



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CATCO Presents Central Ohio Premier of *Master Class* Feb. 11-March 1**

***Playwright Terrence McNally's drama about Maria Callas' legendary master classes  
produced in association with Opera Columbus***

Maria Callas was a controversial diva of the mid-Century opera world. She was lauded and scorned; cheered and booed; she was what the world desires ... a legend. In this imagining of her giving a Master Class to three neophyte singers we get a glimpse into genius.

"Theatre, opera, art and history buffs won't want to miss the chance to watch a fictitious re-enactment of Callas' legendary master classes at the Juilliard School, where she teaches us about life and art," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director, who is directing the central Ohio premier.

Terrence McNally's 1996 Tony Award winner for Best New Play, *Master Class*, will be performed Feb. 11-March 1, 2015, at the Vern Riffe Center, Studio One Theatre, 77 S. High St. in association with Opera Columbus. The play was revived on Broadway in 2011 and subsequently received a 2012 Tony Award nomination for Best Revival of a Play.

"Get a ticket: *Master Class* is mesmerizing theatre," says the *Star-Ledger*. *Master Class* "...will be talked about for years to come whenever people point to theater experiences that genuinely deserve to be labeled by the overused word 'great,'" says *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Starring in the lead role of Maria Callas is Washington, D.C.-based actor Ilona Dulaski, who has worked at the Kennedy Center: *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Shear Madness* and *Turnadot* (Washington Opera); Signature Theatre; Round House Theatre; Studio Theatre; and Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, and includes among her TV credits *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and *House of Cards*. A professional singer, Dulaski performs with her trio, The Cantanti Ensemble.

She is joined by Alexandra Kassouf (Sophie DePalma), who recently performed in Columbus, New York, Virginia and Wisconsin. In 2014, she performed in two productions of *The Pirates of Penzance*, sang multiple roles with Cincinnati Chamber Opera and toured schools with Opera Columbus. Daniel Lopez (Tony Candolino) has performed the roles of Frederic and Nanki-Poo in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*; Benedict in Berlioz' *Beatrice et Benedict*; Martin in Copland's *The Tender Land*; and Tamino in *The Magic Flute*.

They are joined by Sara Pardo (Sharon Graham), a versatile performer who transitions from opera and light operate to musical theatre and beyond. Her favorite roles include the Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*); Adelaide (*Guys & Dolls*); Catherine (*Pippin*); Miss Jones (*How to Succeed*); Iliia (*Idomeneo*); Marguerite (*Faust*); Frasquita (*Carmen*); and Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Andrew Protopapas (Stagehand) is a 2014-15 CATCO acting apprentice, who recently appeared in *A Christmas Carol* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at CATCO and *Go, Dog. Go!* at CATCO is Kids.

The accompanist for the production is Quinton Jones, who was the accompanist for CATCO's production of *Forever Plaid*.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *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!*

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](http://catcoistheatre.org).

For *Master Class* the presenting sponsors are Robin and Peter Hersha; the official host hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton.

#### Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *Master Class*, Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45.

#### \$11@11 Matinees

For *Master Class*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 18 and 25.

CATCO's \$11@11 is an offering for theatregoers who want to see a play mid-week (Wednesday) and mid-day (11 a.m.) at a great price (\$11 plus a 50-cent restoration fee).

#### Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for all other performances are Thursdays, \$30; Sundays, \$41; and Fridays and Saturdays, \$45.

Students may purchase \$15 tickets two hours before any performance based on availability and valid I.D. A limited number of \$20 rush tickets are available beginning two hours prior to curtain for 30 minutes only. 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](http://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.

Upcoming shows are:

CATCO

- ***Love Letters***  
By A.R. Gurney  
**Feb. 5-22, 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**

### **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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