



## **A Character Education Talk Show**

**RISE UP!** is an energetic presentation for elementary students that teaches character education in a fresh new format - a talk show!

The goal of **RISE UP!** is to support you in creating a caring, cooperative and safe school community. Students will learn character-building skills and language through joining hosts Sonny, Joy and their stage manager Honey on an interactive adventure of fun and learning.

### **RISE UP! Show Topics Include:**

Accountability	Honesty
Caring	Jealousy
Choices	Joking
Cooperation	Kindness
Courage	Patience
Diversity	Respect/Responsibility
Family	Self Worth
Friendship	Trust

*And Many More!*

**RISE UP!** is presented as a half-hour to forty five minute television style talk show. The live studio audience is made up of your students who even get the chance to perform commercials!

**Have a live performance of RISE UP! at your school and give your students a new experience in learning valuable life skills!**



## Testimonials

### Here is what teachers are saying about Rise Up!\*

- ☆ "Conflicts were modeled in a way students could relate to."
- ☆ "All of the students were actively involved in the show. They were learning what to do in real life situations and having fun at the same time."
- ☆ "I liked how you valued all of the students' responses."
- ☆ "It's very rare to have a show as a school performance that is entertaining and educational for all members (students and adults) of the audience."

### ...and what students are saying about Rise Up!\*

- ☆ "Sonny and Joy learned to be kind to each other and be forgiving even if you mess up big time."
- ☆ "I like it because we are part of the show."
- ☆ "Rise Up! makes me feel happy about myself."
- ☆ "The problems had fun solutions!"

\* The above data was collected from the year-end summary of services for the Rise Up! program from the 2005-2006 school year. The responses are a combination of views from teachers and students from the Syracuse City, Utica City and Marathon School Districts, grades K-5.



## **About Our Team...**

**The Rise Up! Team has performed over 70 shows in over a dozen schools in the Central New York area since it's creation in 2003.**

### **Our Cast Includes:**

#### **Shawn Forster (Sonny McCloud)**

Shawn has been a full time employee of Peaceful Schools since 2003, serving as a Program Coordinator and co-creator of Rise Up! Before coming to Peaceful Schools, he spent time as a professional actor in national tours and performed in Equity theatres across the country. He has since taken a break from the stage to give back to the community. Shawn hopes to be a positive role model to children and encourage them to discover their uniqueness and appreciate the uniqueness of others.

#### **Dani Gottuso (Joy VonSadden)**

Dani is the Regional Director of the Syracuse branch of Peaceful Schools and one of the creators of the Rise Up! Program. She also shares her passion for kindness with musical theatre students in her classes at the Syracuse Children's Theatre. Dani performs in the Syracuse area and received the first SALT (Syracuse Area Live Theatre) Award for Best Actress in a Musical in 2004. She loves being able to combine her two biggest passions- performance and character education through the wonderful world of Rise Up!

#### **Alisun Hernandez (Honey Bitterton)**

Alisun joined the team as a Program Coordinator for Peaceful Schools and fellow actor in Rise Up! in 2004. Originally from Fulton, New York, her mother says she's been acting since the day she was born. After being involved in theatre around the state, she is happy to be sharing her craft with children, her true passion. When she's not at home being part of great school communities, she loves to travel the world and sing her heart out. Throughout her adventures, Alisun hopes to spread her love of life to everyone she meets.



## **Commercial Breaks**

**“...And now a word from one of our sponsors!”**

We would like to offer **your students** the opportunity to write and perform commercials during our show!  
Each live show has two (2) commercial breaks.

We encourage administration, teachers and staff to choose students that have shown great **leadership** and **communication** skills to present a **one to two minute** commercial that promotes school activities, fund raisers, expectations for behavior, etc...

Commercials can be presented as skits or as Public Service Announcements.  
We love to see how creative your students can be!

**“And we’re back in 5..4..3..2..!”**



## Program Packages

Each show will present a specific social skill to your students. Single show productions are available; however we encourage school planning teams to consider our package options, as we believe that the continuity allows students and staff to build a sense of relationship with our stage characters, Sonny, Joy and Honey. This relationship helps to create a safer environment for learning and participating which allows for greater impact.

The Rise Up! team is on hand to help your school select shows to create an effective program package. In addition to your program package, you may select an audience debrief with the actors or even follow up sessions in the classroom!

### Pricing:

Single Show Date:	1 Performance	\$750.00
Single Show Date	2 Performances	\$950.00
Two Show Dates:	1 Performance	\$1,400.00
Two Show Dates:	2 Performances	\$1,750.00
Three Show Dates:	1 Performance	\$2,025.00
Three Show Dates:	2 Performances	\$2,475.00
Six Show Package	2 Performances	\$3,600.00

### Additional Services Available:

In Classroom Follow Up Activities	\$50.00 per hour
After the Show Debrief	\$75.00

Each show includes planning and technical advisement with designated school personnel (advisor, administrator), and set up /clean up of performance area. Should your school have special programming requirements, we would be happy to tailor our program and develop a budget specific to your school. Travel costs may be applied outside of the Central New York Area.