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Central Ohio Premiere of *Fun Home* to Open CATCO's 2017-18 Season Sept. 13-Oct. 1

Production is first non-touring production of the five-time Tony-winning musical in Ohio

CATCO will open its 2017-18 season with the Broadway smash hit and 2015 five-time Tony Award-winner, *Fun Home*, Sept. 13-Oct. 1, 2017. The central Ohio premiere, the first non-touring production of the not-to-be-missed musical in Ohio, will be staged at the Studio Two Theatre, Vern Riffe Center.

"CATCO is thrilled to be the first theatre company in Ohio to produce *Fun Home*. This heartwarming musical and journey of discovery and self-exploration is a guidebook for helping us understand the people in our lives we are closest to – our families and ourselves," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and the director of *Fun Home*.

Fun Home, which received 12 Tony Award nominations and won five Tony Awards in 2015 including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Direction of a Musical, is based on the 2006 graphic novel/memoir written by Alison Bechdel, winner of a 2014 MacArthur "Genius" Award and author of the comic strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For*. In her book, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, Bechdel shares stories of her life of growing up in rural Pennsylvania; her family's funeral home business; living with her father, a closeted homosexual, whose death was likely a suicide; and her own coming out when she was in college. The book was named one of *Time* magazine's top ten books of the year in 2006.

Bechdel's journey is revealed through three *actors* – Alison Bechdel, Small Alison and Medium Alison – who tell Bechdel's story through different stages of her life. The musical was adapted from Bechdel's book by Lisa Kron (*2.5 Minute Ride* and *Well*), who also wrote the lyrics with composer Jeanine Tesori (*Violet*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Shrek The Musical*). The two made history when they were the first female team to win a Tony Award for Best Original Score.

Fun Home, which features a cast of nine, three of them children, received rave review from critics when it opened:

"Heart-gripping and cathartic, *Fun Home* occupies the place where we all grew up." – *The New York Times*.

"*Fun Home* speaks universally about big things that matter: Life, love, family, surviving." – *Daily News*

"*Fun Home* is breaking new ground." – *The Wall Street Journal*

"*Fun Home* is an instant classic of the American musical theatre and a monumental piece of art." – *The Huffington Post*

Performing in *Fun Home* are nine actors, many of them new to the CATCO stage. They include the three actors who play Alison Bechdel – Sydney MacGilvray, who plays Small Alison; Meg Odell, who plays Medium Alison; and Cari Meixner, who plays Alison as an adult.

MacGilvray is an eighth-grader from Worthington, whose acting credits include *Annie* (July), *Seussical* (Who), *The Lion King Jr.* (Timon) and *Oliver!* (Charlie Bates). Odell is a theatre major at Denison University, whose roles include Philia in *A Funny Thing*, Belle/ Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, and Little Sally in *Urinetown*. Meixner recently graduated from Kent State University with a degree in musical theatre. Acting credits include: *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Flick*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Assassins*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Tell Tale Heart* and *Side Show*.

They are joined by:

- Jenny Case (Joan), who recently appeared as Alice in *Alice, Formerly of Wonderland* at Wyoming Theatre Festival. Other credits include *Billy Witch*, *Front Page Flo*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.
- Kim Garrison Hopcraft (Helen Bechdel), a longtime Columbus actor who has performed multiple roles at Available Light Theatre Company, Red Herring, CATCO, and Gallery Players and Evolution. She last appeared at CATCO in *The Rubenstein Kiss* portraying Ethel Rubenstein.
- Ricardo Locci (Roy, Mark, Pete), who most recently performed in Short North Stage's production of *Cleopatra* (Apollodorus), *James and the Giant Peach* at Columbus Children's Theater (Earthworm), and *Ragtime* with Gallery Players (Harry Houdini).
- Hudson Mugler (John Bechdel), a third-grader from Bexley, is performing in his first theatre production.
- Henry Smith (Christian Bechdel) is a seventh-grader at Dominion Middle School, whose acting credits include Donkey in *Shrek, Jr.* and Jojo in *Seussical, Jr.*
- Peter Matthew Smith (Bruce Bechdel) returns to CATCO where he was last seen playing Scott in *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Broadway credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Rent*, and original casts of *Mamma Mia*, *Hairspray*, and *Cry Baby*. He also appeared in the national tours of *Rent*, *Hairspray*, and *Memphis the Musical*.

Anderson's directing credits include plays as diverse as the world premiere of *Henry Ford's Model E, I Do! I Do!*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *An Act of God*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Elephant Man*, *Avenue Q*, 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 *Fun Home*, Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$35 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Sept. 15, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Morning Matinees

For *Fun Home*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, Sept. 13, 20 and 27. Tickets are \$20.

Ticket/Parking Information

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

For *Fun Home*, 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 and CATCO is Kids' 33rd seasons are 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.

The theatre organizations also appreciates the support of the James W. Overstreet Fund 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 and CATCO is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

For season subscriptions, please visit www.catcoistheatre.org. CATCO's remaining shows for the 2017-18 season are:

- ***American Buffalo***
By David Mamet
In Association with CAPA
Deaf West Theatre Production
Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 2017
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- ***Daddy Long Legs***
Book by John Caird
Music and lyrics by Paul Gordon
Based on the novel by Jean Webster
Jan. 31-Feb. 18, 2018
Studio Two, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.

- **The Realistic Jones**
By Will Eno
March 7-25, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- ***Educating Rita***
By Willy Russell
April 11-29, 2018
Studio Two, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- ***Aspects of Love***
Book and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart
From David Garnett's novel
May 30-June 17, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.

CATCO is Kids' remaining shows for the 2017-18 season are:

- ***Madeline's Christmas***
Book and lyrics by Jennifer Kirkeby
Music by Shirley Mier
Based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans
Dec. 8-17, 2017
Shedd Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical***
Books and lyrics by Mo Willems
Music by Michael Silversher
Jan. 12-21, 2018
Van Fleet Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude***
Book by Michael J. Bobbitt and Jim Davis
Music and lyrics by John L. Cornelius II
March 2-11, 2018
Van Fleet Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***The Throne of Oz***
Based on Frank Baum's *The Marvelous Land of Oz*
Adapted by Chris Leyva
May 4-13, 2018
Shedd Theatre, CPAC

549 Franklin Ave.

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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