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**CATCO Opens 2015-16 Season with *The Elephant Man***

***Tony Award-winning tour-de-force on stage Oct. 21-Nov. 8***

Fresh from its Broadway revival, this Tony Award-winning tour-de-force has touched the hearts of theatergoers since its British debut in 1978. John Merrick suffered a physical deformity that rendered his body and features grotesquely misshapen. "Sometimes I think my head is so large because it is filled with dreams," he says as he contemplates his plight.

CATCO will open its 2015-16 season with this timeless drama by Bernard Pomerance Oct. 21-Nov. 8, 2015, in the Studio Two Theatre, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.

"*The Elephant Man* is revisited by each generation and there is an important reason for that," said Director Steven C. Anderson, CATCO's producing director. "It's representative of the judgments we're forced to make because of how quickly the world works, and a reminder of the importance of being thoughtful and stopping to pause."

*The Elephant Man* was first performed on Broadway in 1979 and won the Tony Award that year for Best Play. After its revival last year with Bradley Cooper in the lead role, the play won the Drama Desk Award for Best Revival of a Play; it was also nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Play.

"Pomerance's tale showcases the triumph of a very human spirit, personified by the sensitive, almost saintly Merrick," said the *Associated Press*.

CATCO welcomes Connor McClellan to the stage in the role of Merrick. McClellan has performed in various shows with Emerald City Players, Little Theatre Off Broadway, Curtain Players and Columbus Civic Theater, where he appeared in *Art*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. He is joined by Ben Gorman as Frederick Treves. Gorman performed at CATCO in *The 39 Steps*, and recently completed a one-year tour with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va., playing King Claudius in *Hamlet*, Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* and numerous roles in *Doctor Faustus* and *A Christmas Carol*.

After living abroad in Germany and Egypt, Virginia native Sarah Dandridge (Mrs. Kendal), is new to the CATCO stage, and has performed at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park as Desdemona in *Othello* and Rosalind in *As You Like It*, and at the Pioneer Theatre Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and

Heritage Repertory Theatre. Christopher Moore Griffin (Ross, Bishop Walsham How, Snork) has appeared in *Sunset Boulevard* and *Sunday in the Park with George* at Short North Stage, and has also performed in *The Fantasticks*, *Tintypes*, *Minnie's Boys*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Die Fledermaus* at various theatres and *The Normal Heart* at CATCO. Nick Baldasare (Pinhead Manager, English Policeman, Porter, Lord John, Willow) has appeared in CATCO is Kids' productions of *Tom Sawyer* and *Encyclopedia Brown*, and co-directed Actors Theatre Columbus' production of *Hamlet* last year.

CATCO acting apprentices Colby Tarrh (Carr Gomm, Conductor) and Madison Rose Wilson (Pinhead, Nurse Sandwich, Princess Alexandra, Duchess, Jelly Willow) also are performing in *The Elephant Man*. Tarrh's recent roles include Frederic in the *Pirates of Penzance* and Rod in *Avenue Q* at Capital University. A graduate of Capital University, Wilson recently appeared as Ruth in the *Pirates of Penzance* and Kira in *Xanadu*. Alexa Rybinski is the cellist for this production.

Anderson's directing credits include *Buyer & Cellar*, *The Final Table*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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).

#### Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *The Elephant Man*, Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

### Wednesday Matinees

For *The Elephant Man*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, Oct. 21, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4.

### Ticket/Parking Information

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

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](http://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 remaining shows of the season are:

- ***Peter And The Starcatcher***  
A play by Rick Elice, music by Wayne Barker  
Based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson  
**Dec. 2-20, 2015**
  
- ***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**

For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://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](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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