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Feb. 25, 2015

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## **CATCO is Kids presents *The Jungle Book* March 6-15**

### **Nine local youths perform in Steven C. Anderson's adaptation of children's literary classic**

Mowgli is a man cub wandering the jungle. He is adopted by the wolves and taught the ways of the jungle by the wise bear Baloo. It is Mowgli's destiny to grow from a man cub to a man, and when he does he becomes the master of the jungle.

Mowgli's story can be found in Rudyard Kipling's literary classic, *The Jungle Book*, and will come to life on the CATCO is Kids' stage in an adaptation by Steven C. Anderson, CATCO and CATCO is Kids producing director, March 6-15 at the Vern Riffe Center, Studio Two Theatre, 77 S. High St.

CATCO is Kids' *The Jungle Book* production features nine central Ohio youths and the entire CATCO 2014-15 apprentice company. "We are very excited to bring Steven C. Anderson's charming adaptation to life in the immersive environment of the Studio Two theatre in the Vern Riffe Center," said Joe Bishara, CATCO and CATCO is Kids' associate producing director and *The Jungle Book* director.

To help introduce the story to youngsters, CATCO has compiled background information and activities for parents to do with their children before and after the show in a *Jungle Book* playguide. Many of the activities are designed to help students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards Initiative, and are identified with a "curriculum connection" icon. The playguide can be found at <http://catco.org/www/dcms/files/pdf/playguides/jungleplayguide.pdf>.

Central Ohio youths performing in *The Jungle Book* are Rayli Boyd (Bandar Log 1), Clintonville; Ben Culp (Child/Young Mowgli), Upper Arlington; Georgia Fried (Bandar Log 3), Clintonville; Scarlett Fried (Bandar Log 2), Clintonville; Stella Fried (Priestess 5), Clintonville; Emma Fullen (Priestess 1), Hilliard; Taryn Huffman (Priestess 3), Powell; Clara Livingston (Priestess 2), Columbus; and Maggie Peffer (Priestess 4), Columbus.

CATCO apprentices in the cast are Beth Conley (Beggar Woman/Tabaqui), Annie Huckaba (Mother/Raksha/Bagheera), Andrew Protopapas (Mowgli) and Bryn Sowash (Kaa). All four recently appeared in CATCO is Kids' production of *Go, Dog. Go!*

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), and Huckaba's credits include Rona in *The 25<sup>th</sup> 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), and Sowash, who 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.

Additional cast members are Joe Dallacqua (Chieftain/Akela), who performed in CATCO is Kids' productions of *Go, Dog. Go!*, *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*. William Darby (Father/Grew Father), who studied and performed with Theater Columbus State and the Ohio State Opera, appeared in CATCO is Kids' production of *Isabella e la Bestia* and last appeared on stage as Captain Von Trapp in SRO's production of *The Sound of Music*. Laura Crone (Shere Khan), who recently appeared in *She Kills Monsters* and *Cymbeline* (Available Light Theatre); *A Most Rare Vision: Six Plays by Shakespeare* (Actors' Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Columbus Civic); and *subUrbia* (Patient Zero), is making her CATCO debut. William Macke (Baloo) is a recent graduate of the Hartt School, whose acting credits include *Forever Plaid* (CATCO), *The Crucible*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Twelfth Night* (Hartford Stage), *Princesses: A Rock Musical* (Staged Reading, Goodspeed Opera House), and *1776*, *Wait Until Dark* and *Cabaret* (Monomoy Theater).

Director Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *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 *The Jungle Book* are Friday, March 6 and 13, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 7 and 14, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 8 and 15, 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](http://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; and the media partner is WOSU public media. For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://catcoistheatre.org).

Remaining shows in the upcoming season are:

- ***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](http://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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