



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CATCO is Kids Presents Regional Premiere of *James and the Giant Peach JR.* Aug. 26-Sept. 4**

***27 central Ohio youths perform in Roald Dahl's classic***

CATCO is Kids will open its 2016-17 season with a regional premiere and new musical, *James and the Giant Peach JR.*, adapted from one of Roald Dahl's most poignantly quirky stories, Aug. 26-Sept. 4, 2016, at the Shedd Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Avenue. The show will feature 27 central Ohio youths.

*James and the Giant Peach JR.*, by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, features the tale of James, who is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree. Afterward, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, which rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions.

"We're excited to open our season with the regional premiere of the musical *James and the Giant Peach JR.*, a musical that contain morals and life lessons that children and even adults can appreciate," said Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director and director of *James and the Giant Peach JR.* "While the show highlights themes of abandonment, abuse and redemptive reward with justice meted out appropriately to all, the primary theme is the importance of overcoming one's fears."

CATCO is Kids' production is recommended for children age 4 and up, but, just like Roald Dahl's books, the play appeals to all ages, Bishara said. For more information about *James and the Giant Peach JR.* and hands-on activities to do with children before attending the play, [click here for the CATCO is Kids play guide!](#) Tickets are \$10 each.

Performing in *James and the Giant Peach JR.* are the following central Ohio youths, who participated in a summer camp at CATCO is Kids associated with the production. They are:

Lucy Cheng, (Violet Funkschmeller/Vagrant/Reporter), Upper Arlington;  
Lucas Cloran, (Agent/Shark/Garden Chorus), Hilliard;  
Sarah Clubok, (Redgley Rapsallion/Oompa Loompa/Seagull), Bexley;  
Grace Emmenegger-Conrad, (Ladybug), Blacklick;  
Collin Grubbs, (James), Galloway;  
Jeremy Hardjono, (Grasshopper), Powell;  
Elliot Hattemer, (Agent/Shark/Garden Chorus), Upper Arlington;  
Kate Hofmann, (Vagrant/Garden Chorus/Oompa Loompa/Seagull), Gahanna;  
Eleanor Hoyt, (Garden Chorus/Oompa Loompa/Seagull), Clintonville;  
Lillian Hoyt, (Matron Nurse/Garden Chorus/Seagull), Clintonville;  
Lexi Kepling, (Centipede), New Albany;  
Mary Beth Kauffman, (Spiker), Upper Arlington;  
Sarah Anne Kauffman, (Sponge), Upper Arlington;  
Michael Kim, (Buzz/Vagrant/Shark), Columbus;  
Abbie Ogilbee, (Spider), Powell;  
Abigail O'Koon, (Bobby Bobby-Cop), Bexley;  
Erin Samora, (Oompa Loompa/Seagull), Upper Arlington;

Ethan Samora, (Agent/Shark), Upper Arlington;  
Emma Shachter, (Oompa Loompa/Seagull/Reporter), Hilliard;  
Colin Sproule, (Ladahlord), New Albany;  
Sarah Stadler, (Chris Cryermouth/Vagrant), Westerville;  
Jasmine Stone, (Doreen Driggles/Vagrant/Garden Chorus), Hilliard;  
Evelyn Strayer, (Ladahlord #2), Gahanna;  
Kate Sullenberger, (Earthworm), Powell;  
Jenny Tupper, (Reporter/Ida Walters/Vagrant/Garden Chorus), Westerville;  
Asher Whitehead, (Tech/Shark/Oompa Loompa), Marysville;  
Nicholas Sanchez-Zarkos, (Billy Bobby-Cop/Reporter/Willy Wonka/Garden Chorus), Powell.

Assisting Bishara are production assistants Ellie Newman, Westerville, and Taeuk Kang, a student at The Ohio State University. The choreographer is James Sargeant, who has performed in numerous CATCO and CATCO is Kids productions, including *What the Butler Saw* at CATCO and *Peter and the Wolf* at CATCO is Kids.

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, [title of show], *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 *James and the Giant Peach JR.* are Friday, Aug. 26 and Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, at 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door and at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office, 39 S. State St.; they can also be purchased at 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 is Kids' 32nd 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 Barbara B. Coons, Nina B. Pohlman, and Martha G. Staub 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 is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library; and presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. For more information, visit [catcoistheatre.org](http://catcoistheatre.org).

CATCO is Kids' remaining shows of the season are below:

- ***A Seussified Christmas Carol***  
(Regional Premiere)  
By Peter Bloedel  
Dec. 2-11, 2016  
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears***  
(Regional Premiere)  
By George Stiles and Anthony Drewe  
Jan. 13-22, 2017  
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras***  
(World Premiere)  
By Chris Leyva  
March 3-12, 2017  
Columbus Performing Arts Center
- ***Anne of Green Gables***  
(Co-Production with Columbus School for Girls)  
Music by Nancy Ford  
Book and Lyrics by Gretchen Cryer  
May 5-14, 2017  
Columbus School for Girls

CATCO's shows for the 2016-17 season are:

- ***An Act of God***  
(Regional Premiere)  
By David Javerbaum  
Sept. 7-25, 2016  
Studio Two
- ***Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde***  
(Regional Premiere)  
by Moises Kaufman  
Nov. 2-20, 2016  
Studio Two
- ***Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery***  
(Columbus Premiere)  
By Ken Ludwig  
Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017  
Studio Two
- ***Sex with Strangers***  
(Regional Premiere)  
By Laura Eason  
Feb. 15-March 5, 2017

- Studio Two
- ***Henry Ford's Model E***  
(World Premiere)  
By Herb Brown  
April 19-May 7, 2017  
Studio Two
  
  - ***I Do! I Do!***  
Books and lyrics by Tom Jones  
Music by Harvey Schmidt  
May 31-June 18, 2017  
Studio Two

To subscribe or for more information about the 2016-17 season, visit [www.catcoistheatre.org](http://www.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](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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