



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents World Premiere of *Henry Ford's Model E* April 19-May 7, 2017

***Columbus playwright Herb Brown explores cruel, complex relationship
between the American inventor/genius and his only son, Edsel***

Henry Ford was a complicated genius who tried to mold his son, Edsel, into his own likeness. This exploration of the complicated relationship between one of American history's famous fathers and sons is the theme of Columbus playwright Herb Brown's new play, *Henry Ford's Model E*, which will premiere at CATCO April 19-May 7.

Brown said he discovered this lesser known story of the American icon when reading about him. "I thought there could be a play in the father-son story that had widespread interest. I think the dynamic between father and child, and more broadly, between parent and child is something really worth thinking about," said Brown, a former Ohio Supreme Court Justice. "It's a universal theme that I think many people will see reflected in their own life," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and the director of *Henry Ford's Model E*.

The play, which will be produced in the Studio Two Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., is the third world premiere of Brown's work produced at CATCO. "The creation of new work is probably the most exciting thing we can do in the theatre. It's part of building the canon of plays. Of course, having a prolific playwright and one who is as generous as Herb makes it a real pleasure," Anderson said.

In 2015, the theatre produced Brown's *The Final Table*, a journey to the afterlife where five former presidents (Richard M. Nixon, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson and Warren G. Harding) engage in a high stakes, but wickedly funny, game of poker. Before its world premiere, the play was read at a Dramatists Guild meeting in Chicago, Shetler Studio and The Actors Studio as part of the Studio's new play development program. In 2005, CATCO introduced *You're My Boy*, which explored the fascinating, erratic relationship between Nixon and Eisenhower and was subsequently read at the Shetler Studio, Theodore Roosevelt National Park Theatre and The Actors Studio.

The author of numerous books, including *Shadow of Doubt* and *Presumption of Guilt*, Brown's plays include *The Power of God*, which was featured in CATCO's *Shorts Festival 2002*.

Performing as Henry Ford is Steve Black, a graduate of Otterbein University, who spent 15 years living and working in New York City where he performed Off-Broadway, in multiple cabaret clubs, and in multiple theatre tours, and had recurring roles on *As The World Turns* and *The Guiding Light*. Since returning to Columbus, Steve has acted in and directed shows at CATCO, Red Herring and Otterbein. This is his eighth show at CATCO.

Joining him as Ford's head of production, Charles Sorensen, is Todd Covert. Covert portrayed Dwight Eisenhower in *The Final Table* and performed in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at CATCO. Recent acting credits include *Guys and Dolls* and *Kiss of The Spider Woman*. Christopher Storer

will perform the role of Edsel Ford. Storer performed in *Forbidden Broadway Greatest Hits Vol. 1* at CATCO. Recent credits include *Make Me A Song*, *POZ*, *The Lyons*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Assassins*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Falsettos*.

Anderson's directing credits include plays as diverse as *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 *Henry Ford's Model E*, Wednesday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, April 20, 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, April 21, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Morning Matinees

For *Henry Ford's Model E*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, April 19 and 26, and Wednesday, May 3. Tickets are \$20.

Ticket/Parking Information

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

For *Henry Ford's Model E*, 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.

Presenting sponsors for *Henry Ford's Model E* are the Charlotte R. Haller, Frank and Blanche A. Longabaugh Funds of the Columbus Foundation, Linda and Frank Kass, Jill and Duke Thomas and Scott and Marta Whitlock.

Supporting sponsors are Huntington National Bank, PNC Foundation and Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer. Producing sponsors are CASTO, Jameson Crane, Kathy and Chuck Freiburger, Joyce and Russ Gertmenian, The Horner Family, Larry Lehring, Donna and Larry James, Ron and Ann Pizzuti and Richard Zimmerman.

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 2017-18 season, visit www.catcoistheatre.org

- ***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:

- ***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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