



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 20, 2016

Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha
614.563.1066
smbacha@earthlink.net

CATCO is Kids Presents *Hansel and Gretel* March 11-20

Modern retelling of Brothers Grimm classic features puppets

Hungry children. A tasty edible cottage. An evil witch. All are featured in CATCO is Kids modern retelling of the timeless Brothers Grimm fairytale, *Hansel and Gretel*, along with teamwork, resourcefulness and self-reliance March 11-20, 2016, Van Fleet Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave.

Adapted for the stage by Steven C. Anderson, CATCO's producing director, *Hansel and Gretel*, produced in association with Columbus Recreation and Parks, also features CATCO's acting apprentices, Colby Tarrh and Madison Rose Wilson, and puppetry.

"CATCO's version is a fun-loving, non-threatening introduction to this classic fairytale, which focuses on important life lessons," said Joe Bishara, CATCO's associating producing director and director of the play. "It's age-appropriate for the youngest members of the family, but adults and older siblings will find plenty in the production to enjoy as well."

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Performing in *Hansel and Gretel* are CATCO acting apprentices Colby Tarrh (Hansel) and Madison Rose Wilson (Gretel), both of whom also appeared in CATCO's season opener, *The Elephant Man* and CATCO is Kids' highly acclaimed regional premiere of *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* in January. 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*.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, *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 *Hansel and Gretel* are Friday, March 11 and 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 12 and 19, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 13 and 20, 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.

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.

Remaining shows in the upcoming season are:

- ***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. 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.

###