



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2017

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CATCO is Kids, Columbus School for Girls Co-Produce *Anne of Green Gables* May 5-14

Timeless classic featuring adult, child actors to be performed in Agnes Jeffrey Shedd Theatre at CSG

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 co-produced by CATCO is Kids and Columbus School for Girls May 5-14.

In *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne Shirley is mistakenly sent to live with a plainspoken farmer and his spinster sister, who thought they were adopting a boy! She wins over the Cuthberts, and all of Prince Edward Island, with her irrepressible spirit and imagination.

“CATCO is Kids welcomes a cast of adults and children actors to the stage in this first-time theatre collaboration with Columbus School for Girls,” said Joe Bishara, CATCO is Kids associate producing director and co-director of *Anne of Green Gables*.

To familiarize children with the musical before they attend and enrich their experience afterward, parents can access CATCO is Kids' play guide for *Anne of Green Gables* at www.catcoistheatre.org/catco-is-kids/2016-2017/anne-of-green-gables or by clicking this link: <http://catco.org/www/dcms/files/pdf/playguides/annegreenplayguide.pdf>

All shows for *Anne of Green Gables* will be presented at the Agnes Jeffrey Shedd Theater at Columbus School for Girls, 56 S. Columbia Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. The run is approximately 45 minutes with no intermission.

Performing in *Anne of Green Gables* is a combination of child actors and adults. They include all three of CATCO's 2016-17 acting apprentices Matthew Sierra (Matthew), Ben Tracy (Mr. Philips/Postmaster) and Abigail Warden (Marilla).

Sierra, a 2016-17 CATCO acting apprentice, has appeared on stage at multiple central Ohio theatre organizations. His acting credits include *Sex With Strangers*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty* at CATCO, and *POZ* with Evolution Theatre company. Tracy, who performed in *Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* at CATCO, graduated from Wright State University where he appeared in *The Great Gatsby* (Nick Carraway) and *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell), among other shows. A native of Minneapolis, he has worked with CLIMB Theatre and Old Log Theatre.

Worden, a recent graduate of Capital University, also performed in CATCO's productions of *Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras* and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*. Her stage management theatre credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; other acting performance credits include *Metamorphoses* and *A Flea in Her Ear*.

They are joined by the following student actors, all from CSG with the exception of Matt Piper, a student at Newark High School: Gabriella Cain (Mrs. Barry/Woman), Westerville; Jayden Claret (School Child/Diana's Understudy), Canal Winchester; Sofia Feinberg (Diana Barry), New Albany; Cammie Kleinman (School Child/Anne's Understudy), New Albany; Alia Knight (School Child/Rachel's Understudy), Canal Winchester; Isabella Minkin (Josie Pie), Bexley; Jordan Pace (Doctor/Station Master/School Child), Pickerington and Bexley; Matt Piper (Gilbert), Newark; Saba Rehan (Mary Jo/Woman), Pickerington; CC Seamon (School Child/Josie Pie Understudy), Upper Arlington; Casey Sussman (Anne Shirley), Blacklick; and Olivia Westley-Sherman (Rachel), Bexley and Columbus.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *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 *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *The Story of My Life* and *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Other acting credits include *Titanic*, *Forbidden Broadway: SVU*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Last Five Years*. Additional directing credits include *The Spitfire Grill*, *Madeline's Christmas*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, and *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!*

Co-directing the production with Bishara is Elizabeth Bishara, who has been teaching at CSG since 2012. Bishara, an Equity actor, professional director and choreographer, has worked at theaters throughout Ohio, including the Human Race in Dayton, and regionally. She appeared in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits: Vol. I* at CATCO and CATCO is Kids' production of *If You Give a Mouse A Cookie*. Directing credits at CATCO is Kids include *The Hobbit*, *The Neverending Story* and *School House Rock Live!* She was the choreographer for CATCO is Kids' productions of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* and *Go, Dog. Go!* Bishara has won several Theatre Roundtable Awards for Acting and Choreography. She has also received a Best Actress Award from the Central Ohio Critics Circle.

Alyssa Canowitz, New Albany, is the stage manager for the production; Quinton Jones is the music director.

Show times for *Anne of Green Gables* are Friday, May 5, and May 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 6 and May 13, at 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 7 and May 14, 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door and at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office, 39 S. State St.; they can also be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com.

Patrons interested in purchasing tickets by telephone can call 614.469.0939. The box office will open two hours before show time.

CATCO is Kids' 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 is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library; and presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

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

- ***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

To subscribe or for more information about the 2017-18 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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