



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATCO is Kids Presents *Elf JR. The Musical* July 5-7

Comedy showcases acting talents of 24 central Ohio youths

CATCO is Kids will present *Elf JR. The Musical* as one of its summer musicals July 5-7. Based upon the beloved holiday film about Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity, this hilarious, fish-out-of-water comedy showcases 24 central Ohio youths.

With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

CATCO is Kids will perform *Elf JR. The Musical*, book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin, music by Matthew Sklar, and lyrics by Chad Beguelin, at the Van Fleet Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. The production is based upon the 2003 New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum, featuring Will Ferrell as Buddy.

Directing the musical and serving as music director is Jonathan Collura, a graduate of The Ohio State University, who works at several theatre companies around Columbus, as an actor and a music director. His CATCO credits include [title of show] and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Other credits include *Legally Blonde* (music director), *Nunsense* (music director), *Hair* (Claude), *RENT* (Mark), *tick, tick...BOOM* (Jon), *Aida* (Radames), and *Shrek* (Farquaad).

Cast members are:

- Elliott Benson – Security/Police/Ensemble
- Sophia Bergmann – Darlene Lambert/Saleswoman/Ensemble
- Kaitlyn Brown – Charlotte Dennon/Ensemble
- Tommy Druhan – Mr. Greenway/Ensemble
- Charles Easley – Walter Hobbs
- Trinity Gayle – Shawanda/Ensemble
- Meredith Hanosek – Matthews/Ensemble
- Lillian Hauser – Santa's Helper/Ensemble
- Preston Hudson – Michael Hobbs
- Oscar Humbert – Fake Santa/Ensemble
- Carson Kittaka – Santa/Ensemble
- Cameron Krisiewicz – Sarah/Ensemble
- Vincent Maneri – Buddy
- Norah McGann – Deb/Ensemble
- Teo Mendoza – Charlie/Ensemble

- Dominic Motter – Manager/Ensemble
- Nina Motter – Emily Hobbs
- KK Murphy – Chadwick/Ensemble
- Clara Sechler – Emma Von Brocklin/Ensemble
- Cassandra Silver – Child/Ensemble
- Evelyn Strayer – Jovie
- Lane Vance – Security Guard/Policeman/Ensemble
- Izzy Vatter – Sam/Ensemble
- Ella Wadsworth – Mother/Ensemble

Other members of the production cast include Jon Baggs, scenic designer; Debbie Hamrick, costume designer; Caroline Dittamo, lighting designer; Christian Craig, stage manager; Ben Smallwood, stage manager; Chase Holt, technical director; and Joe Wolfle, technical director.

Show times for *Elf JR. The Musical* are Friday, July 5, 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 6, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; and Sunday, July 7, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. All tickets are \$12 each.

CATCO is Kids is currently selling subscriptions for the 2019-20 season. Visit catcoistheatre.com for details.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 34rd 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 catcoistheatre.org.

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 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. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

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