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Virtual Winter 2021 Classes Begin Jan. 19 at CATCO is Kids

Saturday Morning Musicals' production is Dear Edwina Online Edition

CATCO is Kids' announced today that its virtual winter 2020 classes begin Jan. 19 with a Virtual Teen Study Class, followed by a Virtual Adult Acting Class Jan. 20, and a Saturday Morning Musicals' production of *Dear Edwina Online Edition* Jan. 30. The new virtual musical for kids follows the adventures of plucky advice-giver extraordinaire, Edwina Spoonapple, as she directs the neighborhood kids in a series of buoyant production numbers for the latest edition of her weekly "Advice-a-Palooza."

Classes and camps use theatrical techniques to reinforce values, empathy, and understanding, as well as important life lessons, while providing children – and adults – with the chance to explore their creative side. Each year more than 750 kids participate in CATCO is Kids' camps and classes, resulting in more than 13,000 hours of interaction with performing arts educators.

"We can't wait to share the adventures of Edwina and her friends with central Ohio youths this winter," said Andrew Protopapas, CATCO's interim education director. "In this new online adaptation, characters share wisdom with their peers about everything from trying new foods to making new friends through music." In addition to learning important life lessons, students (ages 10-15) will spend eight Saturday mornings building skills necessary to become "triple threat" performers.

Dear Edwina Online Edition, music by Zina Goldrich and book and lyrics by Marcy Heisler, is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), and the class runs through March 20. Classes will be held Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. The cost is \$250. The performance will be streamed for participants and their families on April 17 and 24.

CATCO is Kids also will offer a Virtual Teen Scene Study (ages 13-17) Tuesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 23, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. via Zoom. The cost is \$250. Students will hone a variety of theatrical skills, such as open scenes, being a reliable scene partner, cold reading strategies and more all from the comfort of their homes. Recordings of students' scenes will be shared with families at a later date.

From Jan. 20-March 10, adults (age 21 and older) interested in learning more about acting or looking for an acting tune-up can take adult acting classes designed for all acting levels. Students will work with Ralph Scott, a graduate of the Second City Training Center and a 35-year-old veteran of the stage and screen, to define and refine their stage acting skills. Classes, held Wednesdays from 6 p.m.-8p.m., will cover a variety of topics, including cold readings, monologues and two-person scenes. The cost is \$300.

CATCO is Kids is waiving all regular registration fees for virtual offerings this winter, but all sales are final unless a minimum enrollment is reached, in which case, that particular session will be canceled. Details about each session and registration links can be found at: <https://www.catco.org/acting-classes/>

In addition to Scott, winter theatre instructors will include Krista Lively Stauffer, a CATCO is Kids artist educator, and Quinton Jones, a Columbus-based music director and costume designer.

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

Scott has performed in CATCO's productions of *Holmes and Watson*; *Breaking the Code*; *The Realistic Joneses*; *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*; *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*; *The Final Table*; *Next Fall*; *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*; *My Name Is Asher Lev*; *Evie's Waltz*; *The Foursome*; and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. In addition to numerous regional and national commercial works, he is active in independent film locally and throughout the Midwest.

Jones, who will be the music instructor for CATCO is Kids' Saturday Morning Musicals, has served as music director and costume designer for many CATCO shows, most recently *My Way, A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra*. Other CATCO and CATCO is Kids' credits include *The Show Must Go Online!*, *Home, Press Start!*, and *A Winnie-The-Pooh Christmas Tail*.

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.

CATCO is Kids' presenting sponsor is The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks. CATCO and CATCO is Kids' season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library and 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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