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**CATCO is Kids Presents *Sunshine* Jan. 11-20**

*Heartwarming musical, based on the classic children's book by Ludwig Bemelmans, features adult, youth cast*

In 1950, world-famous children's literature author and illustrator, Ludwig Bemelmans, who charmed readers with *Madeline*, introduced his fans to Mr. Sunshine, a fussy, grumpy landlord in Gramercy Park in New York City, who likes things his own way. He especially likes quiet, or at least he thinks he does, until a less-than-perfect tenant/music teacher and her students change his life.

CATCO is Kids will present the musical adaption of this heartwarming classic children's book called *Sunshine* Jan. 11-20, featuring a cast of 16 adults and youths at the Shedd Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children.

"Families will be charmed by this delightful story about friendship, conflict resolution and the power of music to bring people together," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director and co-director of *Sunshine* with Chris Leyva, a central Ohio playwright whose work has been premiered at CATCO is Kids.

To familiarize children with the play before they attend and enrich their experience afterward, parents can access CATCO is Kids' play guide for *Sunshine*, with book by Jennifer Draganski and Sean Hartley, lyrics by John O'Neil and Sean Hartley, and music by John O'Neil. The guide can be found at:

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

*Sunshine* features newcomers to the CATCO stage, Kathryn Dutton as Miss Moore and Bill Hafner as Mr. Sunshine. Dutton recently moved to Columbus from Atlanta, and her acting credits include *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive), *Hair* (Crissy), *Sound of Music* (Liesl), and *Cabaret* (Sally). Hafner's acting credits include performances as Professor Harold Hill, Jean Valjean and Sweeny Todd.

They are joined by the following members of the cast:

- Kaitlyn Brown (Auctioneer/Ensemble), is a sophomore at Olentangy Liberty High School and member of Columbus Children's Choir. Recent acting credits include *State Fair*, *Meet the Andersons* and *Shakespeare and Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope*.
- Lucas Cloran (Jack) has appeared in several CATCO is Kids' productions, including *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, and the world premiere of *The Throne of Oz* last season.
- Helena Engherg (Poodle Owner and Ensemble), from Lewis Center, performed in CATCO is Kids' production of *A Seussified Christmas Carol* as Belle and other characters in 2016.

- Trinity Gayle (Naomi) is a 12-year-old student at Liberty Christian Academy in Pataskala and appears in her third performance at CATCO for Kids. Most recently she performed as Gloria the Hippo in *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* She also performed as the narrator in *Charlotte’s Web* in 2016.
- Oscar Humbert (Joey) has been performing on stage for more than three years. His most recent roles include Tip in *The Throne of Oz* and Karl in *The Christmas Schooner*. Oscar is in the 5th grade at Clintonville Academy.
- Greta James (Weather Girl/Dot) is an eighth-grader at Kilbourne Middle School in Worthington. Previous roles at CATCO is Kids include *The Throne of Oz* and *Cowgirls Don’t Ride Zebras*.
- Cameron Krisiewicz (Katie/Poodle) is a fourth-grader at Greensview Elementary in Upper Arlington. She appeared earlier this season in CATCO is Kids’ productions of *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* and *The Lion King Experience KIDS*.
- Jillian Reeb (Alex) is a sixth-grader at Columbus Montessori Education Center, who appeared in CATCO is Kids’ production of *Madeline’s Christmas* and *The Throne Oz* last season.
- Claire Richey (Lucy) is a fourth-grader at Greensview Elementary in Upper Arlington. This is her first production at CATCO is Kids.
- Bailey Richmond (Gemma and Weather Girl) is performing in her second production at CATCO is Kids. She most recently appeared in *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude* as Nermal. She is 11 years old and in the sixth grade at Gahanna Middle School West.
- Kate Sullenberger (Weather Girl and Alice) is a sophomore at Olentangy Liberty High School. She performed in *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* as Marty the Zebra and *James and the Giant Peach JR.* as Earthworm. She also sings in the Columbus Children’s Choir.
- Jarrod Turnbull (Bradford/Max/Opera Singer/Auctioneer Assistant) is a freshman at Otterbein University and is making his CATCO is Kids’ debut.
- Maggie Wertz (Beth) is appearing in her second CATCO is Kids' production. Acting credits include *Charlottes Web* with Curtain Players and *Little Mermaid* at The Abbey Theatre.
- Emma Winder (Samantha) is a sophomore at Olentangy Orange High School and president of Olentangy Orange Show Choir.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO during the 2018-19 season he co-directed and acted in *The Christmas Schooner* and directed *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.* and *Breaking the Code* (co-production with Evolution Theatre Company). Other CATCO directing credits include *Sex with Strangers*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Master Class*, [title of show], *I Love You*, *You’re Perfect*, *Now Change*, *Forbidden Broadway’s Greatest Hits, Vol.1*, and *A Christmas Carol*. CATCO acting credits include *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 *Corpus Christi*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Sticks and Stones*, and *Ferguson: Truth Matters*.

Leyva is a playwright, director, and children's book author/illustrator. Last season, CATCO is Kids produced the premiere of Leyva's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's *The Marvelous Land of Oz*; in 2017, CATCO is Kids produced the stage version premiere of his children's book, *Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras*. Leyva received the CATCO and GCAC Playwright Fellowship with his play, *Books & Bridges*. He received an M.F.A. from The University of Iowa, a B.A. in directing from Coe College, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

Show times for *Sunshine* are Fridays, Jan. 11 and 18, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturdays, Jan. 12 and 19, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sundays, Jan. 13 and Jan. 20, 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:

- ***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).

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### **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.