

**catco**

PRESENTS

**MAY 4-21**

# THE WOLVES



**BY SARAH DELAPPE**  
**DIRECTED BY DR. AVIVA HELENA NEFF**

**RIFFE CENTER**  
**STUDIO TWO**

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# **catco**

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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. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.





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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF

# THE WOLVES

I first read *The Wolves* in a graduate level playwriting class and was instantly a 16-year-old again. No time machines, magical wishes, or fortune cookies about it—this play transformed and transported me with every *like*, *omigosh*, and thinly veiled insult. DeLappe's casual, thrumming dialogue covers topics such as break ups, make ups, college prep, and genocide, reminding us that for many teenagers, "it doesn't get easier, you just get better." While the actors onstage are portraying "an elite girls soccer team," it feels important to call-in the current discussion about gender and sports. **Every body belongs on stage and on soccer pitches.** Including all athletes and actors, regardless of their gender identity, helps us model a tiny sliver of the utopian ideals that our society is capable of achieving. Allowing trans and nonbinary youth to compete on teams that respect their gender identity is a life-saving act, a simple way to demonstrate solidarity, compassion, and the shared human experience that unites us all. When you watch this show and are reminded of the ways that you were once 16, I hope that you depart the theatre with compassion for all the brave people who claim their girlhood on soccer turfs, studio floors, and the hallways of a high school.

Thank you to all the coaches, teachers, and directors I have had the good fortune to learn from, and thank you to the cast and crew; Leda, and CATCO for letting me direct one of my favorite scripts. Thank you to the teen girls: "our most distinguished professors, who teach us to bury the burst until we close our bedroom doors, and then cry with blood in the neck, foot through the door, face in the pillow, the teen girls who teach us to scream."

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**Christy Farnbauch, Executive Director**

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**Beth Graham, Development Manager**

**Summit J Starr, Administrative Coordinator**

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**catco**  
presents  
***THE WOLVES***

**BY SARAH DELAPPE  
DIRECTED BY DR. AVIVA HELENA NEFF**

Leda Hoffmann  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Christy Farnbauch  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**  
*(MAY 18-21)*

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*The Wolves* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
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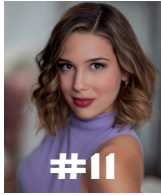
The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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## THE WOLVES

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### CAST



#11

EMMA ROSE JOHNSON she/her



#25

OLLIE WORDEN they/them



#13

SHA-LEMAR DAVIS they/she



#46

SUMMIT J. STARR\* she/her



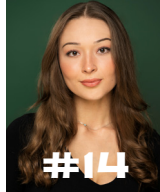
#7

JO MICHELLE SHAFER they/them



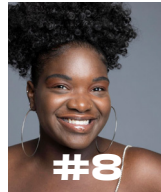
#2

CINDY TRAN NGUYEN she/her



#14

ISABELLA STEVENS she/her



#8

SERMONTEE BROWN she/her



#00

GWYNETH CLARE she/her

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### ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Rowan Winterwood  
MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Tony Koehler  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Augusta Kinzel  
COSTUME COORDINATOR  
& WARDROBE

Isaac Steinhour  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Set Built by CCT Scenic

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### SPECIAL THANKS:

Steve Locker, Locker Soccer Academy; Greater Columbus Sports Commission; Ohio High School Athletic Association; Columbus Eagles FC; Cohesion Foundation; Tonya Tiggett

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\*Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

### CAST BIOS

**EMMA ROSE JOHNSON** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#11) is thrilled to make her CATCO debut in *The Wolves*. Originally from Sarasota, FL, Emma just completed her Junior year at Otterbein University pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recent professional credits include Wendla Bergman in *Spring Awakening* at Short North Stage, Cinderella in *Into the Woods* at The Carnegie, and Frieda/ Sue Snell U/S in *Carrie!* at Columbus Immersive Theater. Later this summer, Emma will be playing Suzy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at Porthouse Theatre in Cleveland. "I would like to thank our fearless director, Dr. Aviva Neff for believing in me, lifting me up during hard times, and being such an amazing role model. Additionally, I would like to thank Leda, Tony, and the whole CATCO 'team' ;) for this wonderful opportunity. Many thanks to Thom, Sara, Eric, Anna, and all my wonderful teachers (near and far), as well as my spectacular friends who make my life brighter, and my family, who pour love into me every day."

**OLLIE WORDEN** [THEY/THEM] (#25) is a graduate of Capital University who has been performing, educating, and working behind the scenes of central Ohio theatre for more than 7 years. Some favorite credits include *Boy* (Adam/ Samantha) with Evolution Theatre Company, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio) with Actors' Theatre of Columbus, and CATCO's production of *Bakersville* (Actress I) all the way back in 2017; they are thrilled to return to the Riffe Center for this show. Many, many thanks go to their tirelessly supportive loved ones, this fantastically talented cast and crew, and you for supporting the best indoor soccer team ever. Go Wolves!

**SHA-LEMAR DAVIS** [THEY/SHE] (#13) is a Dayton native and Baldwin Wallace BFA grad. Previous credits include *Weimar* (world premiere), *Let's Hope You Feel Better*, and *Head Over Heels*. They would like to acknowledge that as a descendant of enslaved Africans they are a settler on indigenous land. She acknowledges that the land she lives on is home to multiple indigenous tribes: Kaskaskia; Osage; Shawanwaki/Shawnee; Myaamia; Adena; Hopewell. Sha-Lemar also recognizes that this verbal acknowledgment is not enough to achieve true sovereignty and commits themselves to constantly working towards the liberation of indigenous peoples. She'd like to thank her support system, especially their partners, Aaron and Jo. We Are The Wolves!

**SUMMIT J STARR\*** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#46 and Administrative Coordinator) is thrilled to be a part of a production that combines two of her favorite things: theatre and soccer! She has recently been seen at CATCO in *The One and Only Sarah Stonely* (Principal), *Prima Donna* (Pamela Proctor), and *Head Over Heels* (Philoclea). Other regional credits include *The SpongeBob Musical* (Electric Skate) - Columbus Children's Theatre, *Rock of Ages* (Waitress #1) - ShadowboxLive, *The Little Mermaid* (Flotsam) - Beck Center for the Arts, and *West Side Story* (Consuelo) - Akron Symphony Orchestra. She has also traveled internationally with Teatro Travieso's *Women of Ciudad Juárez*. In addition to acting, she is the lead singer of local cover band Boombox Riot, vocalist/lyricist for FOX+RAM, and COO of Photography for RockDaddyDesign. IG: @summit.jstarr



### CAST BIOS (CONT'D)

**CINDY TRAN NGUYEN** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#2) is delighted to be making her CATCO debut! Favorite credits include The Ohio State University's *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods), Imagine Productions' *First Date* (Woman), and *Ride the Cyclone* (Ocean Rosenberg O'Connell) also with Imagine. She graduated from OSU with degrees in Theatre and Marketing, minoring in Asian American Studies. During the day, she is an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. When not working or rehearsing, Cindy enjoys reading and consuming media from AAPI artists. Shout out to her friends, family, and especially Isaiah for supporting her in all her endeavors! Enjoy the show! IG: @cinderellduh

**JO MICHELLE SHAFER** [THEY/THEM] (#7) is very excited to be returning to the CATCO stage with this incredible cast! Jo is a non-binary actor/singer based in Columbus, OH. Previous credits include: Pamela in *Head Over Heels* (CATCO), Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Short North Stage), Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Imagine Productions). Thanks to their partner and teammate (#13), Sha-Lemar for giving them the courage to try their hand at acting in something other than a musical again. @jordanmshafer

**ISABELLA STEVENS** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#14) was born and raised in The Sunshine State, and received her BFA in Acting from New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. She is absolutely honored to be making her regional theatre debut on the CATCO stage! Some of her most cherished previous credits include *Sense and Sensibility* (NWSA Studio), *Church & State* (NewYorkRep), and *Hamlet, 1603* (Actor's Theatre of Columbus). Isabella is forever grateful for the love and support of her family and friends, both back home and in Columbus. She also extends her gratitude to Leda, Aviva, her fellow teammates, and everyone involved in bringing this production of *The Wolves* to life! Orange slices carry new meaning thanks to this experience. IG: bella\_stevens

**SERMONTTEE BROWN** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#8) is an experienced actress that has participated in many Ohio productions: *Chocolate Nutcracker*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Grease*, *School House Rock Live*, *The Diviners*, *The Library*, *Decision Heights*, *The Children's Hour*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Next Room or Vibrator Play* and many ShadowboxLive Shows as well. Ms. Brown has also recently performed at Short North Stage as well. This is her third time working with CATCO and is looking forward to many more opportunities. She's been performing since she was three years old and it's been her passion ever since. Ms. Brown is also producer, model, as well as a creative director and director. She is also the co-host of a new Podcast called Sermon-Tea (you can listen to it on all platforms). She wants to thank her family and friends for their continuous love & support and thank you for coming out and supporting as well. IG: montee\_solovely

### CAST BIOS (CONT'D)

**GWYNETH CLARE** [SHE/HER/HERS] (#00) is thrilled to be making her CATCO debut! Born and raised in Dayton, Gwyneth received her BFA in Acting and a minor in New Works for the Stage from Ball State University in 2020. She now resides in Chicago where she continues to perform, watch classic movies, and play lots of tennis. Favorite theatre credits include Dinah in *Revolt. She said. Revolt again.* and originating the role of Bernie in the premiere production of *Borrowed Babies*. She thanks her mom for being her rock, the rest of her family, and her lovely friends for the constant support.

**ELENI PAPALEONARDOS** [SHE/HER/HERS] (Soccer Mom) is a theatre-maker, intimacy director, and educator. As an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Denison University she directs and teaches courses in acting and devising. Eleni earned her M.F.A. in Contemporary Performance at Naropa University, where she studied with many prominent dance and theatre innovators. She joined Columbus-based Available Light Theatre (AVLT) in 2008 and has served as artistic director since 2015. Eleni works to create culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and consent-based environments in every space she enters, empowering artists to work from where they are each day to unlearn the ideas of scarcity, competition, perfectionism, disembodiment, and product-focused practices. Eleni is thrilled to return to CATCO's stage after performing Matilde in *The Clean House*. "Soccer Mom" was the last role Eleni performed before the pandemic and she is grateful to Aviva, CATCO, and the wonderful artistic team of *The Wolves* to return to this incredible play.

### PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

**DR. AVIVA HELENA NEFF** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Director**) is the Director of Youth & Community Learning at Columbus College of Art & Design and an adjunct faculty member with Otterbein University Department of Theatre and Dance. An honors graduate of Goldsmiths College (MA, Applied Theatre), Dr. Neff enjoys working in devised theatre and theatre for social change with participants aged 1-100. She is an ensemble member with Teatro Travieso, which premiered her solo performance, *Blood, Earth, Water* in 2021, written as part of a practice-as-research Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. Dr. Neff has recently published works on mediatized race and identity, mixed-Black women in Reconstruction-era New Orleans, and inclusive theatre pedagogy. Dr. Neff feels very lucky to serve as a freelance intimacy coordinator and director within the incredible theatre community in Columbus!

**RASEAN DAVONTÉ JOHNSON** [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Scenic & Sound Designer**) is delighted to be working with CATCO. A Columbus native, he has had the opportunity to locally work with institutions such as Shadowbox Live and The Ohio State University. His regional work includes projects with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, South Chicago Dance Company, Chicago Opera Theatre, Toledo Opera, Cleveland Playhouse, Indiana Rep, The Public Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, McCarter Theatre Center, Long Wharf Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Opera, Manual Cinema, and internationally with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland), B-Floor Theatre (Thailand), and the Ningbo Song and Dance Company (China). Additionally, his installation work has been seen at the Yale Art Gallery, The Bay Street Theatre, The Bridgeport Film Festival, the Logan Center for the Arts, and the Columbus International Film Festival. BA The Ohio State University, MFA Yale School of Drama. [raseandavontejohnson.com](http://raseandavontejohnson.com).

**AMBER WHATLEY** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Lighting Designer**) is a lighting designer for live performance. Her skills include lighting for theater, dance, concert, and lighting for the camera. Her technical strengths are programming and moving light programming. She was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She then completed her BFA at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has consulted for several theaters and churches in the Southeast U.S. Her MFA graduate studies in Lighting Design at The University of Texas at Austin lead her to the creation of *Blackout* a workshop and video series in which her objective is to bring lighting design and technology awareness to Black youth and minorities in under supported communities. Her research interests include creating accessible lighting knowledge for BIPOC youth and under supported communities, new works, and non-traditional theater design. As a current post MFA fellow at The Ohio State University Amber enjoys teaching, freelance designing, and furthering the development of *Blackout*.

### PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CONT'D)

**TONY KOEHLER** [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Props Designer and Production Manager**) is a teaching artist, actor, director, designer, and prior to becoming CATCO's production manager, he 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 Hayes 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.

**BAYLEE SHEETS** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Costume Designer**) is a performer and costume designer based in Columbus, OH. She attended Bowling Green State University where she studied Theatre with specializations in Acting, Directing & Costume Design. Her notable roles behind the scenes include working as the costume designer for Imagine Productions, New Albany Community Playhouse, Dublin Jerome High School and Available Light Theatre as well as being a wardrobe supervisor with Weathervane Playhouse. Baylee would like to thank her friends and family for all their support with special thanks to Goblin, Ghoul and Aaron. Find Baylee on Instagram @bayleejune

**ROWAN WINTERWOOD** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Master Electrician**) is a lighting designer, director, stage manager, artist educator and aerialist. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Lighting Designer/Engineer for Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where she will be directing *Love's Labours Lost* this July. Selected lighting design credits include Available Light Theatre (*Everybody, Witch*), Actors' Theatre of Columbus (*Hamlet 1603, Eurydice*), Columbus Children's Theatre (*A Christmas Story*), CATCO is Kids (*Luchadora!, Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*), and Denison University (*You On The Moors Now*; co-design: *Pippin, Company*).

**AUGUSTA KINZEL** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Costume Coordinator & Wardrobe**) is a Coshocton, Ohio native. She is a recent grad from Muskingum University, where she received her B.A. in history and theatre. During her time at Muskingum, Augusta acted, designed, and worked on tech staff. Her favorite shows at Muskingum were *The Gypsy Woman* and *Seussical*. She is new to the CATCO staff and is excited to be working at CATCO this season. Enjoy the show!

### PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CONT'D)

**ISAAC STEINHOUR** [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 second child. 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.

**JACLYN BENEDICT\*** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**AEA Stage Manager**) is thrilled to be returning to CATCO as the stage manager of *The Wolves*. Recent credits include *Sound of Music* (Butterfly Guild), *Prima Donna* (CATCO), *Cinderella* (Butterfly Guild), *Mamma Mia!* (Butterfly Guild), and *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* (CATCO). Thanks to Aviva, Kaitlyn, Janice, the production team, and this incredibly talented cast for their hard work!

**KAITLYN PFEIFER** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Assistant 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

**JANICE HUYNH** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Assistant Stage Manager May 18-21**) is so excited to be returning to CATCO for the second time with this production of *The Wolves*. Previous credits include *...but you could've held my hand* at CATCO (ASM), *SpongeBob the Musical* at Columbus Children's Theatre (ASM), *White Christmas*, *RENT*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Sister Act* at Short North Stage (Backstage Crew), and *The Books of Ruth* written by Joy Heino (Stage Manager). Janice is so grateful to have learned so much and been welcomed by various theatres around Columbus and hopes you enjoy the show. Instagram: @janice8001



## ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS

**LEDA HOFFMANN** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Artistic Director**) is in her third season as CATCO's Artistic Director. CATCO directing credits include *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *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, a Hartford Stage apprentice, an 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.

**BETH GRAHAM** [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Development Manager**) is a Columbus native and longtime CATCO fan. She has served in various fundraising roles with arts organizations in town including the Columbus Symphony and most recently the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) where she has been a partner to CATCO for the last three years. Beth also held a fellowship with the Ohio Arts Council following graduation from Miami University with a degree in Arts Management and Media Culture Studies. She loves supporting local and has even worked for a local jewelry store, Red Giraffe Designs. In her free time, she likes to read, take walks in her neighborhood of Harrison West, and spend time with her rescue cat, Ivy.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

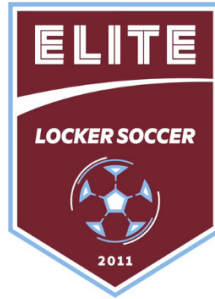
**KARA HANCOCK** [SHE/HER] (**House Manager**) is excited to be the House Manager for CATCO. Kara graduated from University of Dayton with a degree in Music Education and a focus on operatic vocal performance. Previously, she has worked with Funny Bone and Shadowbox. When she isn't working in the front of the theatre, she can usually be found on a roadtrip to her next audition, taking dance classes, or making some sales for her day job. She's thrilled to be part of the team.

**STEVE HILLER** [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Education Director**) Steve Hiller became CATCO's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.





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Lisa Glover and Jacinda Forbes in *School Girls' Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. | Photo: Terry Gilliam

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