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CATCO Presents Wickedly Funny Broadway Hit, *Buyer & Cellar*, May 27-June 14

Andrew Levitt, aka Nina West, makes CATCO debut

It's true ... Barbra Streisand collected so many objects she didn't know what to do with them. Imagine she created a special mall under her house, barn and gristmill to display them. Imagine she was so pleased with herself that she created a coffee table book of photographs of said objects called, *My Passion for Design*. Imagine she hired Alex More, a struggling LA actor, to help her manage her stuff.

Of course, you don't have to imagine that an enterprising playwright, Jonathan Tolins, wrote a play about an imaginary salesperson for this shopping mall created for Babs' eyes only, because it's true. And it will be performed on the CATCO stage in a central Ohio premiere May 27-June 14 at the Studio Two Theatre, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.

The New York Times called *Buyer & Cellar* "the most talked-about comedy of the season! Irresistible, delicious and wickedly funny." Other reviews include:

- "A fantasy so delightful you wish it were true." —*The New Yorker*
- "Hilarious! Beyond brilliant. This show will go down like butta'!" —*Entertainment Weekly*
- "Fantastically funny." —*New York Post*

"CATCO is thrilled to be presenting *Buyer & Cellar*, the outrageous comedy fresh from Broadway about the price of fame, fancy stuff and the most bizarre of side jobs, and Columbus' own Andrew Levitt in the lead role," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director and director of *Buyer & Cellar*. "Andrew is making his CATCO debut, but he is no stranger to the stage."

Levitt, well known in central Ohio arts and entertainment circles and nationwide, has spent the past 15 years performing as the character Nina West with his unique humor, creativity and drag performance. Through his work, he has raised more than \$700,000 for local and national charities.

A 2001 graduate of Denison University, with a B.F.S. in theatre, Levitt said he is excited to "get back to the stage in a completely different way, revealing more of the man behind

the makeup.” In *Buyer & Cellar* he will perform as More, the struggling LA actor, and all six other characters in the play, including Babs herself.

He is joined by Timothy Elliott, a New York-based actor, who is the understudy for Alex More. Elliott was seen recently in the world premiere of *Marvellous (an illuminated tale)* for the New York City Fringe Festival. He has also appeared as Sir Isaac Newton in *The Physicists* for Lonesome George Productions and Kirk in *Tiny Bubbles* for New Direction.

Anderson’s directing credits include *The Final Table* earlier this year, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Avenue Q*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Rubenstein Kiss*, *Souvenir* 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.

CATCO’s 30th 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 Grace K. and Robert L. Roche and James W. Overstreet 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’s season sponsor is L Brands; the season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *Buyer & Cellar*, Wednesday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, May 29, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45.

\$11@11 Matinees

For *Buyer & Cellar*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: Wednesday, May 27, and June 3 and 10.

CATCO’s \$11@11 is an offering for theatregoers who want to see a play mid-week (Wednesday) and mid-day (11 a.m.) at a great price (\$11 plus a 50-cent restoration fee).

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for all other performances are Thursdays, \$30; Sundays, \$41; and Fridays and Saturdays, \$45.

Students may purchase \$15 tickets two hours before any performance based on availability and valid I.D. A limited number of \$20 rush tickets are available beginning two hours prior to curtain for 30 minutes only. All tickets can be purchased at the box 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.

Performances are in the Studio Theatres at the Vern Riffe Center, located at 77 S. High St., in Downtown Columbus at the corner of State and High streets. Attached parking is available in the Riffe Center garage, which is entered from Front Street.

CATCO's final show of the season is:

- *[title of show]*
Music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen; book by Hunter Bell
Opens June 18

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio's professional Equity theatre company, providing quality theatre and educational programs for all ages. The theatre organization has adopted an innovative strategy, building creative alliances that can sustain growth and development. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org. Together, CATCO and CATCO is Kids provide quality theatre and educational programs for all ages. 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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