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CATCO-CATCO Is Kids Announce 2016-17 Productions

Central Ohio, World premieres, dramas, musicals highlight season

COLUMBUS – CATCO and CATCO is Kids today announced their 2016-17 season with regional and world premieres, as well as collaborations, highlighting their productions.

A new work by Columbus playwright Herb Brown about the cruel and tragic relationship between Henry Ford and his son, Edsel, will premiere April 19-May 7, 2017, at CATCO. *Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras* by local playwright Chris Leyva, winner of CATCO and GCAC's 2013 Playwrights Fellowship, will make its debut at CATCO is Kids March 3-12, 2017.

“We are excited to continue our commitment to bring innovation, collaboration, fresh ideas and thought-provoking entertainment to central Ohio theatergoers in 2016-17,” said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director. “And there is freshness throughout the season as nearly every show at CATCO and CATCO is Kids next year will be either a world or regional premiere.”

Brown's play about Ford and Edsel is his third world premiere produced at CATCO. In 2005, the theatre organization introduced *You're My Boy*, which explored the fascinating erratic relationship between Nixon and Eisenhower and was subsequently read at studios in New York. CATCO presented Brown's world premiere last spring of *The Final Table*, which featured a journey to the afterlife with five former presidents engaged in a high stakes, but wickedly funny game of poker.

CATCO produced a reading of Leyva's Playwrights Fellowship award-winner, *Books & Brides A Play*, in 2014. The play features a writer, Julia Douglas, whose college writing professor has skipped town and left her his bookstore and a mess to deal with. Leyva's other plays include *All Grace*, *Solamente Una Vez; A Thaw*, *The Brothers Caramillo*, *Eulogy For A Piece of Sh*t*, *Bloodletting*, *Holy Schmidt!*, *Father Bob*, and *Dialogues With Lars*.

CATCO will open its season Sept. 7-25, 2016, with *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, a regional premiere, which it will present with Gallery Players of the JCC. The one-woman tour de force by Mark St. Germain profiles Dr. Ruth Westheimer, who, with a German accent and American candor, taught America about sex. It will be followed by a regional premiere of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* by Moises Kaufman Oct. 26-Nov. 13, 2016. The play tells the heart-breaking story of Victorian England's most celebrated playwright and author, who plummeted from the darling of British society and the world into humiliation and ruin in three short months.

In January, CATCO will present a Columbus premiere of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig, a madcap mystery farce where Sherlock Holmes and Watson meet up with *The 39 Steps*. Opposites attract in *Sex With Strangers* by Laura Eason, Feb. 15-March 5, 2017, a drama about a serious midcareer novelist and an author of dirty books, and also a regional premiere. The Broadway classic, *I Do! I Do!*, a fun-loving musical spanning 50 years of marriage between Agnes and Michael Snow and featuring the 1967 hit, *My Cup Runneth Over*, will close the season May 31-June 18, 2017.

At CATCO is Kids the season will open with the regional premiere of *James and the Giant Peach JR.* Aug. 26-Sept. 4, 2016. Based on one of Roald Dahl's most poignantly quirky stories, the musical by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, features James, who is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree. He discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions.

Based upon the success of last season's *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, a whimsical reinvention of Shakespeare's tragic love story, CATCO is Kids will produce the regional premiere of *A Seussified Christmas Carol* by Peter Bloedel Dec. 2-11, 2016. "The whimsical reinvention of Dicken's most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have written if he ever had his way with the script," said Joe Bishara, CATCO's associate producing director.

In January, CATCO is Kids will present the regional premiere of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe's *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Award-winning writers Stiles and Drewe inject a bear-sized helping of music and mayhem into this classic fairytale making it "just right" for the entire family. The theatre will wrap up its season May 5-14, 2017, with a co-production with Columbus School for Girls of *Anne of Green Gables*. L.M. Montgomery's timeless classic, cherished by generations, comes to life in a new musical with music by Nancy Ford and book and lyrics by Gretchen Cryer.

New subscriptions for the CATCO and CATCO is Kids' seasons will be available for purchase in early June. Subscription renewals and information about sale dates for single tickets will be available this spring.

CATCO's remaining shows of the current season are:

- ***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike***
By Christopher Durang
April 6-24, 2016
- ***Ring of Fire***
The Music of Johnny Cash
Presented in collaboration with Porthouse Theatre
Created by Richard Maltby Jr.
Conceived by William Meade
Adapted from the Broadway production by Richard Maltby Jr. and Jason Edwards
Orchestrations by Steven Bishop and Jeff Lisenby
Additional arrangements by David Abbinanti
June 1-19, 2016

Remaining shows at CATCO is Kids are:

- ***Hansel and Gretel***
By the Brothers Grimm
Adapted for the stage by Steven C. Anderson
March 11-20, 2016
- ***The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty***
By Steven C. Anderson
May 13-22, 2016

CATCO's 31th 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 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, 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 Season sponsor is L Brands; the season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

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 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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