



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha  
614.563.1066  
smbacha@earthlink.net

***Working: A Musical at CATCO Virtually April 29-May 9***

***Award-winning exposé of work and the people behind the jobs based upon Studs Terkel's bestseller***

CATCO will focus on work and the people behind the jobs in its upcoming production of *Working: A Musical* April 29-May 9. Based upon Studs Terkel's 1974 bestseller, *Working: People Talk About What They Do all Day and How They Feel About What They Do*, the musical shares actual workers' words from the book and gives voice to their hopes and aspirations.

Truckers, waitresses, stay-at-home moms, hedge fund managers, laborers, millworkers, project managers, delivery people and other workers tell their stories through music written by songwriters Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mary Rodgers, Susan Birkenhead, Stephen Schwartz and James Taylor.

The musical has undergone several revisions since its premiere in 1977 and on Broadway in 1978. CATCO will present the 2012 version.

"At a time when our relationship with work is shifting – mass unemployment, concerns over workplace safety, more people than ever working from home – many of us are thinking hard about the role our jobs play in our lives. Are we defined by our jobs? Should we be? What hopes and dreams are tied up in that paycheck?" said Leda Hoffmann, CATCO's artistic director. "From Studs Terkel's book to the original musical, to this revised version, *Working* has always been about our shared humanity and the universal longing in all of us to be part of something," she said.

*Working: A Musical*, adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso with additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg, is constructed as a series of songs and monologues, "which is perfect for our virtual season," Hoffmann said. The titles include *All the Livelong Day*, *Just a Housewife*, *Brother Trucker*, *Cleanin' Women* and *Millwork*.

Auditions for six actors are under way. More information is available at <https://www.catco.org/auditions/>

Tickets for *Working: A Musical* (one per device) are \$20 each, and are available at [www.catco.org/working/](http://www.catco.org/working/)

Directing *Working: A Musical* is Daniella Wheelock; the music director is Jeremy Ramey. Wheelock is a Chicago-based theatremaker, originally from San Diego, Calif. Recent directing credits include: *Fragmented* (visual designer/assistant to dir. Spencer Diedrick, *Our Perspectives: Asian American Plays*); *The Roommate* (Cardinal Stage); *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (Quincy Community Theatre); *The Great Leap* (assistant to dir. Jesca Prudencio, Steppenwolf Theatre Company); and *The Process* (The Barrens Theatre Co.).

Ramey is a concert pianist, conductor and music director based in Chicago and serves as the resident music director for Theo Ubique Theatre Company. In 2020, Jeremy received his 11th and 12th Jeff nominations for music direction for his work on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Hello, Again*. Previous Jeff awards received include *Bridges of Madison County*, *The Light In The Piazza*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Rent*, *The Most Happy Fella* and *Sweeney Todd*. In 2016, he won his second Broadway World Award for Music Direction for his work on *Bette*, *Live at The Continental Baths*.

Other members of the creative team for *Working: A Musical* are: choreographer Shoshana Canali; digital designer Chris Leyva; and stage manager Rachel Heine.

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.

### **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).

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