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Central Ohio Premiere of *Fun Home* to Open CATCO's 2017-18 Season Sept. 13-Oct. 1

***Shakespeare and Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope* to open CATCO is Kids season Aug. 25-27**

CATCO will open its 2017-18 season with the Broadway smash hit and 2015 five-time Tony Award-winner, *Fun Home*, Sept. 13-Oct. 1, 2017. The central Ohio premiere, the first non-touring production of the not-to-be-missed musical in Ohio, will be staged at the Studio Two Theatre, Vern Riffe Center.

"CATCO is thrilled to be the first theatre company in Ohio to produce *Fun Home*. This heartwarming musical and journey of discovery and self-exploration is a guidebook for helping us understand the people in our lives we are closest to – our families and ourselves," said Steven C. Anderson, CATCO producing director.

CATCO is Kids will open its season Aug. 25-27, 2017, with *Shakespeare and Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope*, a sublime retelling of *Star Wars* in the style of the immortal Bard of Avon. "Jedi. Lightsabers. Wookies. Darth Vader. All in iambic pentameter! This fun and accessible adaptation is a saga, abounding with all of the valor and villainy of Shakespeare's greatest plays," said Joe Bishara, CATCO's associate producing director.

Shakespeare and Star Wars, made possible from a generous grant from PNC Arts Alive, will feature student actors who participate in CATCO is Kids' summer camp in July and August. The play will be performed at the Lincoln Theatre. For more information, call 614.719.6764, or visit <http://catcoistheatre.org/education/> and download the registration brochure.

Fun Home, which received 12 Tony Award nominations and won five Tony Awards in 2015 including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Direction of a Musical, is based on the 2006 graphic novel/memoir written by Alison Bechdel, winner of a 2014 MacArthur "Genius" Award and author of the comic strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For*. In her book, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, Bechdel shares stories of her life of growing up in rural Pennsylvania; her family's funeral home business; living with her father, a closeted homosexual, whose death was likely a suicide; and her own coming out when she was in college. The book was named one of *Time* magazine's top ten books of the year.

Bechdel's journey is revealed through three *actors* – Alison Bechdel, Small Alison and Medium Alison – who tell Bechdel's story through different stages of her life. The musical was adapted from Bechdel's book by Lisa Kron (*2.5 Minute Ride* and *Well*), who also wrote the lyrics with composer Jeanine Tesori (*Violet*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Shrek The Musical*). The two made history when they were the first female team to win a Tony Award for Best Original Score.

Fun Home, which features a cast of nine, three of them children, received rave review from critics when it opened:

“Heart-gripping and cathartic, *Fun Home* occupies the place where we all grew up.” –*The New York Times*.

“*Fun Home* speaks universally about big things that matter: Life, love, family, surviving.” – *Daily News*

“*Fun Home* is breaking new ground.” – *The Wall Street Journal*

“*Fun Home* is an instant classic of the American musical theatre and a monumental piece of art.” – *The Huffington Post*

CATCO subscribers will have first access to *Fun Home* and *Shakespeare and Star Wars* tickets in March when subscription renewals are available; info about becoming a new subscriber for the 2017-18 season will be available in early summer. To add your name to the new subscriber list, please email JoLane Campbell, CAPA Subscription and Group Sales Coordinator, at jcampbell@capa.com.

CATCO’s 32nd season is sponsored by support from The Ohio Arts Council, which helps fund the theatre with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans, and supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

CATCO also appreciates the support of the Barbara B. Coons, Nina B. Pohlman, and Martha G. Staub Funds of The Columbus Foundation, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the Greater Columbus Arts Council, supporting the city’s artists and arts organizations since 1973. Other supporters include The Shubert Foundation Inc. and Nationwide Insurance Foundation.

CATCO’s season sponsor is L Brands; season partner is the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio’s professional Equity theatre company, providing quality theatre and educational programs for all ages. The theatre organization has adopted an innovative strategy, building creative alliances that can sustain growth and development. For more information, visit catcoistheatre.org. Together, CATCO and CATCO is Kids provide quality theatre and educational programs for all ages.

CATCO Mission Statement

Theatre is a shared experience that illuminates the mysteries of our humanity. Its magic has the power to transform us whether on stage, in the classroom or in our diverse communities. CATCO creates theatre that delights, challenges, and transports.

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