



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CATCO is Kids Opens 2018-19 Season with *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* Aug. 17-19**

*Musical, based on DreamWorks animated motion picture, features 41 central Ohio youths*

This summer, central Ohioans have the chance to take a journey out of the zoo and onto the stage with the popular crack-a-lackin' friends from the blockbuster DreamWorks film, *Madagascar*. Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, and Gloria the Hippo as they embark on a fun-filled adventure, and groove with songs, such as "I Like to Move It," "Together Forever," and "Best Friends" in CATCO is Kids' season opener, *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.*

The musical is the culmination of a CATCO is Kids' summer camp and features 41 central Ohio youths. It will be performed Aug. 17-19 at the Lincoln Theatre, 769 E. Long St. All tickets are \$10.

"Take a blockbuster animated film, transform it into a musical for kids featuring youth actors, and you have *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.*, a not-to-be missed, end-of-summer entertainment for the whole family," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director and musical director. "It's also a great opportunity to introduce younger children to musical theatre as the 'JR' at the end means it's the perfect length," he said.

To familiarize children with the play before they attend and enrich their experience afterward, parents can access CATCO is Kids' play guide for *Madagascar A Musical Adventure JR.*, with book by Kevin Del Aguila, original music and lyrics by George Noriega and Joel Someillan, based on the DreamWorks animated motion picture. The guide can be found at:

<http://catco.org/www/dcms/files/pdf/playguides/madagascar-playguide.pdf>

Actors in *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* are:

Sophie Bergmann, Upper Arlington, Lee; Stella Bergmann, Upper Arlington, Lew; Logan Britton, Galloway, Newspaper Man; Mady Brockmeyer, Grove City, Foosa; Gabriella Cain, Westerville, Candy Hammernose; Simone Dean, Columbus, Zookeeper Zelda; Grace Ellis, Powell, Server; Trinity Gayle, Reynoldsburg, Gloria the Hippo; Tara Gontkovic, Westerville, Penguin; Breck Grubbs, Galloway, Subway Announcer/Foosa; Alethia Hardjono, Powell, Lynn; Jeremy Hardjono, Powell, King Julien; Samuel Hardjono, Powell, Mort; Kate Hofmann, Gahanna, Private; Lillian Hoskin-Hauser, Worthington, Zoogoer/ Server; Oscar Humbert, Grove City, Rico; August Kamerer, Upper Arlington, Police #1; Lexi Kepling, New Albany, Zookeeper Zoe; Grace Koegler, Lewis Center, Server/Ship's Captain; and Cameron Krisiewicz, Upper Arlington, Foosa.

They are joined by Michelle Leonard, Grove City, Zoogoer/Server; Oscar Levy, Lancaster, Zoogoer/Police #2; Hogan Mickey, Upper Arlington, Foosa/Animal Control; Edward Murphy, Powell, Lars; Abbie Ogilbee, Powell, Lioness #2/Steak; Abigail Okoon, Bexley, Mason; Connor Paap, Powell,

Foosa; Magnolia Petrozzi, Columbus, Kowalski; Ryan Roliff, Dublin, Foosa Leader/Animal Control; Nicholas Sanchez-Zaikas, Powell, Alex the Lion; Sophie Schroeder, Clintonville, Foosa; Emma Shachter, Hilliard, Penguin; Hannah Simpson, Gahanna, Maurice; Nia Smith-Cain, Columbus, Passerby/Foosa; Cora Spiker, Bexley, Old Lady; Evelyn Strayer, Gahanna, Lioness#1/Steak; Kate Sullenberger, Powell, Marty the Zebra; Jenny Tupper, Westerville, Skipper; Grant Witherspoon, Columbus, Melman the Giraffe; and Carson Zorn, Zookeeper Zeke.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *Mary Poppins JR.*, *The Throne of Oz*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Madeline's Christmas*, *Shakespeare and Star Wars: Verily*, *A New Hope*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Sex With Strangers*, *James and the Giant Peach JR.*, *The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, [title of show], *Master Class*, *A Christmas Carol*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Revenge of the Space Pandas*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Rude Mechanicals*, and *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits: Vol. 1*, and appeared in *Daddy Long Legs*, *I Do! I Do!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *The Story of My Life* and *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Other acting credits include *Titanic*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Last Five Years*. Additional directing credits include *The Spitfire Grill*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Encyclopedia Brown*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *Beauty and the Beast (Isabella e la Bestia)*, and *School House Rock Live!*

Show times for *Madagascar* are Friday, Aug. 17, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, August 19, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 34rd 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 Helen E. Sandfort Arts-in-Education and Florence E.K. Hurd 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 and CATCO is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library; and media sponsor is WOSU public media. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://catcoistheatre.org).

CATCO is Kids remaining shows for the 2018-19 season are:

- ***The Lion King Kids***  
Music and lyrics by Tim Rice and Elton John  
Additional music and lyrics by Will Van Dyke, Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin and Hans Zimmer  
Book by Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi  
Nov. 10-11, 2018  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
549 Franklin Ave.

- ***The Christmas Schooner***  
Co-Production with CATCO and CATCO is Kids  
Book by John Reeger, music and lyrics by Julie Shannon  
Nov. 28-Dec. 16, 2018  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Sunshine***  
Book by Jennifer Draganski and Sean Hartley  
Lyrics by John O'Neil and Sean Hartley  
Music by John O'Neil  
Based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans  
Jan. 11-20, 2019  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Babe The Sheep-Pig***  
By David Wood  
Based on the book by Dick King-Smith  
March 1-10, 2019  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Seussical Kids***  
Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty  
Music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
March 23-24, 2019  
Shedd Theatre, CPAC  
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Haroun and the Sea of Stories***  
Co-production with Columbus School for Girls  
Adapted by David Tushingham and Tim Supple  
Based on the book by Salman Rushdie  
May 3-12, 2019  
Agnes Jeffrey Shedd Theater, Columbus School for Girls  
56 S. Columbus 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.