Based on the popular book series by Dan Gutman, *Jackie and Me* by Steven Dietz magically transports audiences back to Jackie Robinson's rookie year at the dawn of the Civil Rights movement. Tony nominated director Marion McClinton will direct
Jackie and Me
on the UnitedHealth Group Stage March 12 through April 14.

Joe Stoshack is by far not the best baseball player on his Little League team. He does however have an impressive collection of baseball cards that gives Joe the remarkable ability to time-travel. When he's given an assignment to write a school report about a famous African American, Joe travels back in time to meet one of the greatest baseball players ever—Jackie Robinson—and learns what it was like for the man who endured more than his share of prejudice to break baseball's color barrier. Joe plans to write a prize-winning report but never expects the enduring change in his perception of history and courage.

Celebrated actor Ansa Akyea has been charged with the task of playing the legendary historical figure. Akyea is thrilled to be playing Jackie Robinson. He states: "I can't express the joy and

honor it will be to travel through time and revisit the obstacles and barriers that Jackie Robinson overcame by playing baseball. Through his sheer determination, character, and grace in his love of playing baseball, he broke barriers both in sports, and culture, and ultimately changed the American mind by getting to its heart." Akyea concludes by saying he expects the show to be "full of life lessons, and most of all, to have a huge heart that proves that regardless of circumstance, with a little help and encouragement, we are only limited by what we can dream to achieve." CTC will celebrate this spirit through a city-wide essay competition for third through tenth-graders, adjudicated by author Dan Gutman and former Minnesota Twin Tony Oliva with prize packages from the Minnesota Twins and Fox Sports North.

Jackie and Me runs March 12 – April 14, 2013 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. As part of CTC's commitment to programming for ages two through eighteen, Jackie and Me is recommended for grades 3 and up. Tickets are on sale now and affordable ticket packages are also still available. For more information visit us online at childrenstheatre.org or call the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. School performances are already sold out.

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is the first theatre for young people to win the coveted Tony® Award for Outstanding Regional Theater (2003). Founded in 1965, CTC serves more than 300,000 people annually and is one of the 20 largest theater companies in the nation. The company is noted for defining worldwide standards for youth theatre with an innovative mix of classic tales, celebrated international productions and challenging new work.

***Jackie and Me* Essay Contest**

CONTEST PRIZES

One Grand Prize Winner will be awarded:
• Four tickets to a Minnesota Twins home game
• Winner and one adult will attend Twins batting practice on Target Field
• Recognition on Twins scoreboard
• Four complimentary tickets to CTC's production of *Jackie and Me*
• Recognition on CTC lobby monitors
• Personal behind-the-scenes tour for up to six guests at Fox Sports North
• One copy of Jackie and Me autographed by author Dan Gutman
Three First Prize Winners will be awarded:

• Four complimentary tickets to CTC's production of Jackie and Me
• Recognition on CTC lobby monitors
• One copy of *Jackie and Me* autographed by author Dan Gutman

CONTEST RULES

1. Entrants must be 15 years old or younger as of March 12, 2013.
2. Essays must be no more than 500 words, and an original work created solely by the entrant.
3. Entries may be submitted online or by mail.
4. Essays must be postmarked no later than February 18, 2013
5. Limit one (1) entry per person.
6. Winners will be announced on CTC's Facebook page the week of March 11. Winners will also be notified via email.

Author Dan Gutman and the Twins' Hall of Famer Tony Oliva will adjudicate the essays.

THE ESSAY

In Children's Theatre Company's upcoming play *Jackie and Me* by Steven Dietz adapted from the book by Dan Gutman, Joey Stoshack travels back in time to 1947 to meet baseball legend Jackie Robinson. In addition to being remembered as one of the greatest baseball players in history, Jackie Robinson paved the way for African-American players in the Major Leagues – but it wasn't easy. Imagine how difficult breaking baseball's color barrier must have been for Jackie and his family.

Please tell us, in your own words, how does the story of Jackie Robinson inspire you?

Submit your entry via Children's Theatre Company as an attachment to pr@childrenstheatre.org.

Via mail or delivery to:
Children's Theatre Company
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404