



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CATCO is Kids Presents *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* Jan. 15-24**

### **Regional premiere based upon Mo Willems' beloved *Elephant and Piggie* series**

CATCO is Kids will present the regional premiere of *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* Jan. 15-24, 2016, a musical experience ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved, award-winning, best-selling children's books.

The musical, produced in association with Columbus Recreation and Parks, "will leave audiences doing the 'Flippy Floppy Floory' dance all night long," said Joe Bishara, CATCO's associating producing director and director of the play. "Kids and their parents won't want to miss this vaudevillian romp of a musical, where Pachyderm and swine heroically explore the importance of friendship with the help of nutty backup singers, the Squirrelles."

*Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, created from the popular *Elephant and Piggie* series, will feature a multigenerational cast of CATCO's 2015-16 acting apprentices and elementary, middle and high school students, and include audience participation. All shows will be performed at the Van Fleet Theatre at the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Performing in *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play"* are CATCO acting apprentices Colby Tarrh (Elephant) and Madison Rose Wilson (Piggie), both of whom also appeared in CATCO's season opener, *The Elephant Man*. Tarrh's recent roles include Frederic in the *Pirates of Penzance* and Rod in *Avenue Q* at Capital University; he also appeared as Prentiss in CATCO's December production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. A graduate of Capital University Wilson recently appeared as Ruth in the *Pirates of Penzance* and Kira in *Xanadu*.

They are joined by six youth actors: The five Squirrelles, Evelyn Strayer (Gahanna), Abbie Obilbee (Powell), Emma Fullen (Hilliard), Lydia Silver (Upper Arlington) and Olivia Poling (Dublin), and Dean Alkire (Dog/Penquine) (Mt. Sterling).

Liz Wheeler is the choreographer for the play, and Zac DelMonte is the music director.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *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* and the *Wind in the Willows*, *Encyclopedia Brown*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *Beauty and the Beast (Isabella e la Bestia)*, and *School House Rock Live!*

Show times for *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* are Friday, Jan. 15 and 22, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16 and 23, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 17 and 24, at 1 p.m. and 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](http://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'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](http://catcoistheatre.org).

Remaining shows in the upcoming season 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 remaining shows of the season are:

- ***Mothers and Sons***  
By Terrence McNally  
**Feb. 10-28, 2016**
- ***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike***  
By Christopher Durang  
**April 6-24, 2016**
- ***Ring of Fire***  
***The Music of Johnny Cash***  
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**

### **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).

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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