



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 9, 2021

Contact: Sarah Mills Bacha
614.563.1066
smbacha@earthlink.net

Registration for Virtual Summer 2021 Classes Opens at CATCO is Kids

Saturday Morning Musicals production is Super Happy Awesome News! A Virtual Musical

CATCO is Kids announced today that registration for its virtual summer 2021 classes, which begin May 29, 2021, opened today. Offerings include seven weekly camps; Virtual Teen Intensive; Virtual Play Creation Workshop; Saturday Afternoon Antics; and a Saturday Morning Musicals production of *Super Happy Awesome News! A Virtual Musical*, which follows the adventures of two siblings who launch rival good news networks and their crew of musical correspondents who compete to see who has the happiest news show.

“We can’t wait to welcome students back soon for another summer of fun and theatre, with some new programming we are excited to share with young performers,” said Andrew Protopapas, CATCO’s interim education director. That includes a summer iteration of CATCO is Kids’ Saturday Morning Musicals classes facilitated every fall and winter. The summer selection is *Super Happy Awesome News! A Virtual Musical*, which was created to be rehearsed and performed remotely and incorporates real stories from kids ages 7-14, while offering young actors a positive outlet to express their emotions.

CATCO is Kids’ 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.

Super Happy Awesome News! A Virtual Musical, music and lyrics by Denver Casado and book by Jessica Penzias, is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press. Classes, which will be held via Zoom from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for students ages 10-15, begin Saturday, May 29, 2021, and continue for seven additional Saturdays through July 17, 2021. The cost is \$250. A recording of the final presentation will be shared with families at a later date.

Weekly camps for 8- to 12-year-olds begin Monday, May 31, 2021, and continue for seven weeks via Zoom, exploring a different theme each week. Sessions are held Monday through Friday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The cost per session is \$150, \$775 for all seven weeks or \$475 for any four weeks. A presentation will be recorded and shared with registrants at a later date. Camps include:

May 31-June 4 – Fractured Fairytales: In this virtual twist on the classic CATCO camp, students will learn the basics of story building and acting by writing a new take on a classic fairytale as a group and performing it.

June 7-11 – Welcome to My Wicked World: The worlds of heroes and villains collide in this camp where students learn original choreography and explore the excitement of acting through scenes inspired by the Disney’s *Descendants* films.

June 14-18 – *Star Wars & Shakespeare – The Force Doth Awaken:* Ever wonder what *Star Wars* would sound like if Shakespeare wrote it? Join Rey, Finn, and Poe on an epic quest to defeat Kylo Ren and the forces of The First Order and find out.

June 21-25 – *Into the Unknown:* It's time to venture into the unknown as you learn original choreography and the basics of acting through scenes inspired by Disney's *Frozen* animated films.

June 28-July 2 – *Witchcraft & Wizardry:* Explore the magic and mystery of your favorite school of witchcraft and wizardry in this camp inspired by the world of Harry Potter.

July 5-9 – *It's a Hard Knock Life:* We think you're going to like it here as students learn original choreography and perform scenes inspired by musical theatre favorites!

July 12-16 – *Heroes, Assemble!:* Join a marvelous team of students to explore the rewards and challenges of acting through scenes inspired by the comics and movies of the universe's greatest superheroes and villains.

A two-week, Virtual Teen Intensive, will begin July 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., for middle and high school student (ages 13-17), where they will gain skills needed to be well-rounded performers on stage and in auditions. The program held via Zoom will cover individual monologue coaching, vocal coaching and dance fundamentals training; students also will participate in one combined production number from a recent Broadway hit and leave with an audition package. Week two runs from July 26-30. The cost is \$425.

Back by popular demand, CATCO is Kids also will again offer a Virtual Play Creation Workshop via Zoom for students ages 10-15. Students will explore the new world of creating and performing in plays for the virtual world and can attend one or both sessions. Session one, Playwriting, is offered Aug. 2-6 and Aug. 9-13, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.; session two, Performance, is offered Aug. 16-20 and Aug. 23-27, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The cost is \$250 per session or \$350 for both. A presentation from session two will be recorded and shared with registrants at a later date.

The final summer offering is Saturday Afternoon Antics, a Saturday afternoon of fun for families – parents, grandparents, students, siblings and pets. Sessions via Zoom begin Saturday, July 24, and continue through Aug. 14. Classes, which are \$50 each per family, include:

July 24, Aug. 7, 1 p.m. – *Tools of the Actor:* In these energetic sessions, the whole family will play theatre game after theatre game and learn the 5 Tools of the Actor. Adults and children alike will learn something new to enhance their personal and professional life. Each session will follow similar curriculum.

July 24, July 31, Aug. 7, Aug. 14, 2:30 p.m. – *Dance Break!:* The entire family will get moving with these sessions focused on musical theatre choreography. Each session will use a different hit musical song.

July 31, Aug. 14, 1 p.m. – *Improv Olympics:* In these gut-busting sessions, the whole family will learn how to play improv games and spend the hour laughing together. Each session will follow similar curriculum.

CATCO is Kids is waiving all regular registration fees for virtual offerings this summer, 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/virtual-summer-camp/>

Summer theatre instructors will include Krista Lively Stauffer, a CATCO is Kids' artist educator.

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 Musicals experiences.

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.

For more information, visit **[catco.org](https://www.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](https://www.catcoistheatre.org)**.

###