

## PROFILE

### Historian fights to preserve the past

By Claudia Feldman

It's both wonderful and terrible to be a Houston historian. Just ask Betty Trapp Chapman.

She applauds the ongoing efforts to revitalize Houston's downtown, save its historic neighborhoods and beautify its bayous.

She sighs over the city's lack of planning, the "tear-it-down" approach to iconic buildings, the tendency to focus so forcefully on the future that the past becomes irrelevant.

But Chapman, 77, persists. For almost 40 years she's done her best to support historic preservation. She champions the women, as

well as the men, who helped build this city. And she's an author, lecturer, consultant and educator, too. She quotes former Mayor Bill White when she says the more people know about their city, the prouder they will be.

Chapman will be honored for her dedication to the cause Friday by the Houston Junior Forum.

*Chapman continues on E2*



Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle

**Betty Trapp Chapman considers herself a historian and not an author, despite the books she has written on Houston history.**

## FILM FESTIVAL



Rick Guidotti photos

Rick Guidotti's "Positive Exposure" exhibit includes a joyful portrait of Grace, who has Down syndrome.

# Unconditionally beautiful

Photographer brings to life the beauty of children with genetic conditions

By Alyson Ward

As soon as Rick Guidotti spotted 7-year-old Asia Lau, his face lit up.

"What an awesome haircut you have!" the photographer cried out with enthusiasm. "You're pretty! What's your name?"

She giggled at the attention. On a chilly Sunday morning, Asia's mother had driven her from Sugar Land to the Houstonian Hotel so Asia, who has Down syndrome, could be photographed by Guidotti.

And he started snapping photos right there in the hotel conference room. Before long, Guidotti led Asia — willowy, with big eyes and hair cropped short — to the swimming pool outside. Without prompting she draped herself, model-like, on a lounge chair in the sun.

"She's such a professional," Guidotti said, clicking away. "She's amazing. Look at those eyes!"

He clicked a few dozen more times, then turned the camera around to show the little girl: "Look how beautiful you are!"

Guidotti, a New York photographer, has spent more than 15 years taking portraits that show the beauty of people who have albinism or autism, skin conditions or chromosome abnormalities. He was in Houston last month to photograph 34 local young people — from toddlers to 20-somethings — who have disabilities or genetic differ-

*Photos continues on E3*



Guidotti photographed Tyler, whose face has a congenital melanocytic nevus.

## ReeAbilities: Houston Disabilities Film Festival 2014

» **Films:** Sunday through Feb. 13 at venues across Houston, including the Asia Society Texas Center, the Children's Museum of Houston and the Houston Zoo.

Ticket prices vary. Schedule at [disabilitiesfilmfestival.org](http://disabilitiesfilmfestival.org).

» **Photo exhibit, talk:** Rick Guidotti's "Positive Exposure" is on display through Feb. 15 at Nicole Longnecker Gallery, 2625 Colquitt. Photos of local children will be added Tuesday.

Guidotti will talk about his work and show slides of his local photos at 8 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood.

Admission is free, but you must register to attend at [disabilitiesfilmfestival.org](http://disabilitiesfilmfestival.org) (click on "events").

## THEATER

### Malcolm X and MLK face off in 'The Meeting'

By Everett Evans

What if Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X had met and sought a way to work together in their common cause of advancing civil rights, despite their vastly different approaches to the challenge?

That's the fascinating premise of Jeff Stetson's "The Meeting," which imagines King visiting Malcolm X at the latter's invitation in his Harlem hotel room in February 1965 — just days before Malcolm X's murder and three years before an assassin's bullet would cut short King's life. Neither would live to see 40 — though each had a profound impact on American life and human rights everywhere.

The important theme, a strong script, thoughtful direc-

#### 'The Meeting'

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 23

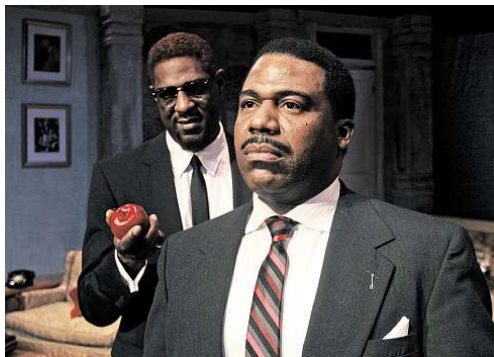
**Where:** The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main

**Tickets:** \$28-\$55; 713-520-0055, [ensemblehouston.com](http://ensemblehouston.com)

tion and forceful performances make the Ensemble Theatre's current production an engrossing experience. Stetson's 75-minute one-act feels as involving and relevant today as when it premiered in 1984 — perhaps even more so.

At the start, Stetson's script may seem to be marking time: some wordless action, including checking under the furniture to see if the room's been bugged;

*"Meeting" continues on E2*



Gary Fountain

Malcolm X (Mirron Willis, left) and Martin Luther King Jr. (Jason E. Carmichael) find common ground in "The Meeting."