

catco
presents



SCHOOL GIRLS;

Or, The African Mean Girls Play

**Presenting
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**by Jocelyn Bioh
directed by Shanelle Marie**

January 27-February 13, 2022 | Riffe Center Studio Theatres

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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"I have learned not to be afraid of the dark places, but to write about them and to share with the world that you can overcome. The Columbus arts community is so diverse and always thriving. I am inspired by so many young people in this community who are truly dedicated to their art and always striving to grow and go deeper and soar higher." I am Barbara Fant, poetry is my art and there's no place I'd rather make it.

Learn more about Barbara's story and other Columbus artists, performances, exhibitions, concerts, public art and more at ColumbusMakesArt.com.



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A NOTE FROM CATCO'S ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Greetings!

Thank you for joining us for *School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play!* We are thrilled to be sharing Jocelyn Bioh's beautiful and dynamic play with Columbus. Under the leadership of director Shanelle Marie, we've been able to bring together Columbus artists from a variety of artistic disciplines - visual art, music, fashion, dance, and of course, theatre - to create this production.

CATCO's work this season is all about community. We believe storytelling grounded in the current moment sparks joy and connection, building a community of empathy.

This play asks us to empathize with each other and with ourselves. It's a play about girlhood, friendship, and most of all, about loving yourself. As we celebrate and investigate the joys and struggles of girlhood, here specifically at an elite boarding school in Ghana in the 80s, we ask you to connect the themes in this play to your life now. How can we build a world where people can be their true selves?

We have found great joy creating this play and it is our great hope that this play brings you joy as we revel in the power of storytelling. In these difficult and uncertain times, thank you for joining us at the



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

theatre. We are so grateful to all of you for your support as we safely come together to tell stories.

We hope you can join us for the rest of our season: *Luchadora!*, *Head Over Heels*, and the world premiere of *Prima Donna*. More information can be found at catco.org.

Thank you for joining us for this story and your support of CATCO.

Leda Hoffmann
Artistic Director

Christy L. Farnbach
Executive Director

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SCHOOL GIRLS; Or, The African Mean Girls Play

by Jocelyn Bioh

DIRECTOR
Shanelle Marie

SET DESIGNER
Lisa McLymont

COSTUME DESIGNER
Esther Sands

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Darin Keesings

SOUND DESIGNER
Diallo Wilkerson

PROPS DESIGNER
Brooklyn Sabino Smith

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Noelle Anderson

**DIALECT COACH and
CULTURAL CONSULTANT**
Mukwae Wabei Siyolwe

MOVEMENT COACH
Kerri Garrett

STAGE MANAGER
Kirsten Upchurch*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Becky Barger Amato

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tony Koehler

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Isaac Steinhour

SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

World Premiere at the MCC Theater, October 16, 2017 (Robert LuPone, Bernard Telsey,
& William Cantler, Artistic Directors; Blake West, Executive Director)

Originally developed as part of The New Black Fest at The Lark, 2016 Additional development as part of the MCC Theater PlayLabs series, 2016

"The Greatest Love Of All"

By Linda Creed and Michael Masser

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SEASON SUPPORT



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

CAST

Kerri Garrett*	Paulina Sarpong
Lisa Glover	Ericka Boafo
Taylor Nelson	Ama
Shauna Marie	Nana
Jacinda Forbes	Mercy
Sermontee Brown	Gift
Wilma Hatton	Headmistress Francis
Anita Davis	Eloise Amponsah
Latifat Sulaimon	Understudy: Paulina, Ama, Nana, Mercy, and Gift

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Shanelle Marie
Music Director	Noelle Anderson
Set Designer	Lisa McLymont
Costume Designer	Esther Sands
Dialect Coach	Mukwae Wabei Siyolwe
Movement Coach	Kerri Garrett*
Lighting Designer	Darin Keesings
Sound Designer	Diallo Wilkerson
Props Designer	Brooklyn Sabino Smith
Stage Manager	Kirsten Upchurch*
Assistant Stage Manager	Becky Barger Amato
Master Electrician	Rowan Winterwood
Master Electrician	Brendan Michna
Wardrobe	Delaney Althausen
Costume Coordinator	Tabitha "Tabi" Abney
Production Manager	Tony Koehler
Technical Director	Isaac Steinhour

Scenic Build by Columbus Children's Theatre

SPECIAL THANKS

AEP, Edith Dinger Watkins, Dave Wallingford

*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

KERRI GARRETT* [She/Her/Hers] (**Paulina Sarpong**) is an interdisciplinary artist from Columbus, Ohio, based out of Atlanta, Georgia. A Clark Atlanta University alumnus, she intertwines the art forms of dance, film, and fashion to create compelling narratives about the black experience. From stage to screen, Kerri can be seen on multiple platforms showcasing her acting abilities. Some of her theatrical credits include *Sorry About That* (written by Nina Lee, Zae Jordan, and Javier Williams), *360 Degrees of Blackness* (directed by Melissa Alexander), *Salt City: An Afro-futuristic Choreopoem* (directed by Aku Kadogo), and *Hand's Up* (directed by Keith Bolden). A trained dancer, Kerri has studied at Theatre Street Dance Academy, Spelman Dance Theatre, and Staib Dance. Her choreography credits include *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* and *God's Trombones* (directed by Eric J. Little) at Clark Atlanta University. In 2020, Kerri was University of West Georgia's Guest Artist and choreographed *Songs for a New World* (directed by Jonathan Kitt) for their fall musical. Recently, Kerri starred as Frieda/Darlene in Synchronicity Theatre's theatrical production of *The Bluest Eye*.

LISA GLOVER [She/Her/Hers] (**Ericka Bofo**) is excited to be making her CATCO debut as Erika in *School Girls!* She is a local singer/songwriter and you can find her music on YouTube, TikTok, and more! Some of

her favorite theatre credits include Deena Jones (*Dreamgirls*), Anita (*West Side Story*), Whathermame (*American Idiot*), and Brooke/Vicki (*Noises Off*). Lisa studied dance at the Dayton Academy of Gymnastics and Dance and received acting training under the late Melissa Montague.

TAYLOR NELSON [She/They] (**Ama**), made her acting debut in ArtPrize 2009 with RabbitMitten USA!. Since that time, Taylor went on to study Black and Africana Studies at Denison University. She was seen in the Association of University Women's #StandUpToSexism campaign, and recently had an appearance in the indie film *Poser* at the TriBeCa Film Festival. Taylor was featured as Ann Johnson in Actors' Theatre of Columbus performance of *The African Company Presents Richard III*. She will be playing Ama and is excited to show the earnest struggles of black girlhood.

SHAUNA MARIE [She/Her/Hers] (**Nana**) is a local theatre human. She is very fortunate to get to do fun things on stage with other humans. The last thing she did on stage with other humans was *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* with CATCO and before that 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!

JACINDA FORBES [She/They] (**Mercy**) is a senior at The Ohio State University



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studying Theatre and Strategic Communications. She was involved in Off the Lake Productions of *She Kills Monsters* and *9 to 5: The Musical*, as well as Ohio State's Department of Theatre's *Her Naked Skin* and *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. She is excited and grateful to be back on stage!

SERMONTÉE BROWN [She/Her/Hers]

(Gifty) This is Sermontée Brown's first CATCO production but not her first CATCO performing. She started dancing when she was three years old. Sermontée is a dancer, singer, producer, actress, and recently an up-and-coming model. At the age of 25, she's ready to spread her wings and show the world her many talents. This is her first play in 4 years and she's very excited to get back to her roots and hopes you enjoy the show. She would like to give a special shoutout to her friends, family, and everyone for continuing to support her. Break a Leg!

WILMA HATTON [She/Her/Hers]

(Headmistress Francis) has been part of the Columbus theatre community for over twenty-five years. She has enjoyed productions such as *Company* and *Curtains!* with Gallery Players, *Hairspray* with Weathervane Playhouse, *A Raisin in the Sun* with SRO Theater, *How We got On* and several other productions with Available Light Theater, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* with Short North Stage. Most recently she performed in *The African Company presents Richard the Third* with Actors Theatre of Columbus. Wilma has done

several commercials, short films, and staged readings. She is more than delighted to be performing in this production of *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play*.!!! When not performing, she works as a tech/ secretary for OhioHealth. She is definitely blessed by the Best! Enjoy the show!!!!!!

LATIFAT SULAIMON [She/Her/Hers]

(Understudy: Paulina, Ama, Nana, Mercy, and Gifty) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Communications of Technology with a Dance Minor at The Ohio State University. Recent credits include *Swing for Judy*, *Joan and Alicia in Small Mouth Sounds*, (Southern Plain Productions), 80s College student in *Wheat Germ* (Netflix), and Ama in *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Westerville South). Nominated in 2019 for Gifted in Visual and Performing Arts Drama.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

JOCELYN BIOH [She/Her/Hers]

(Playwright) is an award-winning Ghanaian-American writer and performer from New York City. Her plays include *SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY* (Kilroy's List, 2016; CTG; MCC Theater; Lortel Award Winner; OCC John Gardner Award Winner; Hull-Warriner Award Winner; Drama Desk Nomination; Drama League Nomination; Off-Broadway Alliance nomination), *NOLLYWOOD DREAMS* (Cherry Lane Mentor Project, 2017; Kilroy's List, 2015), and *AFRICAN AMERICANS* (Produced at Howard University, 2015; Southern Rep Ruby Prize Award Finalist, 2011; O'Neill Center Semifinalist, 2012). Jocelyn conceived and wrote the libretto for *THE LADYKILLER'S LOVE STORY* (music and lyrics by CeeLo Green) and *GODDESS* (book writer). She has also been a staff writer for the Netflix TV shows "*Russian Doll*" and Spike Lee's "*She's Gotta Have It*." Jocelyn received her MFA in Theatre/Playwriting from Columbia University. She is under commission with Manhattan Theatre Club, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Second Stage, and Atlantic Theater Company, and is a resident playwright at LCT3. As an actress, Jocelyn's credits include: *IN THE BLOOD* (Signature Theatre; Drama Desk nomination, Best Featured Actress), *EVERYBODY* (Signature Theatre; Lucille Lortel Award nomination, Best Supporting Actress, 2017), *MEN ON BOATS* (Clubbed Thumb at Playwrights Horizons), *THE*

CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (Broadway; Tony Award Winner for Best Play, 2015), *AN OCTOROON* (Soho Rep; Obie Award Winner for Best Play, 2014), *BOOTY CANDY* (Wilma Theater), *SEED* (Classical Theatre of Harlem; AUDELCO Award Nominee), and *MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET* (City Theatre). She also originated the role of "Topsy" in the world premiere of *NEIGHBORS* (The Public Theater; AUDELCO Award Nominee). *FILM/TV* acting credits include: "*Ben is Back*" (Black Bear Pictures), "*Russian Doll*" (Netflix) "*Blue Bloods*" (CBS), "*The Detour*" (TBS), "*The Characters*" (Netflix), "*Louie*" (FX), and "*One Life to Live*" (ABC).

SHANELLE MARIE [She/Her/Hers]

(Director) is delighted to work with CATCO again after directing *Water Gun Song in Short Plays Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow* and as a performer in *Home*. Previously, she was the assistant director of *The Color Purple* with State of the Arts Productions, and a frequent artistic collaborator and board member of the Maroon Arts Group. Her favorite moments on stage include performing for Ruby Dee, Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Marrell in *This* with Available Light Theatre, and as a TEDx Columbus Women speaker. She credits her first acting teacher as her beloved grandmother, who would bring Paul Lawrence Dunbar's poetry to life.

NOELLE ANDERSON (Music Director)

A Columbus native, Noelle Anderson

has been a professional performer for over 20 years as a singer, musician, and actor. Currently, she works as Shadowbox Live's Vocal Director, as well as the Director of Data Systems. Some of her favorite past roles include Maureen in *Rent* and Simon Zealot in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. An avid nerd, she spends her spare time improving her computer programming skills and playing with her adorable Jack Russell Terrier, Archie.

MUKWAE WEBE SIYOLWE [She/Her/Hers] (**Dialect Coach**) "Mukwae", is a real-life Princess Wabei of Barotseland, southern Africa, and specializes in coaching performance that includes accents, dialects, acting, and script consultation. Trained in dialects with Patsy Rodenburg, professional credits as a producer, director, and actor include Oscar™ nominated film *Cry Freedom* (Universal), *Mass* (Barbican Centre), and *The Island* (Best of Pittsburgh). Mukwae is a fellow of the South African Screenwriters Lab (SCRAWL), Sundance Institute, and a member of Actors' Equity and ASCAP.

KIRSTEN UPCHURCH* [She/Her/Hers] (**Stage Manager**) has worked in the theatre profession for over 20yrs. Kirsten is an Ohio native, she started her career early as a high school apprentice with Weathervane Playhouse in Newark. Kirsten moved on to receive her BFA from Texas Christian University and her MFA in Theatre Performance from Florida Atlantic University. Kirsten has worked as a professional actress, director, stage manager, production

manager, educator, and artistic director throughout her career. Favorite credits include directing *Billy Elliot The Musical* at Weathervane Playhouse, *Skinny* and *A Christmas Schooner* at CATCO, Stage Managing *Fun Home*, *Holmes and Watson*, and *Baskerville* at CATCO, and serving as Production Stage Manager for the National Tours of *Jekyll & Hyde* (2014-15) and *Flashdance* (2015-16 +New Zealand). Kirsten is a member of the Actor's Equity Association, and is very humbled and honored to be returning to CATCO for this production.

BECKY BARGER AMATO [She/Her/Hers] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is a graduate of Capital University with her BA in Theatre Studies. Previous theatre experience includes working with Gallery Players, CCT, Evolution, NPAC, PCT, LCP, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Weathervane Playhouse. This is her 5th production with CATCO. In her free time Becky enjoys playing her clarinet, euphonium, and any other instrument she can get her hands on. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support!

LISA MCLYMONT [She/Her/Hers] (**Set Designer**) is a multidisciplinary artist, graphic designer, and social justice advocate. Lisa's art is mainly expressed through drawing and painting. While creating work that connects past and future worlds, she welcomes the curiosity to explore many directions knowing that each new experience provides insight. Lisa has two ongoing portrait series, "The Universe Tribe" and "The Odes", focused on nuances within identity and inspired by the

powerful communicative styles of protest posters and dreamy expressionism.

Driven to affect the world in a positive way, Lisa's art encourages others to know the power in collaboratively seeking change. She overcomes anxieties about the unrest in the world through a meditative process of making and taking time to view concepts at myopic levels.

Lisa was born in Manhattan, NY, and has called Columbus, Ohio home since the age of ten. Formally educated in graphic design and visual communications at The Ohio State University, McLymont's career as a self-taught, multi-disciplinary artist started in 2009 and has included forays into drawing, painting, mural crafting, sculpting, and jewelry designing. In all of her art, Lisa leads with her inspiration found through research and the process of making. She is currently a member of the Columbus Public Art Commission, Maroon Arts Group, and is Black, Out, and Proud.

DARIN KEESING [He/Him/His]
(**Lighting Designer**) is thrilled to

be working with CATCO again. Past CATCO credits include scenery for *I Do!* *I Do!* and *An Act of God* and lighting for *Fun Home*, *Baskerville*, *Mothers, and Sons*, *Master Class*, *The Final Table*, *Souvenir*, and *The Seafarer*. Other Columbus area credits include designs for Available Light, Weathervane, CCT, SRO, and Phoenix Theatre for Children. Darin is a Professor of Design and Production at Wittenberg University.

ESTHER SANDS [She/Her/Hers]
(**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 her passion and curiosity for learning grew, she became self-taught through observation, experimentation, and practice.

As an adolescent, she 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 video games to life through character interpretation.



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Her 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 every day 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 individuality.

BROOKLYN SABINO SMITH (Props Designer) is a designer based between Ohio and California. This is her first show with CATCO. After graduating from Columbia University with a degree in Anthropology, she turned her sights to law and fashion blogging! Her alias is @la_plebeianne, feel free to follow!

ROWAN WINTERWOOD [She/Her/Hers] (**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 the Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where recent credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (stage manager), *Mystery-Bouffe* (director, staged reading), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (soundboard operator). Recent CATCO credits include sound design for *Babe* and *The Christmas Schooner*, and lighting design for *Sunshine*.

DELANEY ALTHAUSER [She/Her/Hers] (**Wardrobe**) is a senior at The

Ohio State University (OSU) majoring in Theatre with a Fashion Retail minor. She has worked as Wardrobe Head on multiple productions with OSU including *Red Velvet* and *In the Next Room*. She recently was awarded the Undergraduate Excellence Award for Creative Activity from the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts. Her favorite costumes to work with are historical ones, specifically the mid to late 1800's styles. Delaney is excited to continue her first season with CATCO as she begins her career in professional theatre.

TABITHA "TABI" ABNEY [She/Her/Hers] (**Costume Coordinator**) 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.

TONY KOEHLER [He/Him/His] (**Production Manager**) is a teaching artist, actor, director, and designer.

Most recently, he served as the production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre and as a teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts, both located 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., as well as 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 Hayes Award for Best Musical and Best Ensemble. He has also earned 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.

ISAAC STEINHOOR [He/Him/His] (**Technical Director**) is a graduate of Ohio Northern University with a bachelor's degree in International Theatre Production, Musical Theatre, and French. While in the theatre department, he focused on Technical Direction studying under the former Technical Director 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 years. He moved to Columbus five years ago with the love of his life, Michelle, 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. In addition to running the scene shop at CCT, Isaac also frequently serves as a sound and projection designer and teaches production classes. Isaac is honored to be working with the amazing team on this production.



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ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS

LEDA HOFFMANN [She/Her/Hers] (**Artistic Director**) is in her second season as CATCO's Artistic Director. CATCO directing credits include *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago. Before that, Leda served on 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, Leda produced and directed site-specific productions of *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*, and *The Penelopiad*. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country 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. Leda has also been a teaching artist for over ten years, directing youth and teaching with Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Mudlark Theater, Northbrook Park District, and Skyline Studios. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer, and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. www.ledahoffmann.com

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-



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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*.

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.

JULIA KELLEY [She/Her/Hers] (**House Manager**) is thrilled to be back with CATCO as House Manager after working on the New Works Festival in 2021! Julia will graduate from Otterbein University this May with a BFA in Design/Technology for Theatre and a minor in Arts Administration. Some of her Otterbein credits include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (House Manager), *The Pajama Game* (Stage Manager) and she is currently the Box Office Manager. Julia would like to thank Leda and Christy for the amazing opportunities with CATCO, as well as everyone she's met on this project!

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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