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CATCO and the Arts Council Announce 2015 Playwright Fellowship Recipient

Reading of *F – – k Marry Kill* by local playwright Jim Azelvandre set for June 19, 2016

CATCO, in partnership with the Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council), announced today Columbus playwright Jim Azelvandre is the recipient of the 2015 Playwrights Fellowship program for his work, *F – – k Marry Kill*.

Azelvandre receives a \$5,000 fellowship and a reading of his play, which will be presented Sunday, June 19, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the Studio One Theatre, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St. Admission is free. CATCO Associate Producing Director Joe Bishara will direct the production.

"I'm honored to work with CATCO for the first time, and am very excited to see my play produced in a staged reading featuring Columbus theatre artists," Azelvandre said.

A Columbus native, Azelvandre is a graduate of Bowling Green State University and has been an actor, director and playwright throughout the Eastern United States. Currently he is MadLab Theatre's artistic director. His previously produced one-act plays include *Fugue*, *Mr Jones Has A Day*, and *The Apple*; two-act plays are *Objet d'Art* and *The Air Loom*. His play, *The Star*, will premiere at MadLab Theatre in December 2016.

"A long-term motel in the heart of the city becomes one man's island of redemption and one woman's crucible," Azelvandre said of his play. "*F – – K Marry Kill* is a love story about violence, recovery and the nature of stories."

"As in previous years, the variety of topics explored and quality of writing in this year's submissions awed our selection reading committee," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director and playwright fellowship coordinator. "We are excited to work with Jim to share his tragi-comedy with the central Ohio theatre community."

"The Greater Columbus Arts Council's Individual Artist Fellowship program was established in 1986 to recognize outstanding local artists, and since that time we've continued to grow our program by engaging partners to increase the numbers and types of fellowships we offer," said Tom Katzenmeyer, President of the Arts Council. "We are delighted to work with CATCO and Jim Azelvandre to bring *F – – k Marry Kill* to the stage."

Selection criteria for the fellowship included originality, likelihood of future productions, clarity of voice and general interest in the subject matter. Interested artists were asked to submit a cover letter and the following:

- Breakdown of characters with brief descriptions
- Up to 10 pages of sample dialogue

- Brief synopsis (one or two paragraphs) of the play to be considered
- Cover page that provided the playwright's name, address and contact information. (Plays were considered without the playwright's information attached to ensure impartial selection.)

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. Together, CATCO and CATCO is Kids provide quality theatre and educational programs for all ages. The theatres have adopted an innovative strategy, building creative alliances that can sustain growth and development.

CATCO's 31st season is sponsored by support from the Arts Council, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973, and 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.

CATCO also appreciates the support of the Cathrine C. Hislop and Barbara J. Haddox Funds of The Columbus Foundation, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens. Other supporters include The Shubert Foundation Inc., Nationwide Insurance Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

CATCO's season sponsor is L Brands; the season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

About the Greater Columbus Arts Council

Through vision and leadership, advocacy and collaboration, the Greater Columbus Arts Council supports art and advances the culture of the region. A catalyst for excellence and innovation, the Arts Council funds exemplary artists and arts organizations and provide programs, events and services of public value that educate and engage all audiences in our community. The Arts Council thanks the City of Columbus and the Ohio Arts Council for their continued support. The Arts Council has been recognized as one of the "5 NonProfits to Watch" in 2014 by The Columbus Foundation.

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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