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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO To Produce Capote Holiday Classics Nov. 25-Dec. 21

***New Production of two of CATCO's all-time favorites: A Christmas Memory
and The Thanksgiving Visitor***

Jon Putnam returns as Crumpet the elf in Sedaris' hilarious Santaland Diaries Dec. 4-28

Escape to a Christmastime of yesteryear with one of America's greatest writers, Truman Capote, in two heartwarming performances of his favorite shorts stories, *A Christmas Memory* and *The Thanksgiving Visitor*. These vividly written, moving and very funny tales will be presented by CATCO Nov. 25-Dec. 21, 2008, at the Vern Riffe Center, Studio One Theatre, 77 S. High St.

Running concurrently in the Studio Three Theatre will be David Sedaris' one-act comedy, *The Santaland Diaries*, Dec. 4-28, 2008. CATCO favorite Jon Putnam reprises his role as Crumpet the elf in this perversely hilarious memoir of Sedaris' experiences from working as an elf at Macy's Santaland in New York City during the busiest retail time of the year.

A Christmas Memory and *The Thanksgiving Visitor* recall Capote's boyhood best friend, Miss Sook. Seven-year-old Capote, sent to live with reluctant relatives during the Depression, formed his closest childhood bond with Sook, an elderly and somewhat child-like female cousin. Life was always full of wonder for Miss Sook, who took a bookish, introverted and sometimes bitter little boy and opened his eyes to the world around him. Their adventures – wonderfully chronicles in these stories – will move and delight your entire family. The plays were produced by CATCO numerous seasons in the 1990s and are among CATCO's most-beloved and successful productions.

Capote is famous for works, such as *In Cold Blood* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, but *A Christmas Memory* and *The Thanksgiving Visitor*, his autobiographical stories, were his own personal favorites and he considered them his greatest works of short fiction.

The *Christmas Memory/Thanksgiving Visitor* cast includes Linda Dorff (Miss Sook), who has performed in numerous CATCO's productions in its 25-year history, such as *The Club*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Three Viewings*, *The Gin Game*, *All My Sons*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. She is joined by Ian Short (Buddy) and Curtis Brown (Odd Henderson). Short performed this year in Phoenix Theatre's *The BFG* and Available Light Theatre's *Then After Water* and *Time and a Few Words*. Brown, a theatrical electrician, performed in *Two Planks and a Passion*; *Inherit the Wind*; and *Cowboy Mouth* at OSU; and

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Stripper, an Off-Broadway premier.

Jonathan Putnam (Crumpet), CATCO's associate artistic director, has acted in or directed dozens of shows at CATCO since 1986. Acting credits include *The Pillowman*; *You're My Boy*; *Greater Tuna*; *A Tuna Christmas*; and *Uncle Vanya*. Directing credits include *The Shorts Festivals in 2006, 2004, and 2002*; *Escanaba In Da Moonlight*; *The Underpants*; *Lobby Hero*; *The Foursome*; *Escanaba In Love*; and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.

Geoffrey Nelson, CATCO's founder and artistic director, will direct *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor*. Celebrating his 38th year of acting professionally, Nelson previously directed *Doubt*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Season's Greetings*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *The Anger in Earnest and Ernestine*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Taking Sides*, *The Bat*, *The Little Foxes*, *Orphans*, *True West*, *1959 Pink Thunderbird*, *Murder in Green Meadows* and *Handy Dandy*.

CATCO's 2008-09, 25th anniversary season is being sponsored by support from the Fred B. and Mabel Dean Hill and Eileen M. and Josiah Brooks Heckert Funds of the Columbus Foundation, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Nationwide Foundation, Limited Brands Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council, which funds CATCO with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The season's media sponsor is Time Warner Cable. CATCO's sponsor for \$11@11 performances is Chase Bank. Macy's is a sponsor of *The Santaland Diaries*.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor* Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$11.50 for the 11 a.m. performance, and \$32.50 for the main floor and \$20.50 for the balcony for the 7:30 p.m. show. The opening performance is Friday, Nov. 28, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for the main level (rows A-M) and \$25 for the balcony, and include admission to a post-performance party in the theatre lobby. **All tickets for *The Santaland Diaries* are \$35.**

Half-Price Happy Hour

The first Thursday of each show run tickets and drinks are half price. Depending upon a particular show's schedule, a second Half-Price Happy Hour will be added. For *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor*, there will be two Half-Price Happy Hours, Thursday, Dec. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 18. Both shows are at 8 p.m.

\$11@11 Matinees

For *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: the first preview Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. CATCO's \$11 @ 11 is an offering for theatre-goers who want to see a play mid-week (Wednesday) and mid-day (11 a.m.)

at a great price (\$11 plus a 50-cent restoration fee). For ticket information, please call 614.469.0939 or visit ticketmaster.com.

Dramaturg/Actor Talkbacks

For a deeper understanding of each play, CATCO presents talkback sessions for audiences. For *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor*, the dramaturg talkback will follow the Sunday, Nov. 30, matinee; the actor talkback will follow the Sunday, Dec. 14, matinee.

Audio Description

On the last Sunday of each production, CATCO provides an audio-described performance for the visually impaired along with free headset rental. The audio description for *A Christmas Memory/The Thanksgiving Visitor* will be Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m.

Ticket/Parking Information

Tickets for regular performances are \$40 for the main level (rows A-M) and \$25 for the balcony. Students and senior may purchase half-price tickets on Sunday and Thursday performances based on availability and valid I.D. All tickets can be purchased at the box office at 41 E. State St., next to the Ohio Theatre, by calling 614.469.0939 or by visiting ticketmaster.com or by calling or visiting any central Ohio Ticketmaster location. Performances are in the Studio One Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center, located at 77 S. High St. in Downtown Columbus at the corner of State and High streets. Attached parking is available in the Riffe Center garage, which is entered from Front Street.

About CATCO

CATCO is central Ohio's professional Equity theatre company. Its mission is to produce diverse, high- quality, and exciting theatrical work that celebrates our common humanity. For more information, visit catco.org.

Subscriptions for CATCO's 25th anniversary season are now available by calling CATCO's box office at 614.469.0939. Remaining shows this season include:

- *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani, Feb. 4-Feb. 22, 2009
- *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl, April 1-26, 2009
- *Blackbird* by David Harrower, June 3-21, 2009

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