



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2020

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CATCO is Kids, Columbus Children's Theatre Announce *Matilda* Cancellation

Central Ohio's premiere youth theatre companies were to co-produce musical May 7-24

CATCO is Kids and Columbus Children's Theatre, the region's premiere youth theatre organizations, announced today plans to cancel their co-production of *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, winner of multiple Tony and Olivier awards, scheduled for May 7-24, 2020.

"It is with deep sadness that we have decided to cancel *Matilda*," Steven C. Anderson, CATCO's producing director, and Susan Pringle, executive director of Columbus Children's Theatre, said. "Our priority since Gov. DeWine's directive to limit public gatherings earlier this month has been the safety of our patrons and performers. We felt the large cast size and magnitude of such a large-scale musical would simply put too many of our central Ohio youth performers at risk, thus requiring this drastic action."

"This collaboration was to be a first for our two groups, and we hope that we can partner again at a future date, just as we hope to connect again with our patrons as soon as possible," Anderson and Pringle said. "In the meantime, please stay in touch with us at our respective websites – catco.org and columbuschildrenstheatre.org – for updates and announcements about our exciting 2020-21 seasons."

Since the cancellation will affect the financial well-being of the theatre organizations, they are asking subscribers and those who have purchased tickets to consider donating their tickets back to CATCO is Kids and Columbus Children's Theatre instead of asking for refunds. For refund requests or to donate tickets, ticketholders can email tickets@cbusarts.com.

Matilda The Musical, inspired by the genius of Roald Dahl, is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the story of a young girl who dreams of a better life. The tale of Matilda, a special child with an extraordinary imagination, has delighted audiences young and old since its premiere on London's West End in 2011 and

on Broadway in 2013.

Columbus Children's Theatre, CATCO, and CATCO is Kids seasons are supported by The Ohio Arts Council, which helps fund both theatres with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans, and both are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In addition, the Columbus Foundation supports both Columbus Children's Theatre and CATCO and CATCO is Kids, with the latter receiving 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.

Columbus Children's Theatre, CATCO, and CATCO is Kids each receive support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973, and additional support from 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. CATCO is Kids' presenting partner is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks; media partner is WOSU Public Media.

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 **catco.org**.

About COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

At Columbus Children's Theatre we educate and involve young people of all backgrounds in the theatre arts. Through our programs we foster self-esteem and self-discovery by emphasizing discipline, integrity, team-building, and communication skills in a positive and creative environment. We promote access to theatre arts for families who do not have regular opportunities to appreciate theatre in their lives because of either economic, cultural, or other barriers.

COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S THEATRE Mission Statement

Transforming families through the power of the stage.

For more information, visit **ColumbusChildrensTheatre.org**