



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha
614.563.1066

CATCO Presents *Love Letters* Just in Time Valentine's Day

Columbus theatre couples – Danielle and Mark Mann, Robert and Sarah Behrens and Patricia and Truman Winbush – perform A.R. Gurney's heartwarming play Feb. 5-22

For nearly 50 years, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd II share their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats through regularly sent letters and cards. While Andrew's political star rises until he achieves his dream of becoming a U.S. Senator, Melissa succumbs to despair over the struggles of being an artist.

Their longtime correspondence is shared in *Love Letters*, being presented at CATCO Feb. 5-22, 2015, in time for Valentine's Day. Performing the roles of Melissa and Andrew each of the three consecutive weeks will be three Columbus theatre couples, who have graced the stages of central Ohio theatres for many years – Danielle and Mark Mann performing Feb. 5-8; Robert and Sarah Behrens performing Feb. 12-Feb. 15; and Patricia and Truman Winbush performing Feb. 19-22.

"This cabaret performance is the perfect play to share with your valentine," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and director of *Love Letters*, which premiered at the New York Public Library in 1989, and was revived last fall on Broadway opening with Mia Farrow and Brian Dennehy, followed by a rotating cast of actors. The play premiered at the New York Public Library in the form of an epistolary and is performed as a reading.

In its review last fall, *The New York Times* said *Love Letters* serves as a reminder "... that before e-mails and texts, before emoticons and emojis and Facebook and Instagram, people communicated their fondest hopes, their casual observations and their lame jokes on paper, with pen or pencil or perhaps a typewriter, and then stuffed the results into quaint things called mailboxes."

Love Letters will be performed in the intimate Studio Three Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., for four weekly performances on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each or two tickets for \$40. Students may purchase tickets for \$15 two hours before any performance based on availability and valid I.D.

Starring in *Love Letters* is Danielle Mann, who recently appeared in CATCO's revival of *A Christmas Carol*. She also appeared in CATCO productions of *The Fantasticks* and *The Grapes of Wrath* and counts as her favorite performances roles in *Falsettos*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Diviners* and *Closer Than Ever!* She is joined by her husband, Mark Mann, who has performed in *Escanaba* and *The Grapes of Wrath* at CATCO. In addition, he has performed with Reality Theatre, Arden Shakespeare Company, Columbus Children's Theatre, Metro Music Theatre, Shadowbox Cabaret, Gallery Players, and Actor's Theatre.

Performing Valentine's Day weekend are Sarah Behrens, who starred in CATCO's production last season of *Steel Magnolias* as M'Lynn Eatenton. She has performed with many central Ohio

theatres and counts among her favorite roles Rosalind in *As You Like It*; Viola in *Twelfth Night*; and Mrs. Cratchit in *Scrooge!* Her husband, Robert Behrens, is an actor, director and fight director, who has worked for many central Ohio theatres and universities, and has performed and choreographed productions Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. At CATCO, he recently appeared in *Shipwrecked!*

Patricia Winbush, a founding member of *The Voices of Ohio*, has directed at PAST Productions Columbus, CATCO, Jifunza Theatre and King Arts Complex. Her acting credits include *Crowns* and *Avenue Q* at CATCO, and favorite roles include Jade in *Steal Away*, Bella in *Big Love* and Lala Lamazing Grace in *The Colored Museum*. Her husband of 28 years, Truman Winbush, is a co-founder of PAST Productions Columbus and has performed for more than 30 years with multiple Columbus theatre organizations, including *Two Trains Running*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *The Odd Couple* at CATCO.

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. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

Remaining shows in the upcoming season are:

CATCO

- ***Master Class***
By Terrance McNally
In association with Opera Columbus
Feb. 11-March 1, 2015

- ***The Final Table***
By Herb Brown
April 8-26, 2015

- ***Buyer & Cellar***
By Jonathan Tolins
May 27-June 14, 2015

CATCO is Kids

- ***The Jungle Book***
By Steven C. Anderson, adapted from the book by Rudyard Kipling
March 6-15, 2015

- ***Honk!***

A musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson story *The Ugly Duckling*
Book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe, music by George Stiles
Co-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. 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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