

Education NEWS & NOTES

Educating Children Through Theatre

(NAPSA)—Getting a big round of applause these days is a program that uses theatre to educate children. The program was created by Sunna Rasch, executive director of Periwinkle National Theatre, the country's oldest ongoing non-profit educational theatre, touring programs for kindergarten to senior high. The cornerstone of Periwinkle's success is Ms. Rasch's conviction that in order to unlock a mind, you must first open a heart. According to her, Periwinkle's revolutionary approach to education has a simple formula: mix a child's need with a teacher's concern, award-winning scripts, a professional multi-cultural cast and Periwinkle's commitment to make a difference in young lives. RESULTS—students think, feel, communicate, write. Learning becomes exciting!

For her accomplishments, Rasch has been selected for the third annual U.S. Department of Education's John Stanford Education Heroes Award. The awards ceremony took place in Washington, D.C. In making the award to Rasch, the Education Department cited the Periwinkle Theatres success in bringing 28 different plays and workshops based on student and curriculum needs to over five million students throughout the United States.

Periwinkle's drug prevention drama, "Halfway There," has been honored by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The John Stanford



To honor her accomplishments, Sunna Rasch received the Dept. of Education's John Stanford Education Heroes Award.

Education Heroes Award honors those members of a community or organization that have undertaken exceptional activities to strengthen educational opportunity. Today, Periwinkle's various original plays and workshops creatively address social issues such as drugs, violence, child safety, character education, life skills and literacy. Periwinkle harnesses the power of theatre and converts it into a potent educational tool while providing quality entertainment and a theatre arts experience. Periwinkle's programs are an investment in a child's future.

To learn how your school can benefit, call Periwinkle at 800-888-8271.