



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO, Gallery Players Co-Produce *My Name is Asher Lev* Oct. 22-Nov. 9

Passion, family, community and tradition explored in play adapted from bestseller

Asher Lev is a Hasidic Jew. He is also a prodigy who must be a painter, though it flies in the face of family, community and tradition. His gift must be realized, but at what cost?

This moving exploration – *My Name is Asher Lev* – at times sorrowful, humorous and glorious – will be co-produced by CATCO and Gallery Players Oct. 22-Nov. 9. The stage adaptation by Aaron Posner is a dramatic tribute to the acclaimed novel written by bestselling author Chaim Potok in 1972. All performances will be staged in the Vern Riffe Center, Studio Two Theatre, 77 S. High St.

“We are honored to partner with Gallery Players to bring to central Ohio one of the most powerful contemporary dramas being performed on stage today,” said Steven Anderson, CATCO Producing Director and Director of *My Name is Asher Lev*. “Theatre goers who favor dramas will not want to miss this modern twist on the age-old struggle between parents and their children and their dreams for the future.”

“This adaptation has a knack for lifting nearly wholesale the terse, telling dramatic exchanges in the book that efficiently drive the conflict forward,” says *The Washington Post*, while *Talkin’ Broadway* calls the play “thought-provoking, humorous and deeply insightful.”

Starring in *My Name is Asher Lev* are Isaac Nippert (Asher Lev), Melissa Graves (Rivkeh Lev and female characters), both newcomers to CATCO, and Ralph Scott (Aryeh Lev and male characters). Nippert’s credits include *A Christmas Carol* at South Coast Rep, *Don Juan* at A Noise Within, and *The Magic Bullet Theory* at Sacred Fools Theatre Company. Graves will appear in an upcoming production of *The Widow Lincoln* at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. Other regional credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory, Theatre Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Imagination Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company and Theater at Monmouth.

Nippert and Graves are joined by Ralph Scott, whose CATCO credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *Next Fall* and *Evie’s Waltz*. He was most recently seen in *The Divine Sister* at Short North Stage.

Anderson’s directing credits include *Dirty Rotten Soundrels*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Fully Committed*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Avenue Q*, *The Story of My Life*, *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! Valour! 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.

CATCO's 30th 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 Grace K. and Robert L. Rohe and James W. Overstreet 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.

Season sponsor is L Brands; the season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. *My Name is Asher Lev* is also supported by a grant from the Columbus Jewish Foundation. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *My Name is Asher Lev*, Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Oct. 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45.

\$11@11 Matinees

For *My Name is Asher Lev*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: Wednesday, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5.

CATCO's \$11@11 is an offering for theatregoers who want to see a play mid-week (Wednesday) and mid-day (11 a.m.) at a great price (\$11 plus a 50-cent restoration fee).

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for *My Name is Asher Lev* are \$30 for Thursdays, \$41 for Sundays, and \$45 for Friday and Saturday performances.

Students may purchase \$15 tickets two hours before any performance based on availability and valid I.D. A limited number of \$20 rush tickets are available beginning two hours prior to curtain for 30 minutes only. 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.

Remaining shows in the upcoming season are:

CATCO

- *A Christmas Carol*
Adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by Charles Dickens
Dec. 3-21, 2014

- ***Master Class***
By Terrance McNally
In association with Opera Columbus
Feb. 11-March 1, 2015
- ***The Final Table***
By Herb Brown
April 8-26, 2015
- ***Murder for Two***
Book, music and lyrics by Joe Kinosian and Kellen Blair
May 27-June 14, 2015

CATCO is Kids

- ***A Christmas Carol***
Adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by Charles Dickens
Dec. 3-21, 2014
- ***Go, Dog. Go!***
Adapted for the stage by Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory from the book
by P.D. Eastman
Jan. 16-25, 2015
- ***The Jungle Book***
By Steven C. Anderson, adapted from the book by Rudyard Kipling
March 6-15, 2015
- ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber; book and lyrics by Tim Rice
Co-produced with SRO and Columbus Recreation and Parks
May 1-10, 2015

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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