



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATCO is Kids Opens 2018 with *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* Jan. 12-21

Musical adapted from beloved Caldecott Honor-winning picture book series by Mo Willems

The perfect show for a family-friendly outing, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* is based on the beloved Caldecott Honor-winning picture book series. The story goes like this: Girl loves stuffed animal. Girl loses beloved animal. Girl fights to get animal back. Trixie, her father, and her favorite stuffed bunny set off for a trip to the laundromat.

“Families familiar with this popular Mo Willems series and CATCO is Kids’ 2016 production of *Elephant & Piggie’s ‘We are in a Play!’*, based upon another popular Willems’ series, will not want to miss *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*,” said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director.

The cast, which includes adult and youth actors, will be presented Jan. 12-21, 2018, at the Van Fleet Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for kids.

To familiarize children with the play before they attend and enrich their experience afterward, parents can access CATCO is Kids’ play guide for *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, with music by Michael Silversher, by clicking this link:

<http://catco.org/www/dcms/files/pdf/playguides/knuffle-bunny-playguide.pdf>

Youth actors in *Knuffle Bunny* are:

- Hannah Bank (Trixie), a 9th grader at New Albany, who spends summers at Interlochen as a musical theater major. Her credits include *Grease*, *Hairspray*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Sunday in the Park with George*.
- Gabriella Cain (Ensemble/Puppeteer), a freshman at Columbus School for Girls, whose credits include letters to *Sala*, *Shakespeare and Star Wars*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.
- Maegan Mosher (Ensemble/Puppeteer), a junior at Hamilton Township High School, whose acting credits include CATCO is Kids’ 2016-16 production of the *Suessification of Romeo and Juliet*.
- Lindsey Parker (Ensemble/Puppeteer), a junior at Pickerington High School North, whose recent credits at CATCO is Kids include last season’s productions of *Cowgirls Don’t Ride Zebras* and *Shakespeare and Star Wars*.

They are joined by adult actors Annie Huckaba (Mom), a former CATCO acting apprentice, who has worked for Oceania Cruises and Dollywood Entertainment as a singer/ dancer in multiple shows. Nolan

Thomaswick (Dad) is a 2017-18 art education apprentice, who recently appeared in CATCO is Kids' production of *Madeline's Christmas*.

Liz Wheeler, who teaches theatre at Columbus School for Girls, will direct *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*. Wheeler, an Equity actor, professional director and choreographer, has worked at theaters throughout Ohio, including the Human Race in Dayton, and regionally. She appeared in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits: Vol. I* at CATCO 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*, *School House Rock Live!*, *Go, Dog. Go!* and *Anne of Green Gables*. She was the choreographer for CATCO is Kids' productions of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* and *Go, Dog. Go!* Wheeler has won several Theatre Roundtable Awards for Acting and Choreography. She has also received a Best Actress Award from the Central Ohio Critics Circle.

Show times for *Knuffle Bunny* are Friday, Jan. 12 and Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 13 and Jan.20, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 14 and Jan. 21, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 33rd 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 James W. Overstreet Fund 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 and CATCO is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks; media partner is WOSU Public Media. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

CATCO is Kids remaining shows for the 2016-17 season are:

- ***Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude***
Book by Michael J. Bobbitt and Jim Davis
Music and lyrics by John L. Cornelius II
March 2-11, 2018
Van Fleet Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***The Throne of Oz***
Based on Frank Baum's *The Marvelous Land of Oz*
Adapted by Chris Leyva
May 4-13, 2018
Shedd Theatre, CPAC
549 Franklin Ave.

Remaining shows at CATCO for the 2017-18 season are:

- **Daddy Long Legs**
Book by John Caird
Music and lyrics by Paul Gordon
Based on the novel by Jean Webster
Jan. 31-Feb. 18, 2018
Studio Two, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- **The Realistic Jones**
By Will Eno
March 7-25, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- **Educating Rita**
By Willy Russell
April 11-29, 2018
Studio Two, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.
- **Aspects of Love**
Book and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Don Black and Charles Hart
From David Garnett's novel
May 30-June 17, 2018
Studio One, Riffe Center
77 S. High St.

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.

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