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CATCO Presents 2013 Tony Award Winner *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*

Chekov meets South Park in Christopher Durang's madcap comedy April 6-24

Hilarity runs wild in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Christopher Durang's 2013 Tony Award winner for Best Play, where movie star Masha supports her middle-aged, single siblings whose academician parents were Chekov enthusiasts. When she reveals unexpected plans, long-repressed resentments bubble over in a weekend full of wild costume parties, voodoo and surprise romance.

This madcap comedy about three siblings and one hot mess will be presented at CATCO April 6-24, 2016, in the Studio One Theatre, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St. "The best way to describe *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is Chekov meets South Park," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO's producing director.

"Hugely entertaining ... few contemporary playwrights have proven as deft as Durang at mining both the absurdity and the dangers of human folly," says *USA Today*. From the *New York Times*: "Broad comic acting is raised to the level of high art ... deliriously funny ... a heedless good time."

Because of its large millennial appeal, CATCO will offer student tickets for \$5 each throughout the run.

CATCO welcomes Columbus native David Caldwell as director of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Caldwell most recently directed and conceived *Oystertown* for The Dixie Theatre Foundation; *Dog Fight* for the Webster Conservatory; *Driving Miss Daisy* for Little Theatre on the Square; and *Mrs. Mannerly* for Max & Louie Productions in St. Louis. Regional credits include Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Milwaukee Rep., McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Meadowbrook Theatre, Riverside Theater, Montana Repertory Theatre, Florida Studio Theater, Pennsylvania Stage Company, Downtown Cabaret Theatre, Totem Pole Playhouse, Allenberry and The Gretna Playhouse.

In the role of Vanya, CATCO welcomes back Jonathan Putnam, who has acted in, directed, stage managed or designed sound for nearly 100 CATCO productions, including acting major roles in *The Pillowman*, *Seascape*, *You're My Boy* (in which he created the role of Richard Nixon), *Uncle Vanya*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *Blackbird*, *The Complete History of America (abridged)*, *The Santaland Diaries* and *The Final Table* last spring.

He will be joined by Lori Cannon (Masha), who returns to the CATCO stage after performing in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* and *The Farnedale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*. Other acting credits include Short North Playhouse, Red Herring's *Death Defying Acts* and Reality Theatre's *Closer*. Danielle Mann plays the role of the third sibling, Sonia. Mann appeared in CATCO productions of *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!*

Remaining cast members include William Darby (Spike) who studied and performed with Theater Columbus State and the Ohio State Opera, and appeared in CATCO is Kids' productions of *The Jungle Book* and *Isabella e la Bestia*. He also recently appeared on stage as Captain Von Trapp in SRO's production of *The Sound of Music*. Making their CATCO debuts are Kristen Krak (Nina), whose favorite credits include *Urinetown* and *Almost, Maine* (Ohio Wesleyan University), *Spamalot, Guys and Dolls*, and *Oliver!* (Weathervane Playhouse), *When the Lights Go On Again* (Blue Ridge Dinner Theater, Virginia), and a tour with the Missoula Children's Theater. Dayton native Shanessa Sweeney (Cassandra) teaches theatre at Stivers School for the Arts. Acting credits include: *To The Quick: Tituba*, *A Taste of Chocolate* (Off-B'way); *King Lear: Goneril*; and feature film: *Rustin* (starring musician Meatloaf).

CATCO's 31th 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 Cathrine C. Hislop and Barbara J. Haddox 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.

Presenting sponsor for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is The Robert Weiler Company.

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 *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Wednesday, April 6, at 11:00 a.m., and Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$30 for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, April 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

Wednesday Matinees

For *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, there will be three 11 a.m. matinee performances: Wednesday, April 6, 13 and April 20. Tickets are \$17.

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for all other performances are Thursdays, \$30; Sundays, \$35; and Fridays and Saturdays, \$40.

For *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* student tickets are \$5 tickets and can be purchased 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 remaining shows of the season are:

- ***Ring of Fire***
The Music of Johnny Cash
Created by Richard Maltby Jr.
Conceived by William Meade
Adapted from the Broadway production by Richard Maltby Jr. and Jason Edwards
Orchestrations by Steven Bishop and Jeff Lisenby
Additional arrangements by David Abbinanti
June 1-19, 2016

Remaining shows at CATCO is Kids are:

- ***The Kabuki Sleeping Beauty***
By Steven C. Anderson
May 13-22, 2016

For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org

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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