



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATCO is Kids presents *Go, Dog. Go!* Jan. 16-25

Children's literary icon comes to life on stage

"Why are they going fast in those cars? What are they going to do?" P.D. Eastman's questions are answered through music and movement in this thoroughly enchanting adaptation for canine lovers young and old presented by CATCO is Kids Jan. 16-25.

"If families enjoyed our production of *The Cat in the Hat* last January, they will not want to miss *Go, Dog. Go!*," said Joe Bishara, CATCO's associate producing director. "There is no prep work for parents, other than to share the book with their children before the play." The play adaptation, stays true to the original book written by Eastman in 1961, and audience members will see the book come to life on the stage with engaging props – car lights that pop out – and action – roller skating on the stage.

Eastman has entertained young readers for years with his beginning-reading classics featuring simple language and engaging illustrations. In addition to *Go, Dog. Go!*, his other beloved books include *Are You My Mother?* *Big Dog ... Little Dog* and *Sam and the Firefly*. CATCO is Kids' production has a running time of 50 minutes and is geared toward kids of all ages.

Performing in *Go, Dog. Go!* are Heather Burley (Spotted Dog), Beth Conley (Blue Dog), Joe Dallacqua (MC Dog), Annie Huckaba (Green Dog), Andrew Protopapas (Red Dog), Ben Sostrom (Yellow Dog) and Bryn Sowash (Hattie). Conley, Huckaba, Protopapas and Sowash are acting apprentices at CATCO for the 2014-15 season. Conley, Huckaba, Protopapas appeared earlier this season in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and are performing this month in *A Christmas Carol*.

Burley, CATCO is Kids' Education Director, conducts theatre workshops and residencies in diverse school communities through the state, and also directs plays and teaches drama. Burley performed in CATCO is Kids' *Peter and Wolf*, and last season directed *Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz*. Conley's acting credits include Ermengarde in *Hello, Dolly!* (Cincinnati Landmark Productions), Janet in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (The Zoot Theatre Company) and Tracy in *Hairspray* (Wright State University). Dallacqua performed in CATCO is Kids' productions of *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Peter and the Wolf* and *Tom Sawyer* and CATCO's production of *The Rubenstein Kiss* and *Shipwrecked!* He also has appeared in Columbus Civic's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Available Light theatre's *The History Boys*. Huckaba's credits include Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, and Cathy in *The Last Five Years*. She has also performed at Dolly Parton's Dollywood.

They are joined by Protopapas, whose acting credits include Marius (*Les Misérables* – Star Players Theatre), Robert (*Company* – Capital University), and Einstein (*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* – Capital University). Sostrom, a previous CATCO acting apprentice, has appeared in Available Light Theatre Company's production of *bobrauschenbergamerica*, Actors Theatre of Columbus' *Twelfth Night*, and CATCO's *A Christmas Carol*. Sowash began her work in theatre education at the Phoenix Theatre for

Children, now CATCO is Kids. Her theatre credits include music directing *Next to Normal* and *Into the Woods*; directing credits include *The Stinky Cheese Man* at the McConnell Arts Center.

Directing the production is Liz Wheeler, who has her BFA in acting with an emphasis in musical theater from Wright State University. She is the middle-school drama instructor at Columbus School for Girl, and teaches private voice and acting lessons and group dance and acting classes with CATCO is Kids. She has worked at theaters throughout Ohio, including the Human Race in Dayton, and regionally, and appeared in the CATCO's production of *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits: Vol. 1* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, 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!*

Show times for *Go, Dog. Go!* are Friday, Jan. 16 and 23, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 17 and 24, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 25, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids and can be purchased at the door, at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office, 39 S. State St., and 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'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. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

Remaining shows in the upcoming season are:

- ***The Jungle Book***
By Steven C. Anderson, adapted from the book by Rudyard Kipling
Produced in association with Columbus State Community College
March 6-15, 2015
- ***Honk!***
A musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson story *The Ugly Duckling*
Book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe, music by George Stiles
Produced with 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

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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.