



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents *Moonlight and Magnolias* March 11-29

A behind-the-scenes comedy about the making of Gone With the Wind

It's 1939 and legendary producer David O. Selznick has shut down production of his new cinema epic, *Gone with the Wind*, because the script doesn't work. The all-powerful movie mogul needs help and summons famed screenwriter Ben Hecht and formidable director Victor Fleming to his office to rewrite the script. The door is locked, and five days later the three Hollywood legends complete a blueprint for one of the most beloved films ever made.

CATCO will reveal this little known behind-the-scenes story about the making of *Gone With the Wind* in *Moonlight and Magnolias*, playwright Ron Hutchinson's comedy, March 11-29 at the Studio Two Theatre, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.

"There are laughs aplenty as the egos of three creative geniuses butt heads under intense pressure to produce a long script in a matter of days. Screenwriter Hecht had never even read the book. The humor, however, is juxtaposed with serious discussions about race and religion," said Director Steven C. Anderson, who is also CATCO's producing director.

"Frankly, my dear, this is one funny play ... a rip-roaring farce ... [with] witty, pointed dialogue and hilarious situations ... " said the *New York Daily News*, while the *Chicago Sun Times* calls *Moonlight and Magnolias* "... A Hollywood dream-factory farce ... At once a hyperventilating slapstick comedy, an impassioned love song and a blazing critique of Hollywood. ... "

Performing in *Moonlight and Magnolias* is Josh Katawick (David O. Selznick), who was last seen on CATCO's stage as Oscar Wilde in *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. He is a resident ensemble member of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and his past year's credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Miss Holmes*, *Who Is Amos Otis?* (a world premiere), *Titus Andronicus*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

He is joined by:

- Danielle Mann (Miss Poppengul), who appeared in CATCO productions of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Love Letters*, *The Fantasticks* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, and counts as her favorite performances roles in *Falsettos*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Diviners* and *Closer Than Ever!*

- Ralph Scott (Victor Fleming), who is a graduate of The Second City in Chicago and has performed in CATCO's productions of *Holmes and Watson*, *Breaking the Code*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *Gross Indecency: 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*. In addition to numerous regional and national commercial works, Scott is active in independent film locally and throughout the Midwest.
- David Allen Vargo (Ben Hecht), who has performed in CATCO productions of *Mothers and Sons* and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. Additional credits include leading roles in *Chapatti*, *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson*, *Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*, *Sordid Lives*, *The Temperamentals*, *Veronica's Position*, *The Paris Letter*, *Elizabeth Rex* and *Into the Woods*. Vargo recently directed the critically acclaimed world premiere of *The Turkey Men* at Evolution Theatre Company, and is an audio book narrator for Audible.

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*, *My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra*, *Holmes and Watson*, *Life Sucks*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Gross Indecency: 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.

Moonlight and Magnolias 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. Student tickets can be purchased for \$15 for any performance based on availability and valid I.D. 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.

Show times for *Moonlight and Magnolias* are at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and 25; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 12, 19 and 26; 8 p.m. Fridays, March 13, 20, and 27; 8 p.m. Saturdays, March 14, 21 and 28; and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 15, 22 and 29.

There are two previews, Wednesday, March 11, at 11 a.m., and Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. Opening night is Friday, March 13, at 8 p.m.

Presenting sponsor for *Moonlight and Magnolias* is the Robert Weiler Company.

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

- ***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***
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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