



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 19, 2018

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**New Albany Arts Council Taps CATCO is Kids to Provide  
Administration, Production of Broadway, Jr. Musicals**

***Auditions for summer musical, Mary Poppins JR, set for April 14-15***

CATCO is Kids' announced today it has been tapped by the New Albany Arts Council to provide administration and production of its musical program for young artists, Broadway, Jr. Musical, at the McCoy Center for the Arts, the location where it has been a community outreach program for many years. Earlier this week, the arts council announced it was dissolving because of funding difficulties, and, shortly thereafter, formed an agreement with CATCO is Kids to lead the popular program.

The youth musical was one of many arts programs provided by NACC. The organization said it is hopeful that other programs will organize independently and/or create partnerships with other arts organizations.

"CATCO is Kids is honored and excited to expand our youth theatre expertise to New Albany this summer and beyond," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director. "New Albany is one of central Ohio's fastest-growing communities and we see incredible synergies with previous theatre residencies and opportunities for development of new youth theatre programs for residents there in the future."

Under the new agreement, CATCO is Kids, in association with the McCoy Center for the Arts, will present Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins JR* in July. The production is a five-week summer camp that results in a weekend of performances, similar to other CATCO is Kids' musical education programs.

After this summer, CATCO is Kids will produce future theatre programs for youth at the McCoy Center, expanding the theatre organization's long list of theatre programming for youth throughout central Ohio. In addition to CATCO is Kids' educational camps, other offerings include programming in local schools and the community, collaborations with other arts organizations, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Learning Never Ends and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.

"CATCO is Kids is the logical choice to produce this year's Broadway, Jr. Musical because of its stellar record and reputation for creating and developing outstanding youth theatre programs in our community," said McCoy Center Board of Directors Chair, Thomas W. Hill. "Of all the New Albany Arts Council's programs, the Broadway, Jr. Musical, was the largest. We are thrilled that CATCO is Kids could help continue this beloved community project for New Albany kids."

This summer's New Albany camp will begin June 11, 2018, and run through July 15, 2018; three performances will be held July 13-15, 2018, at the end of the program. Times are still being determined. Auditions will be held at Broadway Bound Dance Centre in New Albany, 6701 Bevelhymer Road, Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sunday, April 15, 2018, from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Participants need to arrive at the start time either day they choose to audition; auditions will be conducted

in a large group format. Additional audition details are available at [www.mccoyscenter.org](http://www.mccoyscenter.org).

Once participants receive casting notification, they will receive registration information. The cost of registration is \$400. Rehearsals will be held Monday-Thursday, June 11-July 6, 2018, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Broadway Bound Dance Studio. The final week of camp, beginning July 9, is tech/performance week; rehearsal times are still being determined.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 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.

CATCO 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 and CATCO is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks; media partner is WOSU Public Media. For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://catcoistheatre.org).

CATCO is Kids remaining show for the 2017-18 season is:

- ***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](http://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 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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