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Fifth Third Bank partners with Metro Theater Company to support *Jackie and Me*

Sponsorship supports outstanding St Louisans and role of Metro Theater Company in the community

St Louis— Fifth Third Bank St Louis announced its sponsorship of Metro Theater Company to support their 2013 production with Edison Theatre, *Jackie and Me*. Fifth Third Bank has a long-standing desire to be a positive, contributing member of the communities it serves, and selectively awards grants to organizations that meet core needs in community development, education, health and human services or arts and culture.

“Metro Theater Company’s focus on creating productions and educational programs that both stimulate and respect young people’s intelligence in diverse environments and formats is very refreshing,” says Tom Welch, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank St Louis. “I’m pleased Fifth Third Bank could help support the production of *Jackie and Me*.”

“We’re excited to work with Fifth Third Bank to share this important American story, and nurture meaningful conversations about diversity and inclusion in our community,” says Metro Theater Company managing director Matthew Neufeld.

Fifth Third Bank specifically wishes to recognize two of Metro Theater Company’s nine St Louis Game Changers, individuals who have made and continue to make a difference across St. Louis. They will help acknowledge the president of Urban Strategies, Sandra Moore on January 19th at 7:30 pm, and local artist, activist and mentor Cbabi Bayoc on January 20th at 2:00 pm at performances dedicated in their honor.

Adapted for the stage by Steven Dietz from the Dan Gutman book, *Jackie and Me* follows young Joe Stoshack’s time travel to Branch Rickey’s office in 1947 on the very day Jackie Robinson is signed to break the color barrier in major league baseball. In presenting the courage and dignity of Jackie Robinson, *Jackie and Me* offers powerful themes to engender courageous – and necessary – conversations on race and social justice.

About Metro Theater Company: Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, Metro Theater Company creates professional theater, fosters inclusive community and nurtures meaningful learning through the arts. Founded in 1973, the Company tours its productions to schools and community sites throughout the St. Louis region, presents public performances for family audiences and offers a range of education programs. Metro Theater Company has performed for more than two million people and has toured nationally and internationally. www.metroplays.org or 314.932.7414.

About Fifth Third Bank: Fifth Third Bank has a rich legacy of community support. In 1948, it became the first financial institution in the United States to establish a charitable foundation. Today, it continues to invest the time, resources and people to help build a better tomorrow in the communities it serves. www.53.com or 1-800-972-3030

About Edison: Edison is home to the professional presenting series Ovation and ovations for young people, showcasing touring artists and companies both national and international in scope. Located on the campus of Washington University, Edison Theatre plays a varied role on campus and in the community including serving as a teaching facility to the Washington University Performing Arts Department, a performance venue for Washington University student organizations and as one of the few theaters in the St. Louis area to serve as a rental house for locally based presenting arts organizations. Officially named Samuel B. & Charles B. Edison Theatre, it's known affectionately as "the Edison" and its construction made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Samuel B. Edison in 1972 after her late husband and son. www.edison.wustl.edu or 314.935.6543