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CATCO and the Arts Council Announce 2018 Playwright Fellowship Recipient

Reading of *Voice of the Net* by playwright Jeremy Llorenc set for June 30, 2019

CATCO, in partnership with the Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council), announced today that award-winning playwright and Otterbein University professor Jeremy Llorenc is the recipient of the 2018 Playwrights Fellowship program for his work, *Voice of the Net*.

Llorenc receives a \$5,000 fellowship and a reading of his play, which will be presented Sunday, June 30, 2019, 6 p.m., at the Van Fleet Theatre, Columbus Performance Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Admission is free. CATCO Associate Producing Director and Playwright Fellowship Coordinator Joe Bishara will direct the production.

A Black American playwright from metro Detroit, Llorenc's play, *Cane River King*, received the 2015 KCACTF Region Three award for best full-length play and was named the winner of the 2015 Activate: Midwest Festival. *Cane River King* was subsequently produced at Victory Gardens Biograph Theatre in Chicago. To learn more about Llorenc, visit jeremyllorenc.com

Voice of the Net, set in 2039, is a two-act, pseudo sci-fi exploration of law, information, identity and belief. The drama features a cast of six, including Sgt. Donna Lloyd, who leads a small federal task force dedicated to solving and preventing Internet crimes.

As in previous years, submissions for the 2018 fellowship explored a wide range of topics and included dramas, as well as comedies, Bishara said. "CATCO looks forward to working with Jeremy and local actors to perform a reading of his play in June."

"We are delighted to work with CATCO and Jeremy to bring *Voice of the Net* to the stage," said Tom Katzenmeyer, President and CEO of the Arts Council. "There is so much talent in this city. We relish the opportunity to showcase Columbus artists."

Selection criteria for the fellowship included originality, likelihood of future productions, clarity of voice and general interest in the subject matter. Interested artists were asked to submit a cover letter and the following:

- Breakdown of characters with brief descriptions
- Up to 10 pages of sample dialogue
- Brief synopsis (one or two paragraphs) of the play to be considered
- Cover page that provided the playwright's name, address and contact information. (Plays were considered without the playwright's information attached to ensure impartial selection.)

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio's professional Equity theatre company, providing quality theatre and educational programs for all ages with CATCO is Kids, CATCO's imaginative, captivating theatre program for central Ohio's young theatre lovers and their families. Together, the theatres have adopted an innovative strategy, building creative alliances that can sustain growth and development.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 34th 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 Helen E. Sandfort Arts-in-Education and Florence E.K. Hurd 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 and CATCO is Kids' season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library; and media sponsor is WOSU public media. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. For more information, visit catco.org.

Season subscriptions for CATCO and CATCO are Kids are now available. For details, visit catco.org/subscribe, or contact the box office at 614.469.0939.

For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

About the Greater Columbus Arts Council

The mission of the Arts Council is to support and advance the arts and cultural fabric of Columbus. www.gcac.org. The Arts Council thanks the City of Columbus and the Ohio Arts Council for their continued support.

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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