

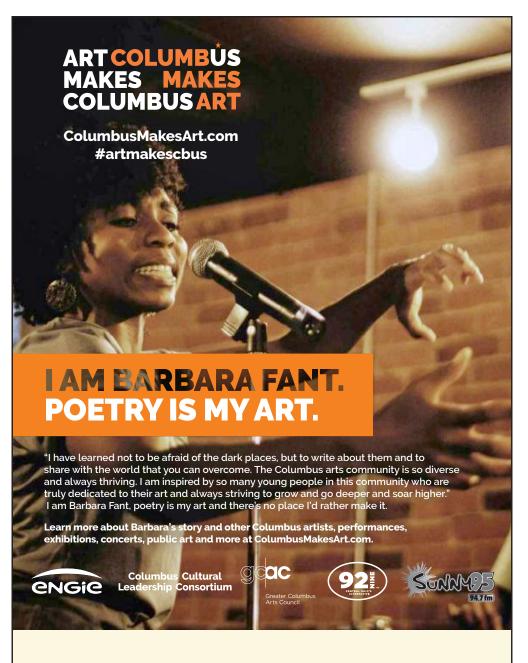
by Anne Washburn music by Michael Friedman directed by Leda Hoffmann

# CATCO'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. The acknowledgment of the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.





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#### A NOTE FROM CATCO'S

# ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

# **Greetings!**

Welcome to CATCO's 21/22 season, a season all about community. With six opportunities to gather together, four for adults and two for young audiences, we are excited to revel in the power of storytelling with all of you. We believe storytelling grounded in the current moment sparks joy and connection, building a community of empathy. We hope you can join us for the rest of our season: Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins; School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play; Luchadora; Head Over Heels; and the world premiere of Prima Donna.

Mr. Burns, a post-electric play kicks off our season with a production about the indisputable power of storytelling. Through the moments of fun and darkness, you'll find that it's a play about how we need each other. When everything has changed and life is filled with uncertainty, Mr. Burns reminds us that we will make it through by working together. It's not always easy to see, but at the end of the day, this is a play brimming with joy.

As we connect with this story about loss and love, and we gather together for our first in-person production at the Riffe Center since March 2020, we are thinking of all we have lost and learned so far during the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, we would like to dedicate this production to those we lost since the last time we were able to gather in this space. From loved ones and friends to folks we admire from afar, we want to acknowledge their life and significance. Bart Simpson sings, "love never dies in memory," and



Leda Hoffmann, Artistic Director (photo left) and Christy Farnbauch, Executive Director (photo right). Photo by Purple Star Photography

with that, we promise to remember.

We are grateful for support from the Robert Weiler Company for this production. For more than 80 years, this company has been a part of our community, and we are grateful they have joined us for this community celebration.

We also thank our season sponsors, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, L Brands Foundation, the Nationwide Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.

Thank you for your support of CATCO and your presence in our beautiful theatre community. We are grateful you are here, and we hope you enjoy our telling of Anne Washburn's dynamic play.

Seda J. Hoffman Christy & Fairbauch

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presents



# by Anne Washburn

DIRECTOR Leda Hoffmann

MUSIC DIRECTOR

James Blackmon

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Sarah Vargo

CO-COSTUME DESIGNER

Tabitha Abney

LIGHTING DESIGNER

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Nicolette Montana

SET DESIGNER

Brad Steinmetz

**CO-COSTUME DESIGNER** 

Esther Sands

SOUND DESIGNER

Dave Wallingford

STAGE MANAGER

Rachel Heine

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

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MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY premiered in May 2012 at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., and then ran from August through October 2013 at Playwrights Horizons in New York City,

#### SEASON SUPPORT













The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## CAST

Matt/Mr. Burns	Scott Douglas Wilson
Jenny/Edna	Nicolette Montana*
Maria/Scratchy	Acacia Duncan
Sam/Homer	Brian Gray
Colleen/Marge	Oluchi Nwokocha
Gibson/Itchy	Jonathan Putnam*
Quincy/Lisa	Shauna Marie Davis
Bart	Eli Brickey

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	James Blackmon Micolette Montana Sarah Vargo Marly Wooster Dave Wallingford Tabitha Abney
Props Designer	
Specialty Props Builder	
Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	
Production Manager	
Interim Production Manager	Caroline Dittamo
Technical Director	Isaac Steinhour
Co-Master Electrician	Brendan Michna
Co-Master Electrician	Rowan Winterwood
Wardrobe	
Directing Observer	

Scenic Build by Columbus Children's Theatre

# SPECIAL THANKS

Leslie Vaglica, Andrea Bouck, Lara Dalbey, Susie Maynard, The Maynard Family, Weathervane Playhouse, The Ohio State University Department of Theatre, Film, Media Arts, Layal Motasem, Mario Loredo, and Hailey Vasquez.

# \*Member of Actors' Equity Association

Actors' Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers nationwide. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including

health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

# CAST BIOS

#### SCOTT DOUGLAS WILSON [He/Him/

His] (Matt/Mr. Burns) is thrilled to be working with CATCO once again! Previous CATCO credits include Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat and Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery. A graduate of OSU (MFA '09) and Otterbein University (BFA '02), Scott has worked as an actor and educator throughout the country, from NYC to South Florida. Recent regional credits include Vampire Lesbians of Sodom (Evolution Theatre Company); Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde (Red Herring Theater Company); Terms of Endearment (eMBer Women's Theatre Company); Frankenstein (Actors' Theatre of Columbus); The NSA's Guide to Sex and Love (MadLab Theatre). He wishes to thank the ex-cellent cast, crew, and entire production team.

#### NICOLETTE MONTANA\* [She/Her/

Hers (Jenny/Edna) is overjoyed to be returning to the CATCO stage where she has been seen in Sex with Strangers (Olivia), Avenue Q (Christmas Eve), 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Marcy), and Evil Dead (Linda). Other favorite roles include Rosie in Bye Bye Birdie and Yitzhak in Hedwig and the Angry Inch. She has also choreographed local high school, community, and professional productions including West Side Story (CCT), Meet Me in St. Louis (Weathervane), Newsies (Gallery Players), and Spring Awakening (All-Ohio). Nicolette is a resident of Hilliard and serves as Managing Partner of Essential Title Partners in Dublin. She wishes to thank Leda and

everyone at CATCO for this unique opportunity with this incredible cast.

#### **ACACIA DUNCAN** [She/Her/Hers]

(Maria/Scratchy) is happy to be returning to the CATCO stage where she was last seen in The Rubenstein Kiss. As a founding member of Available Light Theatre, she has had numerous roles: actor, director, choreographer, costume designer, writer. A few favorites include: Every Brilliant Thing, Dance Nation, You Got Older, John Cage 10, Pride & Prejudice, Don Quixote, and Cymbeline. She has also performed with Actors' Theatre, Wild Women Writing, Gallery Players, Red Herring, and others. During the day, Acacia is the Director of Training and Coaching for Articulation, helping leaders excel as confident and compelling speakers. But more than anything, she loves to escape into nature and camp with her husband, Matt. "Thanks to the team who pulled this together—as Homer says, 'I love legitimate theAtre."

#### BRIAN GRAY [He/Him/His] (Sam/

Homer) is a singer/actor living on the east side of Columbus, and is excited to be making his CATCO debut!

Previous credits include [Porto], Dance Nation, and Bootleg Radio with Available Light Theatre; Rent (Collins), Hairspray (Seaweed), and Sister Act (TJ) with Imagine Productions; Annie (Rooster) and 1940's Radio Hour (Neal) with SoArtsPro; and Zanna Don't (Arvin) with Evolution Theatre. Brian also thanks his family for their never-ending support, and his partner, Brian, for being his rock.

#### **OLUCHI NWOKOCHA** [She/Her/Hers]

(Colleen/Marge) is ecstatic to be making her CATCO debut in Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play. Last seen in Lights Up! 2021 at City Lights Theatre. Previous credits: Under Milk Wood at The Pear Theatre, Sappho at Cutting Ball Theatre, The Claim at Shotgun Players, Slaughter City at Performers Under Stress, The Lady Scribblers at Custom Made Theatre. A Midsummer Night's Dream at Marin Shakespeare Company, Macbeth at African-American Shakespeare, We are Proud to Present... at San Jose Stage, Clybourne Park at The Hippodrome Theatre. Upcoming: Oluchi will be participating in the Maria Irene Fornes playwriting workshop led by playwrights Migdalia Cruz and Anne Garcia Romero. Oluchi holds an MFA in acting from the University of Florida. Oluchi is an assistant professor of theatre at Miami University—Go RedHawks! You can follow her on Instagram @loochluch.

JONATHAN PUTNAM\* [He/Him/His]

(Gibson/Itchy) appeared in the first show at CATCO's old Park Street Theatre in 1986. Since then he has acted in or directed over fifty shows for CATCO, most recently in Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Final Table, and Educating Rita. Locally, he has also appeared at Tantrum Theatre, Evolution Theatre, and Short North Stage. He has an MFA from The Ohio State University and is a member of Actors' Equity and SAG/AFTRA. He currently serves on the nominating committee for the 2022 SAG Awards.

**SHAUNA MARIE DAVIS** [She/Her/Hers] (Quincy/Lisa) is a human. She is

very fortunate to get to do weird things on stage with other humans. The last thing she did on stage with other humans was a musical called *Ain't Misbehavin'* with Trinity Theatre Company. She is so happy and grateful to be back with her CATCO theatre fam making art!

**ELI BRICKEY** [She/Her/Hers] (Bart) is thrilled to be joining such a knockout cast/creative team. As an avid fan of The Simpsons, being cast in this role is a dream come true. Most recent credits include Carrie White (Carrie) and Poppy (Noises Off) at Columbus Immersive Theatre and Short North Stage. Eli has toured as an actor and arts educator with Columbus Children's Theatre. Additional local highlights include Agnes (Agnes of God) and Mary Warren (The Crucible), as well as Eponine (Les Miserables), Mary (Jesus Christ Superstar), and Kate Monster/Lucy (Avenue Q) at Weathervane Playhouse. I would love to thank Leda and the folks at CATCO for this unique opportunity.

# PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

#### **LEDA HOFFMANN** [She/Her/Hers]

(Director) is thrilled to be making her Riffe Center directing debut with this play that is near and dear to her heart. Leda started as Artistic Director of CATCO in July 2020. Previous CATCO directing credits include An Iliad, the virtual production of *A Columbus* Christmas Carol and the reading of George and the Hidden Dragon. Before coming to Columbus, Leda was the artistic director of Chicagobased Strawdog Theatre Company and, before that, 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. 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. www.ledahoffmann.com

## JAMES BLACKMON [He/Him/His]

(Music Director) began his theatre career 42 years ago in a local children's theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Since then, James has developed into an award-winning actor, director, and producer, and a nominated

music director, as well. Today, James is the founder and Artistic Director of JB3Entertainment, and Theatre Department Director at Whitehall-Yearling High School. As a professional musician for 45 years, James has performed internationally in churches, theatres, stadiums, jazz clubs, and other venues, and as a piano bar entertainer for Holland America Cruise Line. James is also a past president of the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable.

#### NICOLETTE MONTANA [She/Her/

Hers] (Choreographer) is so grateful to Leda for this fully immersive opportunity to choreograph while also playing Jenny/Edna. For the past 15 years, Nicolette has choreographed high school, community, and professional productions including *The Producers, Les Miserables, West Side Story, Meet Me in St. Louis, Newsies, She Kills Monsters, Once on This Island,* and *Spring Awakening*. Nicolette is a resident of Hilliard and serves as Managing Partner of Essential Title Partners in Dublin.

#### **SARAH VARGO** [She/Her/Hers]

(Fight Choreographer) Sarah Vargo has a BFA in Dramatic Performance from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and an MA in Playwriting from The National University of Ireland in Galway. While in Ireland, she worked as a stuntwoman on the set of History Channel's Vikings. She has worked as a fight choreographer and stage combat instructor in both the United States and Ireland; some of her choreography credits include: Romeo and Juliet.

Beowulf, and Shakespeare's Fight Night with the Actor's Theatre of Columbus; Knives in Hens, DIRT, and Jack and Jill with Red Herring Productions; and Macbeth, Orphans, and Two Gentlemen of Verona with the Columbus Civic Theater.

#### **BRAD STEINMETZ** [He/Him/His]

(Set Designer) is very excited to be back at CATCO for his first in-person production since theatres have reopened. Brad is a designer, educator, and creator of new works, currently serving as associate professor of design and technology at The Ohio State University. His designs for theatre cover a range of disciplines including: scenery (Hand2Mouth Theatre), sound (The Builders Association), media (Available Light Theatre), lighting (Oregon Children's Theatre), as well as puppetry and spectacle performances (Redmoon Theater). Brad's design work has been recognized regionally by the American College Theatre Festival, nationally by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and internationally by World Stage Design.

TABITHA "TABI" ABNEY [She/Her/Hers] (Co-Costume Designer) is

an independent costume designer and wardrobe supervisor/stylist. She received her education at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. She moved to Columbus in 2010 for a fresh start in a new place. Fashion is always at the heart of what she does, and her love for it has taken her on an incredible journey. While working with several Columbus based independent filmmakers, she discovered a love for costume design and a passion for bringing characters to life through clothing. Her aptitude for quick thinking on the spot and problem solving has given her the nickname "Miracle Worker" on any set where she's worked. Her motto for life is: "We'll Make It Work." She resides in Groveport, OH with her partner Mark and youngest son, Daniel.

#### **ESTHER ABENA SANDS** [She/Her/

Hers] (Co-Costume Designer) is a Ghanaian American designer. Early exposure to diverse cultures in film and art as a child helped shape a love of stories and fashion. As Esther's passion and curiosity for learning grew, she became self-taught through observation, experimentation, and practice. As an adolescent, Esther



would sit in the market, watching cobblers and seamstresses work and craft. After relocating to the United States as a teen, Esther became exposed to the creative aesthetics of cosplay. A way to bring stories from movies, anime, and videogames to life through character interpretation. Esther's work is filled with cultural. traditional, movie, and anime inspirations. She believes we are all heroes of our own cinematic universes and what we wear everyday is an interpretation of where we've been. where we are, where we are going, and of our life experiences. Clothing can be a representation of self and of individuality.

#### MARLY WOOSTER [She/Her/Hers]

(Lighting Designer) received an MFA in lighting design from Illinois State University in Normal, IL and a BA in theatre from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. Marly has designed lighting for productions across the Midwest including 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park Off the Hill, two seasons at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and three seasons as the resident lighting designer for the Clinton Area Showboat where she designed over 20 shows. Some of her favorites included Richard II, Q Gents, Hamlet, Into the Woods, Drowsy Chaperone, and Big River. She has also designed for a number of other theatres in Illinois including Provision Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Peoria Ballet, 20% Theatre Company, and others. Marly is an assistant professor at Miami University, where she teaches classes in theatre, lighting fundamentals, stage management, and creativity.

#### DAVE WALLINGFORD [He/Him/His]

(Sound Designer) Dave is happy to be designing at CATCO again, but is really just happy to be back in a theatre. A few of the shows he has designed at CATCO include Five Guys Named Moe, Story of My Life, Avenue Q, Evil Dead: The Musical, Last Smoker in America, and The Exonerated. Dave is a founding member of Available Light Theatre, where he has designed countless shows. He has also worked with the Williamstown Theatre Festival. BalletMet, Opera Columbus, Columbus Symphony, Human Race Theatre, Wexner Center, Bebe Miller Dance, Red Herring Productions, OSU Dept. of Dance, and OSU Dept. of Music. When not in a theatre, he can be found either running sound in a TV production truck outside a professional sports arena, or in a race car.

#### JENNIFER MAYNARD [She/Her/

Hers ] (Props Master) has always had a passion for creating. She enjoys dabbling in a little bit of anything and everything, whether it be makeup artistry, painting, photography, property fabrication, or digital design, the list is endless. With a BA degree in theatre studies: production from The School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University, Jenn has taken her earned skills and used them to earn more, thus leading her to CATCO during the fall 2017 production of Fun Home where she first volunteered as an usher. Since then, she has worked on multiple productions including *Daddy* Long Legs, Breaking the Code, Holmes and Watson, and Working. Jenn has also discovered her love for working with CATCO is Kids on a variety of productions, including some of her



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proudest moments like *The Cat in the Hat* and *Alice in Wonderland JR*. She has recently become a member of the IATSE Local Stage Hand 12 and is excited to see where that leads her. Outside of CATCO, Jenn has been able to display her makeup artistry and paintings with RAW Natural Born Artists. She thanks CATCO for helping her discover new skills and creating a second home for her.

#### **RACHEL HEINE\*** [She/Her/Hers]

(Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back in person with CATCO. Previous CATCO credits include An Iliad, Working, A Columbus Christmas Carol, Prima Donna, and 20K Leagues Under the Sea. National Tours: Rock of Ages 10th Anniversary Tour, The Illusionists, 42nd Street, Once. Off-Broadway: The Body of an American, Daddy Long Legs. Other NYC Credits: The Flea Theatre, NYC Fringe. Regional: Alley Theater, Columbus Children's Theatre. Education: Otterbein University.

### KATILYN SPEAKMAN [She/Her/Hers]

(Assistant Stage Manager) Previous CATCO productions include: Home, Application Pending, Moonlight and Magnolias, and The Water Gun Song. She has also worked at B Street Theatre in California, and at Westport Country Playhouse in Connecticut. She graduated in 2018 from Lee University.

#### **BRADEN GRAVES** [He/Him/His]

(Assistant Set Designer) is excited to be involved in his very first production for CATCO as assistant designer/draftsman. Braden has designed scenery for professional and children's theatre productions in Portland, OR. Braden is a growing theatre educator and has held several teaching positions.

He received an undergraduate degree in theatre from George Fox University and is currently pursuing an MFA in scenic design from The Ohio State University. Braden is passionate about integrating conventional, hallmark theatre texts with education and production practices of 21st century theatre.

#### **TONY KOEHLER** [He/Him/His]

(Production Manager) teaching artist, actor, director, and designer, most recently was production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C., and a teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts also in Washington, D.C. Other positions include properties master at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and theatre credits at Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., and Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Haves Award for Best Musical and Best Ensemble and Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical in the Small Professional Theatre Category for FAME: The Musical, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of In the Heights. In addition to his theatre background, he also has several years of business management experience as an operational manager at J.Crew.

## **CAROLINE DITTAMO** [She/Her/Hers]

(Interim Production Coordinator) has worked in opera, theater, and music as a stage manager, master electrician, and lighting designer, both in Ohio and Kansas. Her favorite recent shows include CATCO/Evolution's *Breaking* the Code, CATCO is Kids' *Babe, The Sheep Pig*, and Evolution's *The Turkey Men*.

#### **ISAAC STEINHOUR** [He/Him/His]

(Technical Director) is a graduate of Ohio Northern University with his bachelor's degree in International Theatre Production, Musical Theatre. and French. While in the theatre department, he focused in Technical Direction studying under the former TD of the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He worked as the resident lighting and sound designer at Findlay High School for ten years and the resident technical director and scenic designer at The Findlay YouTheatre for four vears. He moved to Columbus with the love of his life Michelle five years ago and started as the Technical Director at Columbus Children's Theatre in August of 2018. He and his wife just recently had their first child, a daughter. At CCT, in addition to running the scene shop Isaac also frequently serves as sound and projection designer and teaches production classes. Isaac is honored to be working with the amazing team on this production.

#### ROWAN WINTERWOOD She/Her/

Hers] (Co-Master Electrician) is a designer, technician, stage manager, and occasional actor and director. She holds a dual degree in cognitive and linguistic sciences and theatre studies from Wellesley College, where she was a member of the Wellesley College Shakespeare Society. She is an ensemble member of Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where recent credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (stage manager), *Mystery-Bouffe* (director, staged reading), *and A Midsummer* 

Night's Dream (sound board operator). Recent CATCO credits include sound design for Babe and The Christmas Schooner, and lighting design for Sunshine.

#### KATIEANN BONAVITA [She/Her/

Hers] (Wardrobe) This is KatieAnn's first show working crew and she is so excited to be joining CATCO for the first time. She is a Columbus based singer and actress and her most recent credits include Rusty in Footloose, Sibella in A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, and Ariel in The Little Mermaid at La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Dayton. She can be seen next in CATCO's upcoming production of Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins. Break a leg to the cast of Mr. Burns!

#### BEN SOSTROM [He/Him/His]

(Specialty Props Builder) is happy to return to CATCO for *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*. He trained at the University of Michigan Props Department, has a theatre degree from OSU, and was a CATCO acting apprentice (2012–13). Previous CATCO productions include *Moonlight and Magnolias, Home, Ring of Fire, Peter and the Starcatcher, The Elephant Man, HONK!, The Final Table, The Jungle Book, My Name Is Asher Lev, and Shipwrecked!* He has also designed props for Whistling in the Dark, Solstice Theatre, and Columbus Civic Theater.

#### **SHANELLE MARIE** [She/Her/Hers]

(Directing Observer) most recently directed Water Gun Song in CATCO's Short Plays Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow, and was a performer in Home. Shanelle credits her first acting teacher as her beloved grandmother, who would bring Paul Lawrence

Dunbar's poetry to life. Previously, Shanelle was the assistant director of *The Color Purple* with State of the Arts Productions. Her favorite moments on stage include performing for Ruby Dee as Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun*, playing Marrell in *This* with Available Light Theatre, and speaking at the TEDxColumbusWomen.

# ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS

# **CHRISTY FARNBAUCH** [She/Her/Hers]

(Executive Director) became CATCO's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

## ALEESHA NASH [She/Her/Hers]

(Marketing Director), a Columbus native, who has experience in theatre and film directing; play and television writing; and theatre marketing, previously oversaw audience development at The Flea Theater in New York City. Before that, she worked in marketing roles for Manhattan-based global nonprofits, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to plan and implement strategies for fundraising, recruitment, and community and government relations. In addition to writing, directing, and producing new works on Off-Broadway and Off-Off-

Broadway, director and playwriting credits include Cherry Lane Theatre, the National Black Theatre, The Flea Theater, Primary Stages, The Wild Project, The Arctic Group, Goddard College, the Kraine Theatre, and the Drama League in New York City. Nash is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Directors' Lab and the Stage Directors and the Choreographers Foundation Observership Program. A graduate of Otterbein University, she also received an MA from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. and an MFA in dramatic writing from Goddard College, where she received its Engaged Artist Award.

#### **FRANCINE MARCHELLE (Education**

**Director**), an educator, producer, director, actress, and singer, who has more than 20 years of youth program leadership, curriculum development, youth development, child-care, and education experience, most recently was the director of after-school and summer programming at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. She has a master's degree in educational leadership, curriculum, and instruction from the University of Phoenix, and has also led youth education initiatives at the YMCA, Crittenton Community School, and Directions for Youth and Families, where she also was the theatre director. Founder of the Achievement Retro Awards, a youth research arts project based in Atlanta, and the founder and director of Amateur Community Theater, a youth academic arts program also based



in Atlanta, Marchelle has produced and directed her own staged plays, including a gospel musical love story, A Trip to God's House, an autobiographic story, For the Love of Me!, and monologues, We the People Telling Hour Story and Men on Pause.

#### **ANDREW PROTOPAPAS** [He/Him/His]

(Education Coordinator) is an alumnus of both Capital University and CATCO's acting apprenticeship program. He holds bachelor's degrees in English literature, creative writing, and theatre studies. As an educator, Andrew has facilitated and planned workshops, classes, and residency programs in schools both inside and outside of Columbus. Apart from providing education through theatre, Andrew enjoys acting, directing, and writing for

the stage.

#### CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN [He/Him/His]

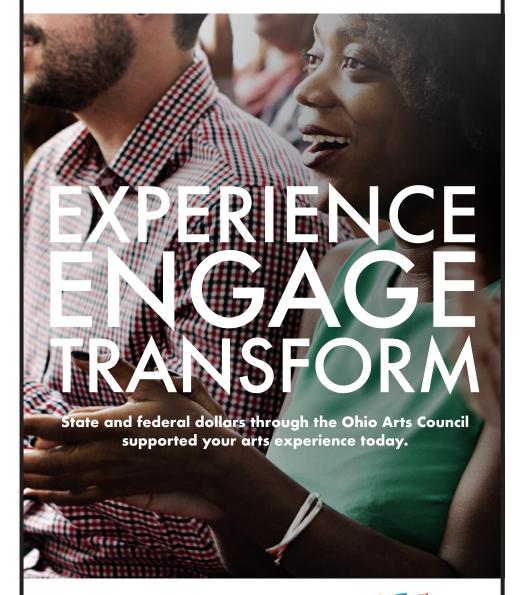
(Casting Director), who graduated with a BA in theater from Otterbein University, and earned his MA in pastoral and professional counseling from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, has worked in voice-over, film. and stage productions in Ohio and abroad. His performances as Othello in Othello and John in The Whipping Man received critical acclaim and award recognition. He served as the emcee for CATCO's 2021 gala, and performed in CATCO's virtual productions of *Short* Plays Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow and A Columbus Christmas Carol last season.

#### SARAH MILLS BACHA [She/Her/

Hers (Press Representative) is a professional writer and communications/marketing consultant. As president of her own firm, SMB Communications Ltd., which she founded in 1994, she has assisted numerous national and central Ohio companies and organizations with their marketing and communications needs. Before becoming a consultant. she worked as a journalist at daily newspapers. Previous positions include business reporter at *The Columbus* Dispatch in Columbus, OH, comment page editor at *The Journal-Gazette* in Fort Wayne, IN, and stringer for Reuters.



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