



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha
614.563.1066
smbacha@earthlink.net

Tony-Nominated *Home* at CATCO Nov. 6-24

Coming-of-age drama follows African-American man on his journey to find a rewarding life

Written in strikingly lyrical language resembling more poem than play, Samm-Art Williams' 1980 Tony-nominated drama is a poignantly moving story of one African-American man's search to find his forever home. From the South Carolina farm he grew up on to life in the big city, his journey to find a rewarding life takes him to a surprising place.

Home, which was also nominated for a Drama Desk Award in 1980, was originally performed by the Negro Ensemble Company at St. Mark's Playhouse from 1979-80, and then moved to Broadway. Playwright Williams, also a screenwriter and stage and film actor, whose work focuses on the African-American experience, said he drew upon personal experience for the play and its central character Cephus. His other works include *Welcome to Black River* and *Friends*.

Directing *Home* and making his CATCO directing debut is David Harewood, who has spent his life and professional career in the theatre. Last season at CATCO, Harewood helped to create the *Long Street to Harlem* website to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance; in 2015, he appeared in CATCO's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

"I wanted to direct this show because the story moved me so greatly," Harewood said. "Williams' script, initially written as an homage to the world that raised him, reverberates soundly through the last three generations of Americans. The parallels between the times that shaped Cephus' journey eerily mirror our own, and I thought the idea of putting Gen-X and Millennial actors in a story set during the most tumultuous time of our parents' generation would reverberate quite strongly with our own."

"... *Home* is a play from the heart, about the heartline of America — a play that all theatregoers should embrace," according to *The New York Times*, while the *New York Post* said, "Williams can write naturally enough to charm the birds off the trees, and this is a great and lasting gift."

Members of the cast are:

- Shelby V. Holden (Woman #2), who is making her CATCO debut and has worked in theatre for more than 27 years. Holden's acting credits include the national tour of

Freedom Riders (Norma); *Gem of the Ocean* (Aunt Ester); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Dussie Mae); and *Texas Two-Stepping with the Girls* (Shelly).

- Shanelle Marie (Woman #1), who also is making her CATCO debut. Her favorite moments on stage include performing for actress, poet and playwright Ruby Dee, as well as acting in *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth) and *This* (Marrel) at Available Light Theatre. Film credits include *Godspeed*, *Oracabessa*, *Profiled*, and the Columbus 48-Hour Film Competition.
- Rico Romalus Parker (Cephus), a Dayton native, who also is making his CATCO debut. Theatre credits include *Topdog/Underdog*, *Lobby Hero*, *Belleville*, *Colossal*, *The Brothers Size*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Blue Orange*, *King Hedley II*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Passing Strange*, and *The Exonerated*.

After stints at Interlochen, Blue Lake, and Columbia College Chicago, Harewood decided to switch from acting to directing. Recent directing credits include *Poe: The Play* (Original Productions Theatre); *The Vultures* (Evolution Theatre Company); and *The Gospel ... Discord* (Red Herring Productions).

Home ticket prices are \$20 for Wednesdays matinees at 11 a.m.; \$30 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; \$40 Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and \$35 Sundays at 2 p.m. All tickets can be purchased online at www.catcoistheatre.org, at the ticket 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.

There are two previews, Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 11 a.m., and Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Opening night is Friday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m.

Presenting sponsors for *Home* are Donna and Larry James.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 35th 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 is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

CATCO also appreciates the support of the Bernhart J. Mertz and Barbara B. Coons 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; presenting sponsor 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.

Subscriptions for CATCO and CATCO is Kids are available by calling the ticket office at 614.469.0919 or visiting catco.org. Single tickets are now on sale for *Home*, *Application Pending* and *Midnight and Magnolias* at CATCO and *Disney's Alice in wonderland JR.*, *A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail* and *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat* at CATCO is Kids. Remaining shows for the 2019-20 season are:

CATCO

- ***Application Pending***
Written by Greg Edwards and Andy Sandberg
Jan. 23-Feb. 16, 2020
Studio Three Theatre, Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
- ***Moonlight and Magnolias***
Written by Ron Hutchinson
March 11-29, 2020
Studio Two Theatre, Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
- ***Nureyev's Eyes***
Written by David Rush
April 15-May 3, 2020
Studio Two Theatre, Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
- ***Desperate Measures***
Book and lyrics by Peter Kellogg
Music by David Friedman
June 3-21, 2020
Studio Two Theatre, Riffe Center
77 S. High Street

CATCO is Kids

- ***Annie KIDS***
Book by Thomas Meehan
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Based on the book *Little Orphan Annie*
A Saturday Morning Musicals Production!
Nov. 9-10, 2019
Shedd Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***A Winnie-The-Pooh Christmas Tail***
Music and Lyrics James W. Rodgers
Book inspired by A.A. Milne's *Winnie-The-Pooh*
Dec. 6-22, 2019
Van Fleet Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat***
Based on the book by Dr. Seuss
Play originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain
Jan. 10-26, 2020

Shedd Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.

- ***Press Start!***
Book by Denver Casado, Brian Dawson
Music and Lyrics by Denver Casado
March 6-15, 2020
Van Fleet Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.***
Lyrics by Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, George Newall,
Kathy Mandry Lynn Ahrens, Tom Yohe
Music by Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, George Newall,
Kathy Mandry, Lynn Ahrens, Tom Yohe
Book by George Keating, Kyle Hall, Scott Ferguson
Based on the ABC-TV educational animated series,
which aired during the 1970s and 1980s.
March 21-22, 2020
Shedd Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.
- ***Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical***
Book by Dennis Kelly
Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin
Based on the book, *Matilda*, by Roald Dahl
May 7-24, 2020
Shedd Theatre, The Columbus Performing Arts Center
549 Franklin Ave.

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.

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