



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 10, 2020

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## **Virtual Fall 2020 Classes Begin Oct. 3 at CATCO is Kids**

### ***Saturday Morning Musicals program returns with *The Show Must Go Online!****

CATCO is Kids' announced today that its virtual fall 2020 classes begin Oct. 3 with a Saturday Morning Musicals production of the highly acclaimed and new virtual musical for kids – *The Show Must Go Online!, A Virtual Children's Musical*. Registration is open for this popular program, as well as for all fall theatre classes, which include an adult acting class.

Classes and camps use theatrical techniques to reinforce values, empathy, and understanding, as well as important life lessons, while providing children – and adults – with the chance to explore their creative side. Each year more than 750 kids participate in CATCO is Kids' camps and classes, resulting in more than 13,000 hours of interaction with performing arts educators.

“We’re excited to be bringing back our popular Saturday Morning Musicals program this fall with a new musical being billed as the world’s first virtual children’s musical,” said Andrew Protopapas, CATCO’s interim education director. *The Show Must Go Online!*, book by Jessica Penzias, lyrics by Dave Hudson and music by Denver Casado, features up to 21 youth actors who receive a song or scene to rehearse, video record and upload. All parts together tell the story of students trying to keep their annual school musical alive by pivoting and producing it online.

“We had great virtual theatre camps this summer, and are looking forward to providing more of the same creative, quality instruction this fall,” Protopapas said.

*The Show Must Go Online!*, presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press, runs from Oct. 3-Nov. 21, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. via Zoom!, for ages 10-15. The cost is \$250. A performance video will be edited and shared at a later date.

CATCO is Kids also will offer a Virtual Teen Scene Study, Oct. 6-Nov. 12, Tuesdays (ages 13-15) and Thursdays (ages 16-18), from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. via Zoom! The cost is \$250. Students will explore acting in two-person scenes and hone a variety of theatrical skills all from the comfort of their homes. Recordings of students’ scenes will be shared with families at a later date.

From Oct. 7-Dec. 2, adults (age 21 and older) interested in learning more about acting or looking for an acting tune-up can take adult acting classes designed for all acting levels. Classes, held Wednesdays from 6 p.m.-8p.m., will cover a variety of topics, including cold readings, monologues and two-person scenes. The cost is \$300.

CATCO is Kids is waving all regular registration fees for virtual offerings this fall, but all sales are final unless a minimum enrollment is reached, in which case, that particular session will be canceled. Details about each session and registration links can be found at: <https://www.catco.org/acting-classes/>

Fall theatre instructors will include Krista Lively Stauffer, CATCO is Kids' artist educator; Ralph Scott, a central Ohio-based professional actor; and Quinton Jones, a Columbus-based music director and costume designer.

Stauffer, a graduate of Otterbein University's Theatre Department, is a local professional actor on stage and screen. A casting associate/in-house artist with Boxland Media, she has been seen and heard in several commercials and voice-overs. Some of her favorite stage credits include *Avenue Q* (Kate/Lucy); *Sunday in the Park with George* (Nurse/Harriet/Mrs.); and *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes). Krista directs CATCO is Kids' Saturday Morning Musical experiences.

Scott is a graduate of The Second City Training Center 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, he is active in independent film locally and throughout the Midwest.

Jones, who will be the music instructor for CATCO is Kids' Saturday Morning Musicals, has served as music director and costume designer for many CATCO shows, most recently *My Way, A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra*. Other CATCO credits include *Home*, *Press Start!*, and *A Winnie-The-Pooh Christmas Tail*.

Choreography for Saturday Morning Musicals will be provided by Hixon Dance.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 36th 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 is Kids' presenting sponsor is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. CATCO and CATCO is Kids' season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library and media partner is WOSU Public Media. For more information, visit [catco.org](http://catco.org).

### **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](http://catcoistheatre.org).