



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CATCO is Kids Replaces Summer Musical, *Beauty and the Beast JR.*,
With Four-Week Virtual Playwriting Workshop Aug. 3-28**

Virtual Saturday classes for the entire family coming in July and August

CATCO is Kids today announced that it will replace its summer musical, *Beauty and the Beast JR.*, initially scheduled for August, with a four-week Virtual Playwriting Workshop to be held Aug. 3-28.

“Due to health concerns and our commitment to the safety and health of our families, patrons, young artists and staff, we made the decision to cancel *Beauty and the Beast JR.*,” said Andrew Protopapas, CATCO’s interim education director. “We are excited to replace it with a new program, the Virtual Playwriting Workshop, which will give our student playwrights and actors preparation for the current evolution of theatre to a virtual platform.”

The special four-week summer program will be presented as two separate two-week sessions, so students have the option to register for one or both depending upon their interest. The cost will be \$350 for both sessions, or \$250 for each session, and registration for each session will be limited to 14 students. During the first session, Aug. 3 – 14, students will work together to write a play to be performed virtually. In the second session, Aug. 17 – 28, students will rehearse and perform the play written during the first session. CATCO is Kids will film the play for viewing at a later date.

The registration link can be found at: <https://www.catco.org/summer-camps/>

Also coming in July and August are CATCO is Kids’ virtual classes for the entire family, called CATCO is Family: Saturday Afternoon Antics. Each Saturday will have two available sessions: a Dance Break! Session with Hixon Dance and alternating Tools of the Actor and Improv Olympics sessions. Watch for more details regarding times and registration in the coming days at www.catco.org

These special summer virtual programs are being presented in addition to CATCO is Kids’ 2020 virtual summer camps, which begin June 29, 2020. Classes and camps use theatrical techniques to reinforce values, empathy, and understanding, as well as important life lessons, while providing children with the chance to explore their creative side.

In a typical year, more than 750 young people participate in CATCO is Kids’ camps and classes annually, resulting in more than 13,000 hours of interaction with performing arts educators.

Each week covers a different theme and will end with a short showcase or presentation of what the students worked on or created throughout the week. This showcase or presentation will be recorded via Zoom and shared with registrants at a later date.

Weekly camps for kids ages 8-12 will be held 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sessions will be capped at 14 campers each. Costs are \$125 per student per week; \$425 per student for a four-week flex

experience; and \$575 per student for all six weekly sessions.

CATCO is Kids also will offer a two-week Virtual Teen Intensive camp for youth ages 13-18. The camp will run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a 30-minute break for lunch. The cost is \$400 per student.

CATCO is Kids is waiving the \$25 registration fee for virtual camp offerings this summer; however, all tuition sales are final unless minimum enrollment is not reached, in which case, that particular session will be cancelled and refunds will be issued. The registration link and details about summer camp sessions can be found at: <https://www.catco.org/summer-camps/>

Theatre camp instructors will include Protopapas and Krista Lively Stauffer, CATCO is Kids' artist educator. Protopapas, who enjoys acting, directing, and writing for the stage. Earlier this season, he directed CATCO is Kids' production of *Press Start!* and *Alice in Wonderland JR*. Other directing credits at CATCO is Kids include *Babe*, *The Sheep-Pig*, *Garfield: The Musical With Catitude*, and *A Seussified Christmas Carol*. Acting credits at CATCO and CATCO is Kids include *Breaking The Code*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Peter and the Starcatcher*; *Master Class*; *Jungle Book*; and *Honk!* Acting credits at other central Ohio theatres include *Les Misérables*; *Company*; and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.

Lively Stauffer is a graduate of Otterbein University's Theatre Department, and a local professional actor on stage and screen. A casting associate/in-house artist with Boxland Media, Lively Stauffer 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.

CATCO and CATCO is Kids' 35th 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 and CATCO is Kids' season 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. For more information, visit 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.

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