



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* Nov. 2-20, 2016

Regional premiere by Moises Kaufman explores downfall of one of world's greatest writers

In the late 1800s, Oscar Wilde was heralded as a creative genius and the wit of Victorian England with highly acclaimed plays, books and essays, such as *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. In a few short months, Wilde's status crumbled, plummeting from the darling of British society and the world into humiliation and ruin.

Wilde's spiraling downfall is dramatically told by Moises Kaufman, one of the great storytellers of contemporary times, who incorporates actual trial transcripts, personal letters and other sources in his work, *Gross Indecency: The three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, a gripping two-act play. What started as a criminal libel lawsuit by Wilde became an attack on his work and ultimate arrest and conviction for gross indecency.

"One of our many goals at CATCO is to present new work, as well as regional and world premieres, so it is with great excitement that we are able to present the regional premiere of *Gross Indecency*, a poignant, gripping work, which explores topics as contemporary today as they were more than 100 years ago. This is a work that forces us to think and question written by one of the contemporary theatre's world's most compelling voices," said Steven C. Anderson, director of *Gross Indecency* and CATCO's producing director.

CATCO presents the regional premiere of *Gross Indecency* Nov. 2-20, 2016, at The Verne Riffe Center Studio Two Theatre, 77 S. High St. After its 1997 debut, the play received rave reviews from critics:

"Riveting and theatrical ... absolutely gripping." – *The New York Times*

"A triumph ... truth, purity, and simplicity suffuse [this] thoroughly engrossing new play." – *The Washington Post*

"A dazzling coup de theatre, at once compelling history and chilling human drama." – *Time Magazine*

"Stunning ... taut, shattering, yet delightfully exuberant ... altogether fascinating." – *NY Newsday*

Kaufman, born and raised in Venezuela, has received international recognition for his provocative explorations and interpretations of contemporary social issues. Most recently he was honored with a National Medal of Arts award from the National Endowment for the Arts. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002.

In addition to *Gross Indecency*, Kaufman's other works include *33 Variations* and *The Laramie Project*, which CATCO produced during 2002-03 season.

CATCO welcomes a cast of nine actors, some new to the CATCO stage, as well as two of CATCO's 2016-17 acting apprentices, to perform in *Gross Indecency*. CATCO newcomer and Ohio native Josh Katawick will perform the role of Oscar Wilde. Katawick is a resident ensemble member of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, where he recently performed in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Favorite credits include *Death of a Salesman*, *Hamlet*, *Lion in Winter*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and *One Man, Two Guvnors*.

He is joined by Christopher Moore Griffin, James Sargent, Ralph E. Scott, Matthew Sierra, Ben Tracy, Danny Turek, David Vargo and Douglas Whaley. Griffin was last seen in *Sticks & Stones* at Evolution Theatre, and appeared in CATCO's 2015 season opener of *The Elephant Man*. Other credits include *Sunset Boulevard* and *Sunday in the Park with George* at Short North Stage. Sargent's CATCO credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Evil Dead the Musical* and *What the Butler Saw*. He also served as choreographer for CATCO is Kids' recent production of *James and the Giant Peach JR*. Scott, a graduate of *The Second City in Chicago*, has performed at CATCO in *The Final Table*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, and *Bengal Tiger At The Baghdad Zoo*. Ralph can be seen in the soon-to-be-released horror-comedy *Demon Hole* and *Looking for The Jackalope* with Stephen Root. Sierra, a CATCO 2016-17 acting apprentice, has appeared on stage recently at multiple central Ohio theatre organizations. His acting credits include *Skylight* with Columbus Civic Theatre, *The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty* with CATCO is Kids, and *POZ* with Evolution Theatre company.

Tracy, also a CATCO 2016-17 acting apprentice, recently graduated from Wright State University where he appeared in *The Great Gatsby* (Nick Carraway) and *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell), among other shows. A native of Minneapolis, he has worked with CLIMB Theatre and Old Log Theatre. Turek, who appeared in CATCO's *Peter and the Starcatcher* last holiday season, has been involved in main-stage shows at The Ohio State University, such as *As You Like It* (school tour) and *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, and student lab shows (*Will'S Burrows* and *The Aliens*). Vargo was last seen at CATCO in *Mothers and Sons*. Other credits include *The Temperamentals* (Jebby Award) at Evolution Theatre, and Little Theatre Off Broadway's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Gracie Award). Whaley, OSU Professor of Law Emeritus, is making his CATCO debut. Following his retirement, he returned to theatre and has acted in or directed many plays in the Columbus area. Notable roles include King Claudius in *Hamlet*, King Lear in *King Lear*, and Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*.

Anderson's directing credits include *An Act of God*, *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Elephant Man*, *Buyer & Cellar*, *The Final Table*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The 25th 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.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *Gross Indecency*, Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Morning Matinees

For *Gross Indecency*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16. Tickets are \$20.

Ticket/Parking Information

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

For *Gross Indecency*, 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.

Robin and Peter Hersha are the presenting sponsors for *Gross Indecency*.

CATCO's 32nd 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 Barbara B. Coons, Nina B. Pohlman, and Martha G. Staub 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; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. CATCO's remaining shows for the 2016-17 season follow. To subscribe or for more information about the 2016-17 season, visit www.catcoistheatre.org

- ***Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery***
(Columbus Premiere)
By Ken Ludwig
Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017
Studio Two
- ***Sex with Strangers***
(Regional Premiere)
By Laura Eason
Feb. 15-March 5, 2017
Studio Two
- ***Henry Ford's Model E***
(World Premiere)
By Herb Brown
April 19-May 7, 2017
Studio Two

- ***I Do! I Do!***
Books and lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
May 31-June 18, 2017
Studio Two

CATCO Is Kids' remaining shows of the season are below:

- ***A Seussified Christmas Carol***
(Regional Premiere)
By Peter Bloedel
Dec. 2-11, 2016
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears***
(Regional Premiere)
By George Stiles and Anthony Drewe
Jan. 13-22, 2017
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras***
(World Premiere)
By Chris Leyva
March 3-12, 2017
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Anne of Green Gables***
(Co-Production with Columbus School for Girls)
Music by Nancy Ford
Book and Lyrics by Gretchen Cryer
May 5-14, 2017
Columbus School for Girls

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.

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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