



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **CATCO-CATCO Is Kids Announce 2017-18 Seasons**

#### ***Regional and world premieres, dramas, musicals highlight season***

COLUMBUS – CATCO will open its 2017-18 season with the Broadway smash hit and 2015 five-time Tony Award-winner, *Fun Home*, Sept. 13-Oct. 1, 2017, followed by a production of Los Angeles-based Deaf West Theatre’s production of David Mamet’s *American Buffalo* Nov. 30-Dec.9, 2017.

CATCO is Kids, meanwhile, will open its season Aug. 25-27, 2017, with the regional premiere of *Shakespeare and Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope*, a sublime retelling of *Star Wars* in the style of the immortal Bard of Avon. A world premiere, *The Throne of Oz*, an adaptation by Columbus playwright Chris Leyva based upon Frank Baum’s book, *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, will be presented May 4-13, 2018.

CATCO’s production of *Fun Home* tells an emotionally charged story of a young woman’s discovery of her own sexuality and her attempts to unlock the mysteries surrounding her family and gay father’s life. “CATCO is thrilled to be the first theatre company in Ohio to produce *Fun Home*, and present, with CAPA, a co-production of Deaf West Theatre’s *American Buffalo*,” said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director. Mamet’s explosively profane play was first produced by Deaf West in 2015 and will feature actors performing in American Sign Language.

“In addition to Chris Leyva’s world premiere at the end of the season, CATCO is Kids’ season features regional premieres and the revival of one of the youth theatre’s most popular shows, *Madeline’s Christmas*, first produced in 2009,” said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director. “We are excited to have the opportunity this coming season to work again with Chris, whose world premiere of *Cowgirls Don’t Ride Zebras* this season was wildly successful with children and families.”

CATCO produced a reading of Leyva’s *Books & Bridges*, in 2014, after it was awarded the CATCO-Greater Columbus Arts Council Playwright Fellowship the same year. Leyva received his MFA from the Playwrights Workshop at The University of Iowa and has written numerous plays. In 2015, Columbus School for Girls commissioned and performed his play, *Persephone Uncut*.

CATCO’s third show of the season will be *Daddy Long Legs* Jan. 31-Feb. 18, 2018, a musical about 18-year-old Jerusha who writes amusing and satirical essays about her life in the John Grier Orphan’s Home, which attract the attention of one of the home’s trustees. It will be followed by *The Realistic Joneses* March 7-25, 2018, a play featuring two suburban couples who have more in common than their identical homes and shared last names.

In April (11-29, 2018), CATCO will present Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*, a hilarious, but biting comedy, about a class clash between a middle-aged university professor and a 26-year-old working class hairdresser. An Andrew Lloyd Webber classic, *Aspects of Love*, which explores love in its many forms – between couples, romantic infatuation, the devotion of married people, and the ties of children to their parents – will close the season May 30-June 17, 2018.

At CATCO is Kids, *Madeline's Christmas* will be presented Dec. 8-17, 2017, a holiday musical treat for the whole family adapted from Ludwig Bemelmans' book of the same name. It will be followed by *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* Jan. 12-21, 2018, based upon the beloved Caldecott Honor-winning picture book series filled with adventure, song and dancing laundry.

In March (2-11, 2018), Garfield, the chubby and sarcastic tabby cat, will take the stage in *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*. When he runs away, he quickly learns that “home is where the heart ... and the food is.”

Subscription renewals for CATCO and CATCO is Kids will be mailed in April. New subscriptions will be available this summer, but if patrons are interested in placing their names on a waiting list, they can email JoLane Campbell at [jcampbell@capa.com](mailto:jcampbell@capa.com).

CATCO's current 32nd season is sponsored by support from The Ohio Arts Council, which helps fund the theatre with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans, and supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

CATCO also appreciates the support of the Barbara B. Coons, Nina B. Pohlman, and Martha G. Staub Funds of The Columbus Foundation, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the Greater Columbus Arts Council, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973. Other supporters include The Shubert Foundation Inc. and Nationwide Insurance Foundation.

CATCO's season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

CATCO's remaining shows for the 2016-17 season follow. To subscribe or for more information about the 2016-17 season, visit [www.catcoistheatre.org](http://www.catcoistheatre.org)

- ***Henry Ford's Model E***  
(World Premiere)  
By Herb Brown  
April 19-May 7, 2017  
Studio Two
- ***I Do! I Do!***  
Books and lyrics by Tom Jones  
Music by Harvey Schmidt  
May 31-June 18, 2017  
Studio Two

CATCO Is Kids' remaining shows of the season are below:

- ***Anne of Green Gables***  
(Co-Production with Columbus School for Girls)  
Music by Nancy Ford

Book and Lyrics by Gretchen Cryer  
May 5-14, 2017  
Columbus School for Girls

**About CATCO**

CATCO is central Ohio's professional Equity theatre company, providing quality theatre and educational programs for all ages. The theatre organization has adopted an innovative strategy, building creative alliances that can sustain growth and development. For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://catcoistheatre.org). Together, CATCO and CATCO is Kids provide quality theatre and educational programs for all ages.

**CATCO Mission Statement**

Theatre is a shared experience that illuminates the mysteries of our humanity. Its magic has the power to transform us whether on stage, in the classroom or in our diverse communities. CATCO creates theatre that delights, challenges, and transports.

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