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CATCO is Kids Presents *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.* Nov. 22-24

The community production in Dublin/Powell features 28 youths

Journey “under the sea” with Ariel and her aquatic friends in *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.*, a community production in Dublin/Powell presented by CATCO is Kids, Nov. 22-24, featuring 28 youth actors.

In this musical, based upon the Academy Award-winning film and Broadway musical, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, who lives in a magical underwater kingdom, longs to leave her ocean home — and her fins — behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, make a deal with the evil sea witch, and convince a handsome prince that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking.

The production, features famous tunes from the musical – *Kiss the Girl, Under the Sea, Poor Unfortunate Souls* and *Part of Your World* – and is condensed for young actors to approximately one hour. *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.*, which is based on the Hans Christian Andersen Story and the Disney Film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker and Ron Clements, is the culmination of a five-week theatre camp that results in a weekend of performances, similar to other CATCO is Kids' musical education programs. The camp began Oct. 13.

Disney's The Little Mermaid JR. tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids, and are on sale in advance at catcoistheatre.org, as well as the night of the performances at Abbey Theater, 5600 Post Road, in Dublin, where the musical will be staged. Performances are Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Directing the production, with lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater with music by Alan Menken and book by Doug Wright, is Joe Bishara, Theater Supervisor for the Abbey Theater of Dublin, Recreation Services, City of Dublin. Bishara is also overseeing vocal direction and choreography.

Bishara, formally CATCO and CATCO is Kids' associate producing director, has worked at regional theatres in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Florida as an actor, director, producer, and administrator. At CATCO, he directed *Willy Wonka JR.*, *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*.

Cast members are:

- Connor Adams, Scuttle (Powell)
- Vanessa Adams, Flotsam/Pilot/Carlotta (Powell)
- Justina Adongo, Lagoon animal/ Seagull /Princess (Delaware)
- Pareesa Akbar, Lagoon animal/Chef (Dublin)
- Eli Belcher, Sebastian (Lewis Center)
- Audrey Bohman, Adella/Chef/Sailor (Powell)
- Kaitlyn Brown, Chef Louis/Seagull/Lagoon animal (Powell)
- Reagan Bryant, Grimsby/Chef (Lewis Center)
- Sally Colburn, Lagoon Animal/Chef/Princess (Powell)
- Lilah Courtney, Flotsam (Worthington)
- Lillie Culver, Ariel (Powell)
- Stephanie Gregory, Lagoon animal/Chef (Delaware)
- Alethia Hardjono, Andrina/Chef/Sailor (Powell)
- Jeremy Hardjono , King Triton (Powell)
- Sam Hardjono, Flounder (Powell)
- Shaena Khouw, Jetsam (Dublin)
- Ashley Marie McCormick, Lagoon animal/Princess/Seagull (Delaware)
- Connor Paap, Prince Eric (Powell)
- Madison Rae Petz, Arista/Chef/Sailor (Powell)
- Ellie Rees, Seagull /Lagoon animal/Princess (Plain City)
- Brandon Scioli, Lagoon animal/Seagull (Powell)
- Ava Shields, Lagoon animal/Chef/Princess (Powell)
- Saina Sukhramani, Allana/Chef/Sailor (Lewis Center)
- Kate Sullenberger, Ursula (Powell)
- Addy Thiel, Lagoon animal/Chef/Princess (Powell)
- Valentina Vergamini, Aquata/Chef/Sailor (Upper Arlington)
- Ella Wadsworth, Atina/Chef/Sailor (Dublin)
- Sadie Wilder, Lagoon animal/Princess/Chef (Plain City)

Other members of the production cast include Debbie Hamrick, costume designer; Emma Winder and Sharon Kibe, production assistants; Chase Holt, technical direction; and Jennifer Maynard, props master.

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 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. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks; media partner is WOSU Public Media. For more information, visit catco.org.

CATCO is Kids is currently selling subscriptions for the 2019-20 season. 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 *A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail*, *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat, Press Start!*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.* and *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*. Remaining shows are:

- ***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. For more information, visit **catcoistheatre.org**.

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