season are now available by calling CATCO's box office at 614.469.0939. Remaining shows this season include:

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, Nov. 19-23, 2008
- *Christmas Memory and The Thanksgiving Visitor* by Truman Capote, Nov. 25- Dec. 21, 2008
- *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani, Feb. 4-Feb. 22, 2009
- *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl, April 1-26, 2009
- *Blackbird* by David Harrower, June 3-21, 2009

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