



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATCO is Kids Presents *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat* Jan. 10-26

Play originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain

CATCO is Kids will present a contemporary theatrical adaptation of Dr. Seuss's classic children's story, *The Cat in the Hat*, Jan. 10-26, 2020.

The adaptation, originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain and based on the book of the same name by Dr. Seuss, brings everyone's favorite cat to life. From the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears on stage, the fun and mischievous antics begin for Sally, her brother and the audience. But what will mom find when she gets home?

All performances for *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat* will be in the Shedd Theatre, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave.

To familiarize children with the play before they attend and enrich their experience afterward, parents can access CATCO is Kids' play guide for *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*, which can be found at:

<https://www.catco.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Cat-in-the-Hat-Playguide.pdf>

Directing the musical is Liz Wheeler, middle school theater instructor and director at CSG, who holds her BFA in acting, with an emphasis in musical theatre, from Wright State University. She has directed and choreographed for CATCO, CATCO is Kids, Wright State University, SRO, and many other theatres. Last spring she was a co-director of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* at CATCO is Kids. Some of Wheeler's favorite projects include *Evil Dead the Musical*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Bat Boy*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Never Ending Story*.

Cast members are:

- Grace Hardjono (Girl), who is performing in her seventh production with CATCO is Kids. She has previously appeared in *Seussical KIDS*; *The Lion King KIDS*; *Madagascar*; *Alice in Wonderland JR.*; *Annie KIDS*; and *The Little Mermaid JR.*
- Jeremy Hardjono (Fish), who is a student at Olentangy Orange High School. His previous roles with CATCO is Kids include King Julien in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*; Grasshopper in *James and the Giant Peach JR.*; and King Triton in *The Little Mermaid JR.*
- Sam Hardjono (Boy), who his performing in his seventh production at CATCO is Kids. Acting credits include *Seussical KIDS*; *The Lion King KIDS*; *Madagascar*; *Alice in Wonderland JR.*; *Annie KIDS*; and *The Little Mermaid JR.*

- Lizzie Huelskamp (Thing 2/Kitten), whose recent musical theater roles include Esther Jane in *A Christmas Story*; Annie in *Annie*; Susan Parks in *Billy Elliot*; Hortensia in *Matilda*; and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid JR*.
- Bailey Richmond (Thing 1/Kitten), whose favorite past roles include Lavender in *Matilda the Musical* (Weathervane Playhouse); Annie in *Annie the Musical* (King Avenue Players); and Nermal in *Garfield the Musical* (CATCO is Kids).
- Douglas Wilson (The Cat), who is making his CATCO is Kids debut. Recent credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Columbus Civic Theater); *Frankenstein* (Actors' Theatre of Columbus); and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (CATCO).

Members of the production cast are Allison Gammons, stage manager; Edith Dinger Wadkins, scenic designer; Rowan Winterwood, lighting designer; Debbie Hamrick, costume designer; Russell Boiarsky, sound designer; Jennifer Maynard, props master; Chase Holt, technical director; and Brendan Michna, master electrician.

Show times for *The Cat in the Hat* are Friday, Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 9:45 a.m. (school matinee), 11 a.m. (school matinee) and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 12, 19 and 26, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids.

There is a sensory-friendly performance at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. The theatre experience will be modified to be more comfortable and accessible to audience members with social and sensory disabilities, which can include, but are not limited to, autism. The performance is presented in partnership with the Autism Society of Central Ohio and sponsored by PNC.

To learn more about this performance, please visit:

<https://www.catco.org/sensory-friendly/>

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* and *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*. Remaining shows are:

- ***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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