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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCT PRESENTS *MOST VALUABLE PLAYER*

Powerful story of Jackie Robinson's struggle to play Major League Baseball takes stage

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Children's Theatre will present *Most Valuable Player*, beginning Feb. 12 and running through Feb. 26, 2008.

Most Valuable Player tells the story of Jackie Robinson's struggle to break the color barrier within Major League Baseball through a series of moving flashbacks and multimedia enhancements. The internationally acclaimed drama celebrates an extraordinary man who proved that real heroes come in all colors and whose influence was felt far beyond the baseball stadium. The production is recommended for children ages 9 and up.

Most Valuable Player was written by Gayle Cornelison, Mary Hall Surface, Charles Abernathy, Joseph Bostick, Duncan W. Graham, Helen Pettit, Kevin Reese, J. Steven White and Dorien Wilson. The cast features Kamal Bolden as Jackie Robinson and includes Peter Vann, Brian Webb Russell, Patrick Waller and Denice Hicks. Scot Copeland, NCT producing director, will direct the production and design the set. Lighting design is by Mitch Massaro, and costume design is by Patricia Taber.

On Sunday, Feb. 17, NCT will host a post-show discussion with prominent, local African-American baseball figures. Butch McCord, a contemporary of Jackie Robinson's; major league umpire Chuck Meriwether; Jason Maxwell, a former Minnesota Twins player; and Reggie Whittemore, director of Nashville RBI, will discuss and answer questions about Robinson's contribution to baseball and society. *The Tennessean* columnist Dwight Lewis will moderate the discussion. The event is free for all ticket holders.

Weekend performances are scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, 17, 23 and 24. School performances run Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. All performances are open to the public, and reservations are recommended. Individual ticket prices are \$11 per child (ages 2 to 17), \$15 per adult and free for children under 2 years old. Season passes and group discounts are also available. A sign-interpreted performance is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23.

NCT will offer half-priced tickets on Saturday, Feb. 16. The performance is part of the Target Family Time Series, which includes a free family reception and hands-on arts activities at 1:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Target.

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For more information, please visit www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org or call (615) 254-9103.

Most Valuable Player is sponsored by Hard Rock Café. Additional funding provided by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and Arts Build Communities – a program funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with the Tennessee Arts Commission and Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission.

About Nashville Children's Theatre

Nashville Children's Theatre is an ensemble of professional artists who bring unique vision and compelling voice to the creation of meaningful theater for Nashville and Middle Tennessee audiences. We strive to make the imaginative celebration of our hopes, struggles and joys a vital part of the shared experience for young people, families and our community. NCT was founded in 1931 by the Junior League of Nashville and is recognized as the oldest professional children's theater in the country. A national leader in professional theater arts and education programs for young people, NCT was ranked by *TIME* magazine as one of the top five children's theaters in the country.

NCT's 2007-08 media sponsors are *The City Paper*, *Comcast Spotlight* and *Nashville Parent*.

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