



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents Pulitzer Prize Winner Terrence McNally's *Mothers and Sons*

Compelling drama about acceptance, closure and redemption runs Feb. 10-28

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Terrence McNally's *Mothers and Sons* shares a mother's love and anger, her dead son's lover starting a new life, memories of a plague and hopes for a better future. CATCO will present this regional premiere Feb. 10-28, 2016.

McNally, one of America's greatest playwrights, has distinguished himself as a leading voice for the LGBT community with such plays as *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*.

"In *Mothers and Sons*, he has written one of the most compelling and defining plays about the AIDS crisis and its aftermath. This beautifully written, moving drama about acceptance, closure and redemption became a sensation when it opened on Broadway in 2014 featuring Tyne Daly, and we're excited to be the first central Ohio theatre to share it with local audiences," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO's producing director and the director of *Mothers and Sons*.

"There's a poignant line in the play where one of the characters, Will, reflects on the AIDS crisis and its effects on gay men in the late 20th Century. He says that it 'will be a chapter in a history book, then a paragraph, then a footnote. People will shake their heads and say, 'What a terrible thing, how sad.' ' *Mothers and Sons* pays tribute to the suffering of so many and remembers the indifference of a largely unaware general public," Anderson said.

All shows will be performed in the Studio One Theatre, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.

"A resonant elegy for a ravaged generation," says *The New York Times* of *Mothers and Sons*, while *The Chicago Tribune* calls it "eloquent, exceptionally timely and intensely resonant."

CATCO welcomes David Vargo to the stage in the role of Cal Porter. Vargo is an alumnus of the National Shakespeare Conservatory in NYC and director in residence for the Public Theatre of Greater Fort Lauderdale's New River Shakespeare Festival in the 1990s. His local acting credits include Wardell in *Sordid Lives*, Chuck Rowland in *The Temperamentals* and Will in *Elizabeth Rex* at Evolution Theatre Company.

He is joined by Jackie Bates, (Katharine Gerard), who has performed at Players Theatre, CATCO, Red Herring, Actors Theatre and Phoenix Theatre Circle (now CATCO is Kids). Most recently she appeared as Ouiser in CATCO's production of *Steel Magnolias*. Past acting credits include *'night, Mother; Collected Stories; The Grapes of Wrath; and The Trees of the Dancing Goats*.

Joe Dallacqua, (Will Ogden), was recently seen at CATCO in CATCO is Kids' production of *The Jungle Book*. Other CATCO and CATCO is Kids' performances include *The Rubenstein Kiss, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Shipwrecked!*. A founding member of the Solstice Theatre Company, Dallacqua's other acting credits include *Jekyll & Hyde* at SRO and performances at Available Light and Columbus Civic theatres.

Making their CATCO debuts performing the role of Bud Ogden-Porter are Lucas Cloran and Elliot Hattermer. Cloran, who has appeared in several CATCO is Kids' productions, recently performed as Romeo in the season opener, *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*. Hattermer performed in *Honk!* at CATCO is Kids and Gallery Players' *Coney Island Christmas*, as well as numerous CATCO is Kids' Saturday Morning Musical productions.

Anderson's directing credits include *The Elephant Man, Buyer & Cellar, The Final Table, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Always...Patsy Cline, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Five Guys Named Moe, Avenue Q, The 39 Steps, The Rubenstein Kiss, Souvenir* 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! Valour! 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.

CATCO's 31st 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 Cathrine C. Hislop and Barbara J. Haddox 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; the season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

[Preview \(Discounted Tickets\)/Opening Night Performances](#)

There are two previews for *Mothers and Sons*, Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Matinees

For *Mothers and Sons*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, Feb. 10, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Tickets are \$17.

Ticket/Parking Information

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

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 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.

CATCO's remaining shows of the season are:

- ***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike***
By Christopher Durang
April 6-24, 2016
- ***Ring of Fire***
The Music of Johnny Cash
Created by Richard Maltby Jr.
Conceived by William Meade
Adapted from the Broadway production by Richard Maltby Jr. and Jason Edwards
Orchestrations by Steven Bishop and Jeff Lisenby
Additional arrangements by David Abbinanti
June 1-19, 2016

Remaining shows at CATCO is Kids are:

- ***Hansel and Gretel***
By the Brothers Grimm
Adapted for the stage by Steven C. Anderson
March 11-20, 2016
- ***The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty***

By Steven C. Anderson
May 13-22, 2016

For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org

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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