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Dramatic Publishing

From the books by Dan Gutman

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a black tuxedo jacket, white shirt, and black bow tie, is smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. He is positioned in the center of a circular frame. The background behind him is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The circular frame is decorated with a gold border and blue stars.

The Kid Who Ran for President

Musical

Book, music and lyrics by Jeremiah Clay Neal



The Kid Who Ran for President

Musical. Book, music and lyrics by Jeremiah Clay Neal. Adapted from the books *The Kid Who Ran for President* and *The Kid Who Became President* by Dan Gutman. Cast: 4m., 4w., 3 either gender. May be expanded to 21 roles and up to 50 actors. Judson Moon is 12 years old, and he's running for president of the YOU-nited States! Sound crazy? His best friend and campaign manager, Lane Brainard, with an emphasis on "Brain," is organizing a political campaign that will change the world as we know it! Raising money at a lemonade stand in front of Judson's house, the unlikely candidate gets some media attention that ignites the political voices of children around the nation. But running the country isn't like playing Nintendo; it requires immeasurable responsibility and courage. "Can you imagine a world where YOU were in charge?" But how could the leadership of a 12-year-old kid really handle the decisions of the commander in chief? In the end, it is the voice of a kid that decides the outcome of this exciting musical. *Minimal set. Approximate running time: 75 minutes. Code: K06.*

Cover design: Jeanette Alig-Sergel

ISBN-10 1-58342-708-2
ISBN-13 978-1-58342-708-8



www.dramaticpublishing.com



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Woodstock, IL 60098
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Printed on recycled paper

The Kid Who Ran for President

A Musical Comedy

By

JEREMIAH CLAY NEAL

Adapted from the books

The Kid Who Ran for President

and *The Kid Who Became President*

by

DAN GUTMAN



Dramatic Publishing

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Book, music and lyrics by
JEREMIAH CLAY NEAL

Based upon the books *The Kid Who Ran for President*
and *The Kid Who Became President* by
DAN GUTMAN

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(THE KID WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT)

ISBN: 978-1-58342-708-8

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The Kid Who Ran for President was first produced at Rainbow Company Children’s Theatre, in Las Vegas, Nevada, 2008, with the following:

The Cast:

Judson Moon James Guinn
Lane Brainard Ryan Meservey
Abby Goldstein Cassidy Hulsey
Chelsea Daniels Delancey Prince
Arthur Krantz Kevin Dort

Schoolmates

Andi Molly Rautenstrauch
Scarlett Caitlyn Cypher
Ellie Haley Severance
Milton Chris Marcellus
Claire Aishe Keita
Benjamin Alec TerBerg
Mom Nancy Marcellus
Dad Tim Clark
Mrs. June Syers Martha Watson
Pete Guerra Michael Connolly

Lemonade Kids

Charlotte Kayla Royster
Izzi Jennifer Keanini
Dean Oliver Kompst
Mac Caylen Saito
Dani Brianna Lehtinen
Brad Lucas Reilly

Mary May	Grace Jacobson
Jane Marie	Tiffanne LeMay
Bobbie	Davasha Franklin
Katherine	Donna TerBerg
Debate Moderator	Jackie Shick
Senator Dunn	Michael Button
President White	Mark Stinson
Roger Honeywell	Michael Button
Agent Doe	Jose Anthony
White House Petitioners	Jackie Shick Tim Hiedorn Grace Geldmacher
Dignitaries	Davansha Franklin Grace Geldmacher Tim Heidorn Kayla Royster Joel Ruud Jackie Shick Donna TerBerg
Raul Trujillo	Jose Anthony
<u>“The Hard Goodbye” Band</u>	
Joey Hines – Guitar	
Michael Hines – Bass Guitar	
Joe Cottone – Keyboard	

The Production Staff:

Director	Brian Kral
Music Director	Joe Cottone
Assistant Music Director	Joey Hines
Choreographer	Karen McKenney

The Kid Who Ran for President

Characters:

JUDSON MOON (m)
LANE BRAINARD (m)
DAD (m)
ARTHUR KRANTZ (m)
JUNE SYERS (f)
CHELSEA DANIELS (f)
ABBY GOLDSTEIN (f)
MOM (f)
PETE GUERRA (m/f)
ROGER HONEYWELL (m/f)
AGENT DOE (m/f)
OPERATOR/CAMERAMAN/MEDIA (m/f)
KID (m/f)
PREMIER OF CHINA (m/f)
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (m/f)
GUEST (m/f)

Cast Doubling (11 Actors Minimum):

JUDSON (m)
LANE (m)
CHELSEA (f)
ABBY (f)
MRS. SYERS (f)
DAD (m)
MOM (f)

GUERRA / PREMIER OF CHINA / SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE (m/f)
OPERATOR / CAMERAMAN / MEDIA / ROGER
HONEYWELL (m/f)
ARTHUR / GUEST (m)
KID / AGENT DOE (m/f)

Notes:

Any reference to place (ie. Madison, Wis.) may be replaced with city of production.

For larger casts, lines may be divided to accommodate more actors.

The pacing should be fast and transitions smooth with little to no blackouts.

Time: The Present.

Musical Numbers:

1. "This Is My Country"
2. "Change the World"
3. "Lemonade Stand"
4. "Please Hold"
5. "Nightmare Song"
6. "Welcome to the Big House"
7. "Just How I Came to Be"
8. "Gonna Use My Voice"

ACT I

(LIGHTS UP on JUDSON. Everyone enters and surrounds him like an audience at a rock concert.)

(SONG #1 STARTS: "This Is My Country.")

JUDSON *(singing)*.

This is my country!

This is my sound!

And the party don't stop!

Until the house comes down!

This is my country!

Land of the free!

So lay down the beat!

And rock the party!

ALL *(chanting)*.

This is my country!

This is my sound!

And the party don't stop!

Until the house comes down!

This is my country!

Land of the free!

So lay down the beat!

And rock the party!

LANE *(spoken in rhythm)*.

This is my country, this is my sound

I'm gonna drop the beat until the house comes down

The new generation replacin' the nation

Our final destination is facin' certain elimination

Unless a new creation can change our made minds

And hard times without dimes can rewind and draw new lines

We may find that our forefathers knew best

So party on, friends, when you feel it in your chest, 'cause

JUDSON *(singing)*.

This is my country!

This is my sound!

And the party don't stop!

Until the house comes down!

ALL *(chanting)*.

This is my country!

This is my sound!

And the party don't stop!

Until the house comes down!

*This is my country!
Land of the free!
So lay down the beat!
And rock the party!*

*This is my country!
Land of the free!
So lay down the beat!
And rock the party!*

LANE (*spoken in rhythm*).

*This is my country land of my birth
Livin' in the free world grandest on earth
Takin' the old rhyme and give it a new beat
The 4-4 time that you're feelin' in your feet!
Old guys in disguise will surprise and advise
The new eyes that will compromise the old lies and with them
dies
The old way of thought, 'cause our time is here if you're ready
or not! 'Cause,*

JUDSON (*singing*).
*This is my country!
This is my sound!
And the party don't stop!
Until the house comes down!
This is my country!
Land of the free!
So lay down the beat!
And rock the party!
(Repeat chorus.)*

ALL (*chanting*).
*This is my country!
This is my sound!
And the party don't stop!
Until the house comes down!
This is my country!
Land of the free!
So lay down the beat!
And rock the party!*

(*ALL cheer then freeze, except for JUDSON.*)

JUDSON. Hi! My name is Judson Moon. I'm twelve years old and I'm running for president of the YOU-nited States. It's been an exciting year. Sometimes I wonder myself how we got this far, but we did. Maybe we should rewind a little bit and get the full story.

(*CAST rewinds and exits. LANE enters with two Nintendo controllers. SCENE SHIFTS to LANE and JUDSON at home.*)

JUDSON. It's been so busy that I can hardly remember how it all began. It started as just a goofy little idea dreamed up by my best friend, Lane Brainard, with an emphasis on the "brain." He and I were down in my basement playing Nintendo when we first came up with the idea of a kid running for president.

LANE. Are you really coming up with those combos or are you just pushing buttons?

JUDSON. I'm winning, that's all I know.

LANE. You're just pushing buttons faster than I can push them.

JUDSON. Right...also known as *winning!*

LANE. You are as clueless as the president.

JUDSON. Oh brother...not the political insults again. I can never understand what you're saying when you talk politics.

LANE. I was watching "Meet the Press" before you came over...it's been on my mind.

JUDSON. You're the only sixth-grader I know who watches that.

LANE. What can I say? I'm a genius.

JUDSON. Good thing politics aren't decided over video games or I would be king.

LANE. You mean you'd be the majority. Terminology makes you sound smarter.

JUDSON. Yes. We all know that you're smarter than me, Lane.

LANE. I can't wait to see someone on that show say something that I don't already know. If I had political control, I would make some real changes.

JUDSON. Like what?

LANE. Like what? Like education rights for students, greenhouse gasses, unemployment and teachers' salaries!

JUDSON. What do you know about those things?

LANE. I know enough to know they need to change.

JUDSON. But the president is fixing that, right?

LANE. No, because he isn't as smart as me. He isn't even as smart as you! You know who should be running this country, Moon? A kid.

JUDSON. You mean like a baby goat...aren't they called kids?

LANE. Think about it, Moon. A kid runs for president in the next election and becomes the most powerful person in the entire world! What a riot!

JUDSON. Riot...good word for it, 'cause I think that's what would happen.

LANE. No, I'm serious. I think this is a good idea.

JUDSON. Well, you convinced me. I'd vote for you.

LANE. I wasn't thinking about me.

JUDSON. But you're the smartest guy in the entire world. You're gonna give raises and fix pollution.

LANE. Yeah, but people don't want a smart president, they want a president that makes them feel good. Don't you remember Clinton's blue jean campaign?

JUDSON. I don't think I was alive then.

LANE. Wait a second, wait a second...Moon, YOU should run for president.

JUDSON. Very funny, Lane. The only votes I get are for class clown!

LANE. Moon, you're perfect. People like you. You make 'em laugh. You put 'em at ease. You've got a power name...Judson Moon...President Moon. You're the

All-American boy. You're tall. You've got good hair.
It's even parted on the side like a politician.

JUDSON. I was thinking about getting some dreds. Dreds are cool.

LANE. Moon, focus! I'm serious.

JUDSON. I know. You shouldn't be. It's crazy.

*(SONG #2 STARTS: "Change the World.")
(Half dialogue, half singing.)*

LANE.

*Can you imagine a world where you were in charge?
Can you imagine the things you'd do?*

JUDSON.

*Can you imagine the laughter we'd hear from our
friends?
This idea is crazy like you.*

LANE.

*But just think of the power you'd hold in your hand.
Everyone listens and does what you say.*

JUDSON.

*My parents would kill me, you don't understand
I wouldn't be alive to see Election Day.*

LANE.

I don't like your tone.

JUDSON.

I'll try to sing on key.

LANE.

*You aren't even giving this a chance.
If you sit down and shut up I'll show you the things
You could do with a flick or a glance.*

(Sung.)

*Let's talk about money first.
The president makes more and more each year.
He's got maids and butlers, too.
Am I starting to get your ear?
You could have parties in the White House, rock the
place and then
If you ever want to be on TV I'm sure they could fit
you in.
You could change the world,
Everything you want to do and more.
You could change the world,
So, all I have to say is what are you waiting for?*

JUDSON. Slow down a minute. I know that look in your eye. You're serious about this.

LANE. Think about it, Moon, a kid president. You could make laws that abolish homework forever!

JUDSON. But I don't know anything about politics.

LANE. It's all right. I do. I can be your campaign manager. All you have to do is be yourself and watch the magic happen. *(Sings.)*

You could make a new law, Moon

JUDSON.

*One that gives everybody hope.
I can meet the queen of England*

LANE.

*You could be best friends with the pope.
You could ride Air Force One to the Bahamas for the
weekend
Plus movie stars and friends with cars will want to be
your best friend.*

BOTH.

*We could change the world,
Front-row seats at Fenway just for fun.
We could change the world
Our face will be on money when we're done.*

(MOM and DAD enter.)

JUDSON. Mom, Dad, I've been giving it a lot of thought
and I've decided to run for president of the United
States.

DAD. Not until you mow the lawn you're not!

MOM. That sounds fun, dear!

JUDSON. Can I borrow five hundred dollars to finance my
campaign?

DAD. No.

JUDSON. Did you ever run for anything when you were
young, Dad?

DAD. Yeah, the bus.

JUDSON. So it's okay with you?

DAD. Sure!

JUDSON. Mom, is it okay if I go outside and get hit by
lightning?

MOM. As long as nobody gets hurt, dear.

(*MOM and DAD exit.*)

BOTH (*sing*).

*We could change the world,
Everything we want to do and more.
We could change the world
November is calling us, what are we waiting for?
We could change it!*

LANE. All right, First things first. I am going to manage this campaign, right?

JUDSON. Sure.

LANE. But that means that I'm in charge. I call the shots. I tell you what to do, what to wear, what to say and when to say it. Is that okay with you?

JUDSON. Sure.

LANE. Excellent. We've got a lot to talk about. (*He produces a clipboard from out of nowhere.*)

JUDSON. Are you sure the basement is secure? Are you sure we're not being bugged?

LANE. I like the way you handle yourself at school. Keep that up. Don't be afraid to be yourself.

JUDSON. But I feel stupid when people ask me about politics!

LANE. Feeling stupid is good, looking stupid is bad. It's more important for you to *look* as if you know what you're talking about than it is for you to actually *know* what you're talking about. In a serious discussion of the issues, you're a dead man.

JUDSON. That's encouraging.

LANE. First things first, I'll have to go to the mall this afternoon and get two thousand signatures on a petition.

JUDSON. Two thousand? Why so many?

LANE. 'Cause that's how many you need to get on the ballot for an election. Next, are you a Republican or a Democrat?

JUDSON. How should I know? We didn't learn them yet in social studies. Why can't I just run as me?

LANE. Why can't you just run as you? It's brilliant. You're an independent! Congratulations.

JUDSON. Thanks.

LANE. You're welcome. What about a running mate?

JUDSON. I don't jog.

LANE. Your running mate is your vice presidential candidate, lamebrain.

JUDSON. Why don't *you* be my running mate, Lame Lane?

LANE. I'll be too busy running your campaign. You want to pick somebody who is very different from yourself. That way, people who don't like you but do like *him* will vote for you anyway.

JUDSON. How about my dad?

LANE. You can't have *your dad* be your vice president.

JUDSON. What about Arthur Krantz?

LANE. *Nobody* likes that kid.

JUDSON. I know who would make a good running mate! June Syers!

LANE. Who's that?

JUDSON. You know. The old lady who's always sitting on her porch.

LANE. I love it!

JUDSON. You do?

LANE. We already have the youth vote. The old lady will give us the elderly vote, the disabled vote, and she'll give us a killer slogan too!...“Moon and June.”

JUDSON. I like it.

LANE. You're brilliant, Moon! An absolute genius!

JUDSON. This is easy!

LANE. We should talk about the first babe.

JUDSON. The first babe?

LANE. Behind every great man stands a great woman. We need to find one to stand behind you!

JUDSON. That's easy. Abby Goldstein.

LANE. Moon...I don't know if Abby fits your image.

JUDSON. What image? I don't even have an image!

LANE. Well, the image that we want to give you. I'm not saying there's something wrong...she's just a little too...um...normal. It wouldn't hurt to have a real knockout to get some attention. What do you think of Chelsea Daniels?

JUDSON. I don't even know her.

LANE. But you know *of* her, right?

JUDSON. Yes.

LANE. So does everyone else. It's a good idea. Trust me. I'm your campaign manager, remember?

JUDSON. How could I forget?

(School bell rings. CHELSEA enters.)

CHELSEA. Oh, hi! I'm sorry, I don't know your name.

JUDSON. Judson, Judson Moon.

CHELSEA. Hi, Judson Moon.

JUDSON. Can I ask you a question, Chelsea? See, I'm running for president—

CHELSEA. Of student council?

JUDSON. No. Of the YOU-nited States! And I was wondering if you would help with my campaign.