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CATCO, CATCO Is Kids Announce 2018-19 Seasons

Highlights include collaborations, Harlem Renaissance celebration, seven-show season at CATCO is Kids

COLUMBUS – CATCO will open its 2018-19 season Sept. 7-16, 2018, with *Eubie!*, a contribution to central Ohio’s celebration of the Harlem Renaissance, as well as a salute to famous jazz/swing musician Eubie Blake, featuring 12 songs from the landmark 1921 production of *Shuffle Along*.

“What better way to recognize the profound impact the Harlem Renaissance had nationwide and in Columbus than with the music revue *Eubie!*,” said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director. In conjunction with *Eubie!*, CATCO is also creating a digital oral history project, collecting stories and photos of Columbus’ African-American community during the Harlem Renaissance, to celebrate the centennial recognition of this historic landmark.

“Collaboration with other artists and arts groups continues to define CATCO and CATCO is Kids, and next season we are thrilled to continue our collaboration trend,” said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director. CATCO will co-produce *Breaking the Code* with Evolution Theatre Company Oct. 24-Nov. 18, 2018, the acclaimed drama about mathematical genius Alan Turing, a pioneer in the field of computers and computer science, and a brilliant code-breaker work during World War II. His work saved countless lives.

In addition, CATCO is Kids will co-produce *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, a captivating work of fantasy based on Salman Rushdie’s classic children’s novel of the same name, with Columbus School for Girls May 3-12, 2019. The regional premiere features magicians and fantastical talking animals encountered by Haroun on his adventure to restore the sea of stories.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids will join forces during the holidays to present *The Christmas Schooner* Nov. 28-Dec. 16, 2018, a heartwarming musical for families and kids of all ages about the crew of a Great Lakes schooner that risks everything to bring the Christmas spirit to German immigrants in Chicago who are homesick for their motherland during the late 19th Century.

CATCO will open 2019 with *Every Brilliant Thing*, Jan. 23-Feb. 10, 2019, a moving drama about a son who tries to make sense of his mother’s chronic depression. Processing his sadness – and fear of the onset of his own mental illness – leads him to make a list of the greatest things the world has to offer.

A contemporary spin on Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* will be presented March 20-April 7, 2019, featuring a group of individuals exploring life’s most perplexing questions and pondering whether life really does suck. CATCO will end the season May 29-June 16, 2019, with *Pacific Overtures*, a musical by Stephen Sondheim. It’s 1853 and Japan is haltingly taking steps to open its ports to competing western powers.

Pacific Overtures, which will be interpreted through the lens of the Japanese Kabuki theatre, tells the story about a country trying to maintain integrity in the face of westernization.

Another highlight on the CATCO is Kids season is an expansion to seven shows all featuring youth performers, Bishara said. The 2018-19 season kicks off Aug. 17-19, 2018, with *Madagascar A Musical Adventure Jr.* based on the blockbuster DreamWorks film. Get ready to “Move It, Move It!”

Other shows on the CATCO is Kids season include *The Lion King Experience KIDS* Nov. 10-11, 2018, Disney’s beloved *Lion King* story in a production perfect for young theatergoers. Coming next, Jan. 11-20, 2019, is *Sunshine*, a musical play based on the book *Sunshine* by Ludwig Bemelmans and a regional premiere. A grumpy landlord’s life changes when he meets a special music teacher and her students.

Based on the beloved book by Dick King-Smith, *Babe, The Sheep Pig* will be presented March 1-10, 2019. Babe charms her way to success at the Grand Challenge Sheep Dog Trials in this tale of farmyard adventure. Favorite Dr. Seuss characters come to life on stage in *Suessical KIDS* March 23-24, 2019, another musical production designed specifically for young theatergoers.

Subscription renewals for CATCO and CATCO is Kids will be mailed this spring. 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.

CATCO’s current 33rd 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.

The theatre organization also appreciates the support of the James W. Overstreet Fund 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 and CATCO is Kids’ season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

For season subscriptions, please visit www.catcoistheatre.org. CATCO’s remaining shows for the 2017-18 season are:

- ***The Realistic Jones***
By Will Eno
March 7-25, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- ***Educating Rita***
By Willy Russell
April 11-29, 2018
Studio Two, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- ***Aspects of Love***
Book and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart

From David Garnett's novel
May 30-June 17, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.

CATCO is Kids' remaining shows for the 2017-18 season are:

- ***Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude***
Book by Michael J. Bobbitt and Jim Davis
Music and lyrics by John L. Cornelius II
March 2-11, 2018
Van Fleet Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***The Throne of Oz***
Based on Frank Baum's *The Marvelous Land of Oz*
Adapted by Chris Leyva
May 4-13, 2018
Shedd Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.

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.

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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2018-19 Season

CATCO is Kids

Madagascar A Musical Adventure Jr.

Aug. 17-19, 2018

The Lion King Experience KIDS

Nov. 10-11, 2018

A Saturday Morning Musical Production

The Christmas Schooner

Co-production with CATCO

Nov. 28-Dec. 16, 2018

Sunshine

A musical play based on the book *Sunshine* by Ludwig Bemelmans

Jan. 11-20, 2019

Regional Premiere

Babe, The Sheep Pig

March 1-10, 2019

Seussical KIDS

March 23-24, 2019

A Saturday Morning Musical Production

Haroun and the Sea of Stories

Co-Production with Columbus School for Girls

May 3-12, 2019

Regional Premiere

CATCO

Eubie!

Sept. 7-16, 2018

Breaking the Code

Co-production with Evolution Theatre Company

Oct. 24-Nov. 18, 2018

The Christmas Schooner

Co-production with CATCO is Kids!

Nov. 28-Dec. 16, 2018

Every Brilliant Thing

Jan. 23-Feb. 10, 2019

Life Sucks.

March 20-April 7, 2019

Pacific Overtures

May 29 - June 16, 2019