



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha
614.563.1066
smbacha@earthlink.net

**CATCO is Kids, in Association With the McCoy Center For The Arts,
Presents *Willy Wonka JR. July 12-14***

Production features 40 New Albany Youths

The delicious adventures of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory light up the stage in *Willy Wonka JR.*, a captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale, which will be presented by CATCO is Kids, in association with the McCoy Center, July 12-14 and feature 40 New Albany youths.

Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film featuring Gene Wilder, in addition to a host of fun new songs, this “scrumdilyumptious” musical is guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth, according to Joe Bishara, CATCO associate producing director and director of *Willy Wonka JR.*

“Based upon the success of our relationship with the McCoy Center and our 2018 New Albany summer musical, *Mary Poppins JR.*, we couldn't wait to launch additional programming and another summer musical,” Bishara said. “Our goal for the summer 2019 production was to find another family-friendly fantastical musical and *Willy Wonka JR.* fit the bill.”

The production, featuring words and music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy A. McDonald, and based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, is the culmination of a five-week summer camp, similar to other CATCO is Kids' musical education programs.

Willy Wonka JR. tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids, and are on sale in advance at catcoistheatre.org and the mccoycenter.org. All performances are at the McCoy Center, 100 W. Dublin Granville Road in New Albany, Friday, July 12, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Cast members include:

- Willy Wonka – Edin Kebede
- Charlie Bucket – Cole Johnston
- Grandpa Joe – Owen Valenta
- Candy Man/Mr. Bucket – Dominic Catrone
- Phineas Trout – Macyn Swincicki
- Mrs. Bucket/Chef – Annie Trybus
- Grandpa George/Chef – Sahil Shah
- James/Lead Oompa Loompa #1 – Joseph Quigley

- Mrs. Gloop – Hannah Simpson
- Augustus Gloop – Clayton Hines
- Violet Beauregarde – Emma Winterstellar
- Mrs. Beauregarde – Lexi Kepling
- Mrs. Teavee – Lorelei Roeger
- Veruca Salt – Gianna Gooden
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Chef Ensemble – Nick Sloan
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Lead Oompa Loompa #2 – Angela Bdoyan
- Mike Teavee – Will Perry
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Kate Bohman
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Riona Rodrigues
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Lead Oompa Loompa Ensemble #3 – Abbie Long
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Samuel Melick
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Lead Oompa Loompa #4 – Deborah Starnal
- Mr. Salt – Arnav Nawani
- Grandma Georgina/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Olivia Sloan
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Chloe Shadwick
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Lead Oompa Loompa #5 – Lauren Funk
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Jaizel Cherry
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Drew Wintersteller
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Luke Johnston
- Grandma Josephine/Chef – Reagan King
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Emma Shachter
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Juliet Zaczepinski
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Sonny Kolp
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Emma Gray
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Maria Thiel
- Matilda/Candy Kid Ensemble/Oompa Loompa Ensemble – Clair Ritchey
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Chef – Madeline Page
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Chef – Mimi Rooney
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Chef – Hope Rooney
- Candy Kid Ensemble/Chef – Amelia Brechter

Bishara has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *The Christmas Schooner*, *Breaking the Code* (co-production with Evolution Theatre Co.), *Sex with Strangers*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Master Class*, [title of show], *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits, Vol.1*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and appeared in *Daddy Long Legs, I Do! I Do!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *The Story of My Life* and *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Other acting credits include *Titanic*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Last Five Years*. Additional directing credits include *Corpus Christi*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Sticks and Stones*, and *Ferguson: Truth Matters*.

Other members of the production cast include Colin Sproule, vocal director; Danielle Kfoury from Hixon Dance Company, choreographer; Hannah Bank, Emma Winder and Mary Beth Kauffman, assistant directors; Brendan Michna, lighting designer; Patrick Bryant, costume designer; and Megan Mateer, props master.

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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