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CATCO Resumes In-Person Theatre With *An Iliad* July 15-25

***Contemporary interpretation of ancient Greek epic to be presented
outdoors at Browning Amphitheatre on OSU campus***

CATCO will resume in-person theatre this summer with an outdoor presentation of *An Iliad*, in partnership with the Wexner Center for the Arts, at Browning Amphitheatre on the campus of The Ohio State University, July 15-25.

The award-winning play, featuring one actor and a musician, presents an enthralling retelling for our current moment of one of the oldest surviving epic stories in the world. Although the war in Troy ended long ago, battles continue. *An Iliad* explores beauty and kinship in the midst of chaos, emphasizes the importance of storytelling to humanity, and poses a powerful question: Are we fated to hear stories of war and survival forever?

CATCO's production features renowned actor, director, theatre educator and playwright Angela Iannone, as the poet; she will be joined by a musician. Together – through music and words written respectively by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, and based upon Robert Fagles' award-winning translation of Homer's *The Iliad* – they will honor ancient traditions of epic poetry and oral storytelling.

“What better way to celebrate being together again in person than with a production that proves the need for the communal act of sharing stories?” asks Leda Hoffmann, CATCO's artistic director, who will direct *An Iliad*.

Hoffmann said the play is a favorite of hers – “I love its epic scope as well as its personal, intimate moments” – and anticipates that the audience will find themselves in the story. “Right now as we figure out who we are, what we value, who we trust, why we fight, this play demands we consider the core of what it means to be human and seek out compassion.”

Since its world premiere at the Seattle Repertory Theatre in 2010, *An Iliad* has been performed nationwide at many of the nation's pre-eminent theatres to much acclaim. “Spellbinding ... Smartly conceived and impressively executed, *An Iliad* relates an age-old story that resonates with tragic meaning today. ...,” said *The New York Times*; while *Time Out NY* called the play “... pure theater: shocking, glorious, primal and deeply satisfying.”

Tickets for *An Iliad* are \$30 and must be purchased in advance at www.catco.org/iliad/; no tickets will be sold the night of the performance. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Friday, June 4. Performances will be each Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the run at 8 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, patrons will be moved to another performance or issued a refund. The play will run approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Browning Amphitheatre is located off of W. 12th Ave., just east of Neil Avenue and John H. Herrick Dr. between the South Oval and Mirror Lake. Nearby paid parking is available at the Neil Avenue Parking Garage, 1801 Neil Ave., and Twelfth Avenue Parking Garage, 340 W. 12th Ave.

For the safety of the cast, crew and patrons, other established protocols for the production are as follows:

- Capacity at the Browning Amphitheatre will be limited to 30 percent.
- All audience members and staff will be required to wear masks.
- No food or beverage will be allowed in the amphitheatre.

Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged. The first two rows will be reserved for blankets only. The Browning Amphitheater is wheelchair accessible, and there are paved sidewalks from campus parking garages and lots that lead directly to the amphitheatre.

Iannone returns to her hometown of Columbus to perform in *An Iliad*. Credits include Maria Callas in *Master Class*, Kate Hepburn in *Tea at Five*, Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, Diana Vreeland in *Full Gallop*, Medea in *Medea*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Sarah Bernhardt in *Memoir*, Queen Margaret in *Richard III*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Mattie Fae in *August, Osage County*. Theatres include Titan Theatre, NYC, Hope Summer Repertory, InTandem Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Door Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare, Optimist Shakespeare in the Park, Oak Park Shakespeare, Resident Ensemble Players at Delaware Rep, Next Act Theatre, and Pittsburgh Public Theatre Play On Series. Iannone is a 2018 Folger Shakespeare Library Research Fellow/Artist in Residence, a 2020 Hendrix/Murphy Directing Fellow, a 10 Chimneys Estate/Lunt Fontanne Fellow, an American Theatre and Drama Society Research Grant recipient, and Resident Playwright at Theater RED, Milwaukee. Awards include Broadway World Best Actress, Joseph Jefferson Award Best Actress in a Musical, Queens Kudos Award, Milwaukee Footlights Award, Ruth Schudson Leading Lady Award, and four time Reader's Choice Best Actress Award. www.angelaiannone.com

Before joining CATCO last year, Hoffmann, was the artistic director of Chicago-based Strawdog Theatre Company. She was a member of Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the education and literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's community engagement department. Also in Milwaukee, as the artistic director of Luminous Theatre, Hoffmann produced and directed site-specific productions of *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* and *The Penelopiad*. Her work as a director has been seen nationwide at Milwaukee Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, University of Miami, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, and Riverside Theater Iowa City. She has also been a teaching artist for more than 10 years, directing youth and teaching with Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Mudlark Theater, Northbrook Park District, and Skyline Studios.

The production team includes Edith Dinger Wadkins (Props Designer), Jason Fassl (Lighting Designer), Tabitha Abney (Costume Designer), and Rachel Heine (Stage Manager).

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.

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio's leading professional Equity theatre company, providing exceptional productions and educational programs for adults and young people, in response to our community's needs. We believe theatrical storytelling transforms people of all ages by immersing them into immediate, communal experience. CATCO exists to harness the transformational power of theatre that engages with our current moment to inspire a community of empathy. For more information, visit **catco.org**.

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