

## *Jackie and Me*

**February 11 & 18, 2012**

**Main Street Theater – Chelsea Market**

“*Jackie and Me* is a wonderful tale of bravery and integrity,” says MST Theater for Youth Producing Director Vivienne M. St. John. Based on the book by Dan Gutman and adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright Steven Dietz, *Jackie and Me* performs Saturdays, February 11 and 18 at 1pm and 4pm at Main Street Theater–Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Boulevard in the Museum District. Ticket prices for public performances are \$12 and \$14. Tickets are on sale in person at the Main Street Theater Box Office at 2540 Times Blvd. in Rice Village, via phone at 713.524.6706 or online at [mainstreettheater.com](http://mainstreettheater.com). Group rates are available. **No children under 3 are admitted in the theater (including sleeping babies).**

Special performances and rates are available for school matinees. Call 713.524.9196 ext 101 or visit the website.

### **About *Jackie and Me***

Young Joey Stoshack has the special power to travel through time, so when he’s given an assignment to write a paper about a famous African-American, he chooses Jackie Robinson and heads back to 1947 to meet the man himself. Through his adventures, Joey experiences what it’s like to be African-American during a time of segregation and witnesses first-hand Jackie’s smashing the color barrier, even when people on his own team are against him.

**Recommended for Fourth Grade and up.**

### **Special Events**

Join us for a post-show discussion with Astros legend Jimmy Wynn following the 4pm performance on Saturday, February 11.

On Saturday, February 18, MST will hold its Page to Stage book club meeting at the Blue Willow Bookshop at 10am. The club is meeting 6 times over the course of the season to talk about the books the MST Theater for Youth plays are based on, meet characters from the books, have a snack, make crafts, and hear a reading from the book. Children can bring their own copy of the book or purchase it at a discount at Blue Willow (located at 14532 Memorial Drive (at Dairy Ashford)). To RSVP for the book club, send an email to [vstjohn@mainstreettheater.com](mailto:vstjohn@mainstreettheater.com).

*More...*

**About Author Dan Gutman**

Dan Gutman has written 80 books, both fictional and non-fictional. His best known work is the *& Me* series of children's novels, also known as the Baseball Card Adventures. Each book in the series revolves around a child traveling back in time to meet a baseball legend; the first work was based on the premise of a boy finding a Honus Wagner T206 baseball card in an attic of his neighbor. Further books in the series feature Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Shoeless Joe Jackson, Dorothy "Mickey" Maguire, Abner Doubleday, Satchel Paige, Jim Thorpe, and Ray Chapman. According to Dan's official website, he currently is writing another addition to the series entitled Roberto & Me. The original story, *Honus & Me*, was made into a Turner Network Television made-for-TV picture entitled *The Winning Season*, starring Matthew Modine.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Gutman lives in New Jersey with his wife and two children.

**About Playwright Steven Dietz**

Steven Dietz is a prolific playwright, writing for both adult and youth theater. He is the recipient of the PEN U.S.A. Award in Drama for *Lonely Planet*, perhaps his most widely-performed work; the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award (*Fiction* and *Still Life With Iris*); the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Award (*The Rememberer*); the Yomiuri Shinbun Award for his adaptation of Shusaku Endo's *Silence*; and the 2007 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Mystery for his adaptation of William Gillette's and Arthur Conan Doyle's 1899 play *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Dietz is also a two-time finalist for the prestigious Steinberg New Play Award (for *Last of the Boys* and *Becky's New Car*), given by the American Theatre Critics Association.

He currently teaches playwriting and directing at the University of Texas at Austin.

**About the Production**

Daria Allen returns to direct *Jackie and Me* after directing last season's production of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* at MST. Philip Hays (*Bunnicula*, *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells*) plays Joey Stoshack and Roc Living (*The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*, *The Reluctant Dragon*) plays Jackie Robinson. The rest of the cast includes Brittny Bush, Jonathan Gonzalez, Alan Hall, Katie Harrison, Mark Robbins and Luke Wright.

The design team includes Jac Jones (set and properties design), Eric L. Marsh (lighting design), Tiffani Fuller (costume design), and Chris Bakos (sound design). Kevin Zahradnik is the Production Stage Manager.

Since 1975, Main Street Theater has produced high quality professional theater for audiences of all ages through its MainStage productions and its Theater for Youth. The Main Street Theater Kids On Stage program offers performing arts classes and camps for children 5 years to 14 years of age. The organization produces plays at two locations, 2540 Times Boulevard in Rice Village and 4617 Montrose Boulevard at Chelsea Market.

Main Street Theater is a member of the Fresh Arts Coalition, a collaboration of 25 arts organizations that work collectively to raise awareness of the size and diversity of the arts in Houston, and a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters. Main Street Theater offers a lively year-round repertory of classic and contemporary plays for audiences of all ages and provides a much-needed showcase for Houston theater professionals. Main Street Theater is also a member of Actors' Equity Association and of ASSITEJ, the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people. Main Street Theater is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston and the Houston Arts Alliance, as well as the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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