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CATCO Presents Play Reading of *The Price of Power* by Herb Brown Feb. 7-8

Drama focuses on President John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover

CATCO will present a reading of a new riveting drama written by former Ohio Supreme Court Justice and Columbus playwright Herb Brown called *The Price of Power*. The play reading, which will be presented at CATCO Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8, 8 p.m., focuses on the relationships between former President John F. Kennedy, his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, and J. Edgar Hoover, and revelations about their elaborate schemes as they all grapple for power.

The early 1960s were a turbulent time in American history. Newly elected President John F. Kennedy ushered in a promise of hope. His younger brother Bobby was entrusted as Attorney General and their administration faced the Bay of Pigs, the beginnings of Viet Nam, Civil Rights and many, many more challenges. Their nemesis was J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who kept dossiers on the mistakes of every prominent politician, including John F. Kennedy's extramarital affairs, in America in order to consolidate his own power.

"Kennedy was a charismatic and visionary leader who nonetheless suffered from an inability to avoid extramarital sexual dalliances. Hoover, seeing information about these multiple trysts as an opportunity to exert 'guidance' on the young president, found himself in a cat-and-mouse game that never provided him with the satisfaction to which he aspired," according to Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and director of *The Price of Power*.

"Herb's knowledge of history and the human foibles that make it enticing and unforgettable are abundantly evident in this 'never before heard' reading of his fascinating play."

Brown has written seven plays, three of them world premieres produced by CATCO: *You're My Boy* in 2005; *The Final Table* in 2015; and *Henry Ford's Model E* in 2017. *The Power of God* was featured in CATCO's *Shorts Festival 2002*. He is also working on an eighth play, *The Duchess*. His novels include *Shadow of Doubt* and *Presumption of Guilt*. *Presumption* rose to No. 10 on the Doubleday national bestseller list and *Shadow* was a selection of the Literary Guild.

Brown's plays stem from an interest in bringing intriguing history to life on the stage. No matter the era, you can discover a contemporary hook in almost all of it, he said in a recent interview.

“History certainly does repeat itself, although the repetition comes with different personages (characters) and somewhat different manifestations.”

The Price of Power readings will be performed in the Studio One Theatre, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St. To reserve free tickets, please visit:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/freplarea/event/810906/>

There will be a brief question-and-answer session with the playwright and actors after the reading.

Play reading actors are:

- Kevin Carty (John F. Kennedy, president), who performed in CATCO’s recent production of *Holmes and Watson*. Previous CATCO credits include *The Final Table*, *I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change*, *The Fantastics*, as well as *Seussical the Musical* and *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* at CATCO is Kids. He has directed shows at CATCO is Kids, Reality Theater, Columbus Children’s Theatre, Opera Columbus, and several area high schools, and, for the last 10 years, has portrayed the role of the clown wearing Big Red Shoes.
- Todd Covert (Clyde Tolson, assistant director of the FBI), who holds a BFA from The Ohio State University and an MFA from The University of Southern California. At CATCO, he has performed in *Life Sucks.*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Final Table*, and *Henry Ford’s Model E*. Short North Stage credits include *Saturday Night Fever*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *A Normal Heart*, *Angels in America*, *Dream Girls* and *Assassins*; Weathervane Theatre credits include *The Odd Couple*, *Meet Me in St.Louis*, *The Full Monty* and *Gypsy*.
- Isaac Nippert (Robert F. Kennedy, attorney general), who performed in CATCO’s production of *My Name is Asher Lev* during the 2014-15 season. His Los Angeles theater credits include *A Christmas Carol* and *Nothing Sacred* at South Coast Repertory, *Don Juan* at A Noise Within and *The Magic Bullet Theory* at Sacred Fools Theatre Company.
- Ralph Scott (J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI), who is a graduate of The Second City in Chicago and has performed in *Holmes and Watson*, *Breaking the Code*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *The Three Trials Of Oscar Wilde*, *The Final Table*, *Next Fall*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, *Evie’s Waltz*, *The Foursome* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at CATCO. In addition to numerous regional and national commercial works, Scott is active in independent movies locally and throughout the Midwest.

Directing the play reading is Steven Anderson. Anderson’s directing credits include plays as diverse as the central Ohio premiere and first non-touring production in Ohio of *Fun Home*, as well as *Application Pending*, *Home*, *My Way*, *A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra*, *Holmes and Watson*, *Life Sucks*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Avenue Q*, and the highly acclaimed production of Doug Wright’s *I Am My Own Wife*. He has also directed *Candide* and *Hair* at The Ohio State University Theatre Department; *Love! Velour! Compassion!* and *The Taste of Sunrise* at CATCO; *Big River* and *Pippin* at Actors Theatre; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at New Harmony Theatre; and *Greater Tuna*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Assassins* at the former Players Theatre Columbus

where he served as Associate Producing Director.

The Price of Power sponsors are Don and Ann Casto, Donna and Larry James, Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer, Brenda and Steven McCoy, Martha and Scott Whitlock, Huntington National Bank, and PNC Foundation.

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

- ***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

- ***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***
Co-Production with Columbus Children's Theatre
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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