

**CATCO**  
presents



# LUCHADORA!

Presenting  
sponsor:



by Alvaro Saar Rios  
directed by Chris Leyva

February 17-March 6, 2022 | Columbus Performing Arts Center

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# CATCO'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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 AM BARBARA FANT. POETRY IS MY ART.

"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](http://ColumbusMakesArt.com).



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## A NOTE FROM CATCO'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

### *Greetings!*

Thank you for joining us for *Luchadora!*. When I first saw this play seven years ago at its world premiere in Milwaukee, I fell in love with this story of love and family and being who you are meant to be. It's been a pleasure to see Alvaro's beautiful play thrive with productions across the country over the past few years. When I was interviewing to come to CATCO, I told the search committee that *Luchadora!* would be one of the first plays I would want to share with Columbus audiences. And here we are!

*Luchadora!* builds on our work this season that is all about community and telling stories that bring us together. At CATCO, we believe storytelling grounded in the current moment sparks joy and connection, building a community of empathy

From bringing together this multi-generational cast of Columbus actors to learning how to wrestle with our partners at New Ohio Wrestling, we've thoroughly enjoyed creating this production. We're so grateful to the individuals and organizations who stepped up to share their talents, help us make connections, and spread the word about this production. Thank you.

We are also very grateful for the support of our presenting sponsor for *Luchadora!*, The Painting Company, as well as our season sponsors: the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, the L Brands



Foundation, the Nationwide Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.

The rest of our season has a lot coming up for audiences and artists of all ages and we hope you can join us! Next up is the musical *Head Over Heels* and the world premiere of *Prima Donna* by Chris Leyva (who is also the director of *Luchadora!*). Both *Head Over Heels* and *Prima Donna* are recommended for audiences 13 and up. For younger audiences, our Saturday Morning Musical class will be sharing their own adaptation of the *Wizard of Oz* on April 9th. And our summer camps for young people ages 5 - 13 start back up in June! More information about all of these performances and programs can be found at [catco.org](http://catco.org).

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leda Hoffmann".

Leda Hoffmann  
Artistic Director

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## CATCO STAFF

**Leda Hoffmann**, Artistic Director  
**Christy Farnbauch**, Executive Director  
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**CATCO**

presents



# LUCHADORA!

by **Alvaro Saar Rios**

**DIRECTOR**

Chris Leyva

**SET DESIGNER**

Arnold Bueso

**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Mary Yaw McMullen

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Rowan Winterwood

**SOUND DESIGNER**

Joy Heino

**PROPS DESIGNER**

Ben Sostrom

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Sara Pardo Fishburn

**WRESTLING CHOREOGRAPHER**

Donnie Hoover

**WRESTLING CHOREOGRAPHER**

Shawn "Onyx" Jones

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Tony Koehler

**CO-MASTER ELECTRICIAN**

Brendan Michna

**REHEARSAL STAGE MANAGER**

Kaitlyn Pfeifer

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Isaac Steinhour

**REHEARSAL ASM,  
PERFORMANCE STAGE MANAGER**

Hannah Pohlman

**YOUNG PERFORMER  
SUPERVISOR**

Addy Chapman

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sponsor:**



## SEASON SUPPORT



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Ohio Arts  
Council



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## CAST

Sara Pardo Fishburn.....	Nana Lupita
Elena Foulis.....	Mask Maker
Cory Velazco.....	Father
Byron Reyna-Corzo.....	El Hijo/Blue Luchador
Tom Murdoch.....	Ring Announcer/Green Luchador/Yellow Luchador
Alexis Foulis.....	Vanessa
Neo Gallegos-Samuels.....	Lupita
Vincent Maneri.....	Leopold
Keegan Hardin.....	Liesl
Kennedy Spitzer.....	Hannah
Oliver Jap.....	Newspaper Kid 1/Ensemble
Jude McGonigle.....	Newspaper Kid 2/Ensemble
Victoria Vazquez Ramirez.....	Newspaper Kid 3/Ensemble

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Chris Leyva.....	Director
Sara Pardo Fishburn.....	Music Director
Arnold Bueso.....	Set Designer
Mary Yaw McMullen.....	Costume Designer
Joy Heino.....	Sound Designer
Ben Sostrom.....	Props Designer
Kaitlyn Pfeifer.....	Rehearsal Stage Manager
Hannah Pohlman.....	Rehearsal ASM/Performance Stage Manager
Donnie Hoover.....	Wrestling Choreographer
Shawn "Onyx" Jones.....	Wrestling Choreographer
Rowan Winterwood.....	Lighting Designer and Master Electrician
Brendan Michna.....	Electrician
Caroline Dittamo.....	Electrician
Tony Koehler.....	Production Manager
Isaac Steinhour.....	Technical Director
Tabitha Abney.....	Costume Coordinator
Braden Graves.....	Assistant Set Designer
Kate Larson.....	Dresser
Delaney Althausen.....	Wardrobe
Addy Chapman.....	Young Performer Supervisor

Scenic Build by Columbus Children's Theatre

## SPECIAL THANKS

New Ohio Wrestling, Tom Williams, POWER Wrestling, WAR Wrestling, Sandra Lopez, Michelle Brandt, Cora McMullen, and La Michoacana Supermarkets.

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## CAST BIOS

**SARA PARDO FISHBURN** [She/Her/Hers] (**Nana Lupita**) is delighted to be returning to the CATCO stage in *Luchadora!* Other favorite roles: Sharon Graham/*Masterclass* (CATCO debut), *Baker's Wife/Into the Woods*, *Catherine/Pippin*, *Adelaide/Guys and Dolls*, *Marguerite/Carmen*, *Laetitia/The Old Maid and the Thief*, and *Fiordiligi/Così fan tutte*. When not performing, Sara is an active voice instructor at Otterbein University and her students can be seen on musical theatre stages across the country. Her most important gig, though, is the role of mother. This performance is dedicated to los amores de su vida - Travis, Harrison, and Ezra.

**ELENA FOULIS** [She/Her/Hers] (**Mask Maker**) is a professor at the Ohio State University. She teaches undergraduate courses in service learning, Latin American Literature, and Spanish for heritage. She has taken several workshops in devised theater and has co-created four performances, in-person and virtual, with her students using oral histories of Latinas/os/x in Ohio as a point of inspiration. In the summer of 2021, she participated in a short performance with the Cleveland Public Theater, titled "*La frontera and the heart.*" Foulis is host and producer for the Podcast *Latin@ Stories* and she also serves as Commissioner for the Ohio Latina Affairs Commission. Elena was born in El Salvador, grew up in northern Mexico, and moved to Ohio in 1992. She loves to cook, dance, perform, and spend time with her family and friends.

**CORY VELAZCO** [He/Him/His] (**Father**) is proud to be stepping into the ring with CATCO for this production. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Huge thanks to my Abuelo, Ernesto Velazco, for always calling me into his room to watch wrestling. It was an essential part of childhood. Thanks to my Poppa, Rafael Velazco, for taking me to see my first wrestling show. And thanks to my best friend, Clay Hargrave, for encouraging our road trip to Texas for Wrestlemania 32. All of you have been instrumental in getting me to this play. Now, sit back, and enjoy the match!

**BYRON REYNA-CORZO** [He/Him/His] (**El Hijo/Blue Luchador**) made his return to theatre after a 13-year hiatus following performances in *Plight Before Christmas* and *Fiddler on the Roof* in high school. He spent the past four years traveling the midwest as a luchador known as Espiritu Maya and is thankful for Chris Leyva giving him the opportunity to mix both passions with *Luchadora!* He would also like to thank his mother and father for always supporting him.

**TOM MURDOCK** [He/Him/His] (**Ring Announcer/Green Luchador/Yellow Luchador**) is excited to be joining CATCO for his first production with the company! He has appeared in numerous stage productions throughout Columbus, is an alumnus of the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, MA and is a graduate of The Ohio State University. Recent credits include *Let's Hope You Feel Better* (Isaac Abrams, MadLab) and





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*Much Ado About Nothing* (Don John/Margaret/Verges, Actors' Theatre of Columbus). Much love and thanks to Tess, Ripley, and the whole family.

**ALEXIS FOULIS** [She/Her/Hers] (**Vanessa**) has been dedicated to her high school theatre program for almost four years. Starting at the beginning of her freshman year, Alexis took a theatre class that opened a door to a world of drama that enabled her to learn new theatrical skills and gave her a background in theatre that was given to her by an amazing director. She has learned the art of patience and resilience in her years of acting. She performed in 2 plays and 6 musicals including *It's a Wonderful Life: Live Radio Play*, *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Elf*, *Matilda*, *Calling Amelia: A Lovewell Musical*, and, most recently, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!*

**VINCENT MANERI** [He/Him/His] (**Leopold**) is thrilled to return to the CATCO stage for *Luchadora!*. Vincent is fourteen years old. In his first CATCO role, he played the lead role of Buddy in *Elf Jr.*, the Musical. His most recent CATCO role was Tigger in *Winnie the Pooh*, *Christmas Tail*, Vincent has also danced in Balletmet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Twisted II*, and *Giselle*. Most recently he played Mr. Beck in Dominion Middle School's production of *The Curse of Macbeth*. In addition to his passion for acting, Vincent is also a musician. His primary instrument is drums, and he is proud to hold the drum chair in the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra. He also plays guitar and piano.

**KEEGAN HARDIN** [She/Her/Hers] (**Liesl**) started her singing and acting career almost 3 years ago. She has performed in numerous plays both virtually and on stage, the most recent being her role as Nancy in *A Christmas Story - The Musical* with the Columbus Children's Theater. Keegan is a 5th grader at High Point Elementary School in Gahanna. She loves to sing, act, read, and play with her two sisters and dog.

**KENNEDY SPITZER** [She/Her/Hers] (**Hannah**) is thrilled to be back on stage. She has previously been seen in *A Christy Story: The Musical*, *Our Town*, *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, *Radium Girls*, *RENT*, and many others. She would like to thank her Grandfather for his theatrical inspiration, and audiences for coming out to support live theatre!

**OLIVER JAP** [He/Him/His] (**Newspaper Kid 1/Ensemble**) is in the 5th grade and is looking forward to playing the roles of Newspaper Boy and Kid 1 in CATCO's *Luchadora!*. He has performed in Worthington Community Theatre's production of *A Fairy Tale Christmas Story*, CATCO's *Annie Kids*, and Worthington Christian School's One Week Playerz Workshop. Oliver enjoys playing football, swimming team, modeling, singing, and goofing around with his two younger brothers. We are always thrilled when he is given the chance to perform on stage!

**JUDE MCGONIGLE** [He/Him/His] (**Newspaper Kid 2/Ensemble**) is 12 years old and a seventh-grader at World Language Middle School in Columbus. He has always enjoyed

performing and is so glad to be back on stage again. Jude's favorite role he has ever played was The Hulk because he got to be loud and to Smash! In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games and snuggling with his two guinea pigs, Snickers, and Butterscotch.

**VICTORIA VAZQUEZ RAMIREZ** [She/Her/Hers] (**Newspaper Kid 3/Ensemble**) is 10 years old and in 5th grade, Luchadora! is her first role in a play, Victoria is playing Newspaper Kid 3, and is very excited about this opportunity, She likes to sing, draw, and anything that involves creativity and art.

**NEO GALLEGOS- SAMUELS** [Them/They] (**Lupita**) My name is Neo! I'm 13 years old and go to World Language Middle School. This is the first play I've done since the global pandemic. I'm so excited to be on stage again and am so happy you have come to see me perform! This is an amazing play and has been a great experience for me. I hope to do many more plays in the future!

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

**ALVARO SAAR RIOS** [He/Him/His] **(Playwright)** is a Texican playwright living in Chicago. His plays have been performed in New York City, Mexico City, Hawaii, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and all over Texas. He has received playwriting commissions from various organizations, including Kennedy Center, Chicago Children's Theatre, First Stage, Houston Grand Opera, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Purple Rose Theatre Company, Houston Community College, Zoological Society of Milwaukee, and Omaha's Rose Theater. His award-winning play *Luchadora!* is published by Dramatic Publishing Inc. Other plays include *On The Wings of a Mariposa*, *Unmuted*, *Bienvenidos a Milwaukee/Welcome to Milwaukee*, and *Carmela Full of Wishes*.

Alvaro holds an MFA in Writing for the Stage and Screen from Northwestern University. He is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and Playwright-InResidence at Milwaukee's First Stage. Alvaro is a proud veteran of the US Army and an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. <https://www.alvarosaarrios.com/>  
Twitter & Instagram: @realCrazyMex

**CHRIS LEYVA** [He/Him/His] **(Director)** is grateful to be directing this production of *Luchadora!* He previously directed *A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail* and *Sunshine* for CATCO. Last season, Chris was the Digital Designer and editor for the CATCO productions of *Working* and *A Columbus Christmas*

*Carol*. His new play *Prima Donna* was part of the CATCO New Works Festival and will premiere later this season. Chris' previous plays have been commissioned and developed by CATCO, CLIMB Theatre, MadLab Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Curtain Players New Play Initiative, Great Plains Theatre Conference, and the Columbus School for Girls, among others. He received an M.F.A. from the Playwrights Workshop at The University of Iowa, a B.A. in Directing from Coe College, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

**KAITLYN PFEIFER** [She/Her/Hers] **(Rehearsal Stage Manager)** Previous CATCO productions include *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*, *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.

**HANNAH POHLMAN** [She/Her/Hers] **(Rehearsal ASM/Performance Stage Manager)** is happy to be returning to live theatre with CATCO! She holds a B.F.A. in Theatre Design & Technology from Otterbein University where she studied stage management and costume construction. She has worked professionally with Columbus Children's Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, BalletMet, Orlando Rep, and the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. Hannah is the Admission Counselor for Visual and Performing Arts at

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Otterbein and runs her own Etsy shop called *AllSewnUpbyHannah*. She lives in Columbus with her fiancé Nick and their two cats – Spooky and Pippin.

**ARNOLD BUESO** [He/Him/His] (**Set Designer**) Honduran born designer Arnold Bueso has designed scenery, costumes, lighting, projections, and served as technician and artisan for related media projects all over the U.S. and internationally. In New York City, he maintained a freelance studio for 10 years in industries like museum exhibits, fashion, art installation, immersive, film & broadcast, and web-based projects for both national and oversees productions. On Broadway, he assisted William Ivey Long's Studio on *Curtains* and *Young Frankenstein* and collaborated with various Off-Broadway companies including The Brooklyn Ballet, StudioEIS, Izquierdo Studios, FringeNYC, Soho Rep, 2NDStage, Fashion Week, Performa, Chashama, and many others. Regional work includes *First Stage*, Cincinnati Playhouse, The National Museum in DC, and design residencies for various companies in South Florida, Utah, Ohio, and California. Internationally, his work for installation and museums has traveled to Prague, Warsaw, the UK, Puerto Rico, and the United Arab Emirates. His scenic design for *What The Butler Saw* was a part of the US exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial in 2011. Most recently, he served as Resident Scenic and Costume Designer and Technical Program Coordinator for PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre on California's central coast where he also designed shows like

the west coast premiere of *Freaky Friday the Musical*, *The Whipping Man*, and *Twelfth Night*. Since 2009, he has taught design and technology courses and served as guest artist at City University of New York (City College, John Jay College, BMCC, and QCC), Long Island University, Hofstra University, Allan Hancock College, and Glendale College. Currently, he is about to go into production for *Matilda the Musical* in Milwaukee. You may view his work at [www.arnoldbueso.com](http://www.arnoldbueso.com).

**MARY YAW MCMULLEN** [She/Her/Hers] (**Costume Designer**) is excited to be working with CATCO as Costume Designer for *Luchadora!*. She works as a freelance Costume Designer and is the Musical Theatre Director for the River View High School in Warsaw, Ohio. Some of Mary's more recent costume design work has been *Mamma Mia* and *Footloose* with Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, Montana, and *The House of Bernarda Alba* at Kenyon College. She is currently preparing to begin rehearsals for *Annie* at RVHS. Mary holds a B.A. in Theatre and M.F.A in Theatrical Design and Production from The Ohio State University. She thanks her parents, husband, Kyle, and children, Cora and Brek, for their support and excitement for all things theatre. Enjoy the show!

**DONNIE HOOVER** [He/Him/His] (**Wrestling Choreographer**) born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, is the owner of New Ohio Wrestling and the NOW Training Center. He is a retired professional wrestler and current promoter, actor, stunt choreographer,

and podcaster. He wrestled professionally for over 5 years before retiring and returned to wrestling with his wife, Terrie Hoover, in 2015 as wrestling promoters. His acting roles include his pro wrestling persona and as a professional haunted house actor. Working with the cast and crew of *Luchadora!* has been a very rewarding experience.

**SHAWN “ONYX” JONES** [He/Him/His] (**Wrestling Choreographer**) born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, is the owner of STJSP. He is a professional wrestler, actor, stunt choreographer, and motivational speaker. He has been wrestling professionally for over 13 years and is the current Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival Champion. His acting roles include *Khange Tha Game*, *Wrestlers vs. Zombies*, *Marrtown*, and the upcoming *Virt*. He has been having a blast working with the cast and crew of *Luchadora!*

**ROWAN WINTERWOOD** [She/Her/Hers] (**Lighting Designer and Master Electrician**) is a designer, director, stage manager and aerialist. She is the Associate Artistic Director for Actors’

Theatre of Columbus, where she also designed lights for the 2021 season and directed *OR*, (2020). Selected lighting credits include Columbus Children’s Theatre (*A Christmas Story*), Actors’ Theatre of Columbus (*The Secret Garden*, *Eurydice*), CATCO is Kids (*Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*, *Press Start*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Alice in Wonderland*) and Evolution Theatre Company (*The View Upstairs*).

**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



The advertisement for Whimsical Designs is enclosed in a double-line border. On the left is a cake with a green base, pink and purple drip, and a single ice cream cone on top. On the right is a chocolate cake with white frosting, chocolate drip, and chocolate butterflies. In the center is the company logo, a circular emblem with 'MS' and 'SWEET CREATIONS & DESIGN'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Whimsical Designs' in a cursive font, followed by 'SERVING CENTRAL OHIO' in a smaller font, and the website 'WWW.WHIMSICALDESIGNS4YOU.COM'. At the bottom, it lists services: 'BUTTERCREAM DESIGNS | BALLOON DECOR | CUSTOM CAKE TOPPERS'.

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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 STEINHOUR (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.

**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.

**BRADEN GRAVES [He/Him/His] (Assistant Set Designer)** is excited to be involved in his second production for CATCO as assistant set designer. 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.

**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.



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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](http://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

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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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