



The Children's Theatre Company is dedicated to Building Character Onstage™. While experiencing an exhilarating

introduction to the incomparable magic of theatre, children develop a keen sense of citizenship alongside their artistic achievements. CTC promotes theater as a tool for active and analytical learning (*rather than prescribed and passive*), combining collaborative performances alongside professional artists with an innovative character and ethical education curriculum that emphasizes a culture of inclusivity and service through arts. Children's Theatre is theatre by kids for grown-ups -- fostering in young performers a profound conviction that they are the voices of positive change in society.



Launched in New York City in 1999 and in Los Angeles, CA in

1989, the Children's Theatre Company garnered the prestigious New-Yorkers-of-the-Week on NY1 News, and has appeared with Mr. Nelson Mandela at the United Nations' UNICEF concert for Heads of State, as well as in over 9 UNICEF films, videos and live performances with Harry Belafonte and Wynton Marsalis to name a few and performed as the center - piece for the Verizon Literacy Awards with James Earl Jones.

Discussing the impact of war on children, the company of young performers, have appeared on Good Morning America with Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson and have also made over 7 appearances on Sesame Street and most recently, on the award winning PBS series, Reading Rainbow with Levar Burton.

CTC has also received first-rate reviews from the New York Times, Time-Out New York, Daily News, the Parenting Report and NY1 News.



MEHR MANSURI

FOUNDER / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Born in Iran, raised in Worcester, England~ Mehr was inspired by her family's tumultuous departure from her native Iran, to form CTC in a vision - centered on an inclusive framework rooted in diversity education which includes race, ethnicity, class as well as religious tolerance.

In addition to producing and directing over 21 productions for the Children's Theatre Company, Ms. Mansuri is also the director of New York's equity cast of the critically acclaimed musical Respect, which has toured internationally including at Chicago Center for Performing Arts. She has been producer for the award winning Los Angeles Theater Center as well as with Tony winning director, Scott Elliot. Mehr Mansuri began her career in the U.S. as an actress, performing in over 40 productions from classical to contemporary, as well as commercial voice-overs. As an actor, Ms Mansuri has been recognized by the New York Times (Red Devils, Caucasian Chalk Circle, Portrait of an Artist); and the recipient of the Drama-logue Acting Award, the Los Angeles Drama Critic's Choice Award. Ms Mansuri has completed the Masters program (Actor's Center, NYC) in Drama Pedagogy & Acting and holds degrees in Drama and English from the University of California, Irvine.

**THE MISSING LINK:
 Character & Ethical Education**

The next generation will be the stewards of our communities, nation, and planet in extraordinarily critical times. The present and future well being of our society requires an involved, caring community with distinguished moral character. People do not automatically develop good moral character; therefore, conscientious efforts must be made to help young people develop the values and abilities necessary for moral decision making and conduct. Effective character education is based on core values which is the foundation of an ethical society. These core ethical values transcend cultural, religious, and socio-economic differences. Character education is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, but it is also an important obligation of faith communities, schools, service organizations, as well as arts organizations, which may arguably, have the greatest power and resource to inspire youth and children. These obligations to develop character are best achieved when these groups work cooperatively. As such, the Baha'i Center joins The Children's Theatre Company in owning the responsibility to focus and coordinate efforts to teach and model these core ethical and spiritual

values by presenting a weekly program at the beginning of each CTC day.



**THE BAHAI
 UNITY CENTER
 "SPACE GRANT"**

While a generous *space-grant* from the New York Baha'i Community has afforded the CTC an extraordinary opportunity to serve children and families in the arts and character development, no donation can be accepted at any time toward the Baha'i Community fund. All fees, grants and contributions are expressly for CTC production costs and staff stipends. CTC funds will at no point 'intermingle' with Baha'i funds. It is our hope that, while we cannot 'donate' in any 'monetary way' to the funds of the Baha'i Community, the CTC family will be mindful at all times of the characteristics of reverence and respect for this facility, which we are so privileged to use.



"Yours is an example of what service to the community means. [CTC] serves as an example that our potentials are unlimited"

**-WYNTON MARSALIS
 (Pulitzer Prize Winner & Grammy Winner~ Jazz Composer)
 (w/Mehr & Karida, David, Evan & Chayton)**



the role of children and youth as instruments of healing in a world which they will someday, inherit.



BAHA'I INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Baha'i International Community has accredited consultative status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is also affiliated with the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP).

The Bahá'í Faith is a global religion. It renews the spiritual truths of past religions and brings new teachings for the current challenges facing humanity.



The central teaching of the Bahá'í Faith is the unity of the human race, that we are all

connected as members of one family. There is only one God Who guides the development of humanity through sending successive teachers, also called Prophets or Messengers. These Messengers, coming from the same Source, are spiritually united and their teachings are like consecutive chapters in one Divine Book.

The Baha'i Community promotes the unity of humankind, the abolishment of all prejudices of race, color and creed, and the oneness of all religions. There is no clergy in the Baha'i Community.