



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents Regional Premiere of *An Act of God* Sept. 7-25

God, angels Gabriel and Michael, join forces for a new spin on the Ten Commandments

To open its 2016-17, CATCO will present the fresh-from-Broadway regional premiere of *An Act of God* Sept. 7-25, 2016, in the Vern Riffe Center, Studio Two Theatre, 77 S. High St.

“CATCO is thrilled to bring *An Act of God* to central Ohio just days after its 2016 Broadway revival ends,” said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and show director. *An Act of God* was revived on Broadway this year with Sean Hayes, of *Will & Grace* fame, in the role of God, and will close Sept. 4. The laugh-a-minute comedy opened on Broadway in 2015 with James Parsons, star of *The Big Bang Theory*, in the lead role.

Written by comedy writer David Javerbaum, a former producer and writer for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *An Act of God* received acclaim for its wit, irreverence and stinging, funny dialogue. *The New York Times* calls *An Act of God* “deliriously, divinely funny!” while *New York Magazine* says, “The jokes keep landing – nearly one per sentence – and ... they are always smart.”

“Envision the set of a present-day late-night talk show with God holding court and setting the world straight on what he really means,” Anderson said. Throughout the play, God offers a present-day interpretation of the Ten Commandments for the millennium and waxes philosophical on Thomas Jefferson, J.R. Ewing, Kanye West and more. In the wings, angels Gabriel and Michael assist with audience questions and a PowerPoint presentation.

With a bit of attitude, sass and wisdom, God puts a modern-day spin on the biblical stories and questions that have vexed mankind for centuries. His answer to the question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” goes like this: “To even out all of the good things that happen to bad people.”

Performing as God is New York City-based actor, Tim Elliott, who returns to the CATCO stage after appearing in CATCO’s extension of *Buyer & Cellar* during the 2015-16 season. Previously, Elliott performed in the world premiere of *Marvelous: An illuminated Tale* for the New York City Fringe Festival, and appeared as Sir Isaac Newton in *The Physicists* for Lonesome George Productions and Kirk in *Tiny Bubbles* for New Directions. He also essayed the role of The Narrator in Craig Wright’s *The Pavilion*, where he played no less than 17 different characters.

Also performing in *An Act of God* is Columbus actor Ted Amore, who was recently seen in CATCO’s production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* during the 2015-16 season, and at Actors Theatre as Harpagon in *The Miser*. He is joined by Bill Darby, who has performed in productions at CATCO is Kids, including *The Jungle Book*, and *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike* at CATCO last spring.

Anderson's directing credits include *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Elephant Man*, *Buyer & Cellar*, *The Final Table*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Avenue Q*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Rubenstein Kiss*, *Souvenir* and the highly acclaimed production of Doug Wright's *I Am My Own Wife*. He has also directed *Candide* and *Hair* at The Ohio State University Theatre Department; *Love! Velour! Compassion!* and *The Taste of Sunrise* at CATCO; *Big River* and *Pippin* at Actors Theatre; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at New Harmony Theatre; and *Greater Tuna*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Assassins* at the former Players Theatre Columbus where he served as Associate Producing Director.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *An Act of God*, Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Sept. 9, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Morning Matinees

For *An Act of God*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, Sept. 7, 14 and 21. Tickets are \$20.

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for all other performances are Thursdays, \$30; Sundays, \$35; and Fridays and Saturdays, \$40.

For *An Act of God*, student tickets can be purchased for \$15 for any performance based on availability and valid I.D. All tickets can be purchased at the box office at 39 E. State St. next to the Ohio theatre, by calling 614.469.0939, visiting ticketmaster.com or calling or visiting any central Ohio Ticketmaster location. Performances are in the Studio Theatres at the Vern Riffe Center, located at 77 S. High St., in Downtown Columbus at the corner of State and High streets. Attached parking is available in the Riffe Center garage, which is entered from Front Street.

CATCO's 32nd 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 Barbara B. Coons, Nina B. Pohlman, and Martha G. Staub 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; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The presenting sponsor for *An Act of God* is the Sylvia A. Garrett Insurance Company. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

CATCO's remaining shows for the 2016-17 season are:

- ***Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde***
(Regional Premiere)
by Moises Kaufman

Nov. 2-20, 2016
Studio Two

- ***Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery***
(Columbus Premiere)
By Ken Ludwig
Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017
Studio Two
- ***Sex with Strangers***
(Regional Premiere)
By Laura Eason
Feb. 15-March 5, 2017
Studio Two
- ***Henry Ford's Model E***
(World Premiere)
By Herb Brown
April 19-May 7, 2017
Studio Two
- ***I Do! I Do!***
Books and lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
May 31-June 18, 2017
Studio Two

CATCO Is Kids' remaining shows of the season are below:

- ***A Seussified Christmas Carol***
(Regional Premiere)
By Peter Bloedel
Dec. 2-11, 2016
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears***
(Regional Premiere)
By George Stiles and Anthony Drewe
Jan. 13-22, 2017
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras***
(World Premiere)
By Chris Leyva
March 3-12, 2017
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Anne of Green Gables***
(Co-Production with Columbus School for Girls)
Music by Nancy Ford

Book and Lyrics by Gretchen Cryer
May 5-14, 2017
Columbus School for Girls

To subscribe or for more information about the 2016-17 season, visit www.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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