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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATCO Presents *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl April 1-26

2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist a central Ohio premiere

Love. Death. Housecleaning. All are celebrated in the 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist, *The Clean House*, at CATCO April 1-26, 2009. The central Ohio premiere is a brilliant, innovative comedy written by Sarah Ruhl, one of America's hot, emerging playwrights.

One of the play's leads, Lane, is a highly successful physician and has been married for years to a charming, handsome and equally successful physician and husband. They live in a beautiful home in an affluent neighborhood with a housekeeper. On the surface, it appears Lane has it all – or does she?

All is not quite as perfect as it seems. Lane's Brazilian cleaning lady, Matilde, hates to clean, and instead loves to tell jokes and aspires to become a comedian. Meanwhile, Lane's eccentric sister, Virginia, is completely obsessed with housecleaning. Dust flies when Lane's husband makes a sudden decision that turns her world upside down. Only then does she learn the healing potential of a good joke.

Variety called *The Clean House* "wondrously mad and moving," while the *New York Times* said it is "one of the finest and funniest new plays you're likely to see ... this season." Director Jonathan Putnam described it as a "fun, quirky play that doesn't conform to the conventions of theatre," in many aspects, including the characters, story line, the set, and dialogue. It's typical of Ruhl, a poet turned playwright, who writes about the bizarre and unexpected. Her other plays include *Passion Play*, *Eurydice* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*.

The Clean House will be presented by CATCO April 1-26, 2009. All shows will be performed at the Vern Riffe Center, Studio One Theatre, 77 S. High St.

Actors starring in *The Clean House* include two newcomers to CATCO: Kate Clarvoe (Lane) and Eleni Papaleonardos (Matilde). Clarvoe most recently appeared in *Kitchen Hamlet* (now in post-production at the Wexner Center), and has performed at the Denver Center, McCarter Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare and Berkeley Rep. Papaleonardos is a member of Available Light theatre and a visiting assistant professor of theatre at Denison University. Theatre credits include *Dead City* and *Mary Stuart*.

Rounding out the cast are Anne Diehl (Virginia), Chuck Gillespie (Charles) and Kerry Shanklin

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(Ana). Diehl has performed in *Three Tall Women*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Kindertransport*, *Boston Marriage* and *Season's Greetings* at CATCO. Gillespie played the role of Dwight Eisenhower in CATCO's 2005 season opener and world premiere *You're My Boy*. Other roles include Eddie Carbone in *A View From a Bridge* and Fredrik in *A Little Night Music*. Shanklin has appeared in numerous CATCO productions, among them *Three Tall Women*, *Kindertransport* and *The Little Foxes*.

Jon Putnam, CATCO's Associate Artistic Director, who directed *Escanaba In Love*, earlier this season, has acted in or directed dozens of shows at CATCO since 1986. Other directing credits include *The Drawer Boy*, *The Foursome*, *Bad Dates* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.

The encore sponsor for *The Clean House* is Huntington Bank.

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.

Preview (Discounted Tickets)/Opening Night Performances

There are two previews for *The Clean House*, Wednesday, April 1, at 11 a.m. and Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.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, April 3, 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.

Half-Price Happy Hour

The first Thursday of each show run tickets and drinks are half price. For *The Clean House*, the Half-Price Happy Hour is Thursday, April 9, at 8 p.m.

\$11@11 Matinees

For *The Clean House*, there will be three \$11@11 performances: the first preview Wednesday, April 1, April 8 and April 15. 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 *The Clean House*, the dramaturg talkback will follow the Sunday, April 5, matinee; the actor talkback will follow the Sunday, April 19, matinee.

Audio Description

On one Sunday of each production, CATCO provides an audio-described performance for the visually impaired along with free headset rental. The audio description for *The Clean House*, will be Sunday, April 19, 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.

The remaining show in CATCO's 25th anniversary season is *Blackbird* by David Harrower, June 3-21, 2009.

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