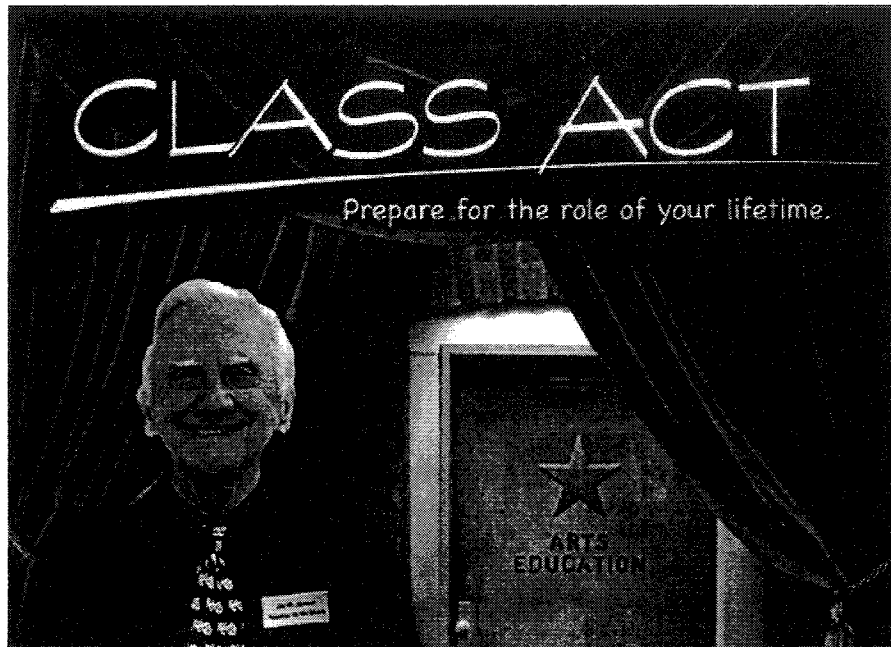


# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™




## **AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS** 2007 Annual Meeting

### **CLASS ACT: A Documentary about a Transformational Teacher** Friday, June 1, 2007, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

#### Presentation Outline

- I. The inspiration for making CLASS ACT and the all-encompassing experience of making a documentary film
- II. How a simple movie about an extraordinary teacher exploded into an exploration of the state of arts education in American public schools.
- III. Overview of the state of public education in America with a focus on the relationship of arts education to the core curriculum
- IV. The importance of partnerships in the equation of how to get arts into public schools
- V. How to advocate for arts education
- VI. The core of all learning – the well trained, motivated, and dedicated teacher who can make a life-changing difference for his/her students – particularly in teaching the arts
- VII. The hopes for CLASS ACT to inform and motivate parents, teachers, students, administrators, arts organizations, school boards and legislators to take action and bring the arts to every child in America
- VIII. Q&A
- IX. Surprise interactive experience

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

from the Executive Producers of  
**SUPER SIZE ME**

**COMING TO DVD FALL 2007**

**TO PRE-ORDER, BOOK A SCREENING, OR BOOK A  
FILMMAKER PRESENTATION - FILL OUT THE ATTACHED  
FORM OR VISIT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)**

**“Inspiration and agitation neatly combine...an impassioned call for action”**  
*- Dennis Harvey, Variety*

**“...a stirring documentary...”**  
*- Deborah Wilker, The Hollywood Reporter*

**★ ★ ★**  
**“...passionate and eloquent...”**  
*- Rene Rodriguez, The Miami Herald*

**“The feel-good documentary...”**  
*- Skip Sheffield, Boca Raton News*

**“...a ...story...with a huge reach...”**  
*- Nicole Guillemet, Festival Director, Miami International Film Festival*

**“Teacher’s story a true Class Act.”**  
*- Ralph De La Cruz, Sun-Sentinel*

**“The teacher we all wished for.”**  
*- Hap Erstein, Palm Beach Post*

**STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™




## ORDER FORM

You can pre-order your copy of CLASS ACT or reserve a screening for your organization by filling out the form below and faxing it to: 845.348.1548 or mailing it to: Studio-On-Hudson - 37 North Broadway - Nyack, NY 10960  
(You will be notified upon receipt of your order)

NAME:	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION:	
STREET:	
APT/SUITE:	
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	

## PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTEREST

- I want to buy the Home Video DVD
- I want to buy the Educationally Enhanced DVD  
(Includes bonus DVD with classroom teaching modules & license for in-class exhibition)
- I want to book a screening for my school or organization  
Name of Event:  
Event Dates:  
Screening Date:  
Audience Size:  
Is your organization a Non-Profit?  
Will admission be charged?

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

**I want to book the filmmakers to present to my organization**

Name of Event:

Event Dates:

Presentation Date:

Audience Size:

Is your organization a Non-Profit?

Will admission be charged?

## **DIRECTOR/PRODUCER STATEMENT**

Producer Heather Winters and Director Sara Sackner have known Jay W. Jensen for what feels like an eternity. We, and so many of his former students, would not have survived our enormous high school - Miami Beach Senior High - a very large and diverse public school with a big fat love of football - if not for Jay and his dynamic drama program. To describe Jay as "one teacher makes a difference" is an understatement. Jay is the real deal. At separate dinners held in Jay's honor on both coasts, we knew we had to make a movie about Jay. Once filming began we learned that the Beach High drama department no longer existed. The plays, the Community Theater, the Children's Theater - all gone. This rude awakening to the state of our alma mater set us on the road for a look at the arts in public schools throughout the country.


"CLASS ACT" is about our journey of honoring our favorite teacher, Jay W. Jensen, an eccentric millionaire with talented students who credit him with their success and fascinating friends who share his love of the arts. The landscape broadens with the discovery that the drama program from our alma mater is gone, this incredible disappointment opening the door to an exploration of the world of the arts in public education in America. Our experience ends with the revelation that the inequities in our schools are a symptom of the deep inequality in our society, that America's public schools are a reflection of the "haves" and the "have-nots."

During our two-year journey making this film, we learned how the arts ensure that a student's creativity is awakened and nurtured and how the arts keep kids in school, therefore creating better citizens. We learned that creative people are needed for the future of our country and the new global economy.

We shared the joy of the students and teachers who have the opportunity to participate in the arts and experts from across the country confirmed the empirical evidence of this benefit.

We learned that there still are teachers who dedicate their lives to their students, reaching them through the arts. We learned how non-profits are trying to meet the needs of particularly poor schools where the arts have been eliminated. But for every kid they serve, millions go without the arts in their curriculum.

And yet, there's hope. Jay is a hero. He is a symbol of the thousands and thousands of teachers who have made and continue to make a difference for their students. Jay is an inspiration, both through his philanthropy and his teaching. Jay keeps up a pace that those decades younger could never sustain. Jay's glass is not half full; it's overflowing.

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

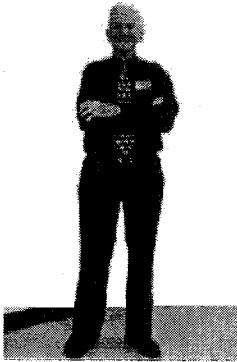
Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

Heather and I are so grateful that our teacher, Mr. Jensen, shared his life with us over the last two years. Here we are, many years out of high school, and as he did when we were teenagers, Jay has once again encouraged us to pursue our dreams.

Our hope is that "CLASS ACT" will help to inspire audiences to make the world a better place for America's children through the arts.

Sara Sackner, Director  
Heather Winters, Producer

## SYNOPSIS



More than 20 years have passed since New York producer Heather Winters and California director Sara Sackner graduated from Miami Beach Senior High School, a huge public high school with a big fat love of football. Besides sharing a professional relationship, the filmmakers share something else - a favorite teacher - Jay W. Jensen.

When the filmmakers decided to go "back to school" to tell the extraordinary story of their high school drama teacher, Jay W. Jensen, they knew they would be telling the 50 year story of a man who dedicated his life to education, saved every penny, and became known as the "Teacher to the Stars."

What they didn't know is the real story they would uncover. The drama program Jay created and ran for over 30 years, 7 days a week, day and night, no longer existed. Sackner and Winters set out on a journey across the country, talking to everyone from teachers, principals, administrators, government leaders (on both sides!), and students themselves, turning their camera lens on the American public school system only to discover the arts were disappearing from the American classroom at an alarming rate.

CLASS ACT weaves Mr. Jensen's personal story with the fate of arts education in America today, giving us a report card on what lies ahead for America's children. But the story doesn't end in the classroom. With a starting salary of just \$2,000 in 1959, Jay secretly amassed millions. To the astonishment of everyone, he then did the most extraordinary thing: he gave it away in the name of education and the arts becoming the most unlikely philanthropist. Today, Jay continues to inspire thousands of students - fat, thin, shy, extroverted, gay, straight, under achiever and academic powerhouse - to follow their dreams. Jay alumni include a virtual who's who of Hollywood, including actor Andy Garcia, film director Brett Ratner, songwriter Desmond Child, music executive José

**STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

Behar, Broadway producer Adam Epstein, casting director Debra Zane, and sportscaster Roy Firestone, as well as the filmmakers themselves.

## BIOGRAPHIES




**HEATHER WINTERS**  
Producer

Heather Winters is a producer/writer and most recently co-Executive Produced the Academy Award® nominated documentary film, **SUPER SIZE ME**. Feature film and television credits include several independent feature films and the animated TV series **THUNDERCATS**, **SILVERHAWKS**, **THE COMIC STRIP** and MTV's **REAL WORLD**. An accomplished writer and musician, Winters is a native of Miami Beach and a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. Her company, **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**, specializes in the production and financing of independent feature films and documentaries. Awards include 2004 **TELLY®** Award, 2003 **PLATINUM BEST IN SHOW AURORA** Award, 2000 **CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FIRST PLACE** Award, 2000 **U.S. INTERNATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL**, and multiple awards of creative excellence.



**SARA SACKNER**  
Director

**CLASS ACT** is Sara's fourth feature-length documentary. She is the executive producer of the feature-length documentary, **TIE-DIED: ROCK 'N ROLL'S MOST**

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

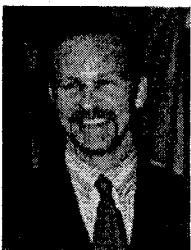
Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

**DEDICATED FANS**, about the loyal followers of the Grateful Dead which had its World Premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 1995. Sackner produced the critically acclaimed documentary, **PAINTING THE TOWN**, about the New York artist, Richard Osterweil, who crashes his way into high society. Her narrative feature films include, **INTIMATE BETRAYAL** starring Richard Edson, Jessica Hecht, Dwier Brown, Cristi Conaway, James Eckhouse, and Annabelle Gurwitch. Sara recently produced and directed the feature length documentary, **CONCRETE!** a chronicle of the world's largest private collection of word and image art, ensconced in a home-museum. **CONCRETE!** premiered at the Miami Jewish Film Festival in March 2005.




**JOE MORLEY**  
Executive Producer

Executive Producer and Co-Writer of **CLASS ACT**, Joe is a partner in **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON** with Producer Heather Winters.† He shares the co-Executive Producer credits on the **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON** film **THE PARTY HEADS**, and the Sundance award winning and Academy Award® nominated documentary, **SUPER SIZE ME**. An accomplished writer/producer in his own right, Joe has produced more than 100 live events and video projects.† He is a working playwright whose scripts are seen in the off Broadway theaters.



**MORGAN SPURLOCK**  
Executive Producer

Morgan Spurlock is the writer/producer/director of the Academy Award nominated film **SUPER SIZE ME**. The feature length documentary film, Spurlock's first, was named to more than 35 "Top Ten" lists in 2004 and is currently the 6th highest grossing documentary of all time. The film was also awarded the inaugural Writer's Guild of America Documentary Screenplay Award, and the Best Director Prizes at the Sundance and Edinburgh Film Festivals.

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f


VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

Spurlock is currently in production on the third season of his highly acclaimed F/X original series **30 DAYS**. The show examines social issues in America by immersing individuals in a life that requires them to "see the world through another's eyes," and has been praised by such diverse groups as the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. In 2006, the series was nominated for a Producer's Guild Award and GLAAD Award for best non-fiction television series.

An accomplished playwright, Spurlock is a native of West Virginia and a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Upcoming projects include the satirical and irreverent **PUBLIC NUISANCE** for Comedy Central and feature length documentaries about the commercialization of Christmas (fall 2006) and an adaptation of the New York Times bestseller **THE REPUBLICAN WAR ON SCIENCE** (2007).

 **STUDIO-ON-HUDSON**

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM)

# CLASS ACT

Prepare for the role of your lifetime.™

Reed Business  
Information.

# VARIETY

JUNE 19-25, 2006 ■ THE INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY ■ VARIETY.COM

42 ■ FILM REVIEWS

## SAN FRANCISCO DOCUMENTARY

### CLASS ACT

(DOCU)

A Studio-on-Hudson production in association with Morgan Spurlock and Warrior Poets. Produced by Heather Winters. Executive producers, Joe Morley, Spurlock. Directed by Sara Sackner. Camera (color, DV), Mike McGowan; editor, Sean P. Keenan; music, Elliott Goldkind, Morgan Winters; music supervisor, Linda Osher; title animation & motion graphics, David C. Hartwell; sound, Diego Rodriguez. Reviewed at San Francisco Documentary Film Festival, May 12, 2005. Running time: 89 MIN.

With: Jay W. Jensen, Jose Behar, Desmond Child, Anthony M. Davis, Adam Epstein, Roy Firestone, Andy Garcia, Annabelle Gurwicz, Alfie Kohn, Gregory Marx, Richard C. Milstein, Bernard P. Nusbaum, Brett Ratner, Sandy Veitch, Debra Zane.

By DENNIS HARVEY

Inspiration and agitation neatly combine in "Class Act." Sara Sackner's documentary expands from admiring portrait of a stellar drama teacher into an impassioned call for action to save disappearing U.S. public-school arts programs. Pic offers a strong riposte to the controversial national "No Child Left Behind" act that forced new emphasis on test results over traditional well-rounded education values already deteriorated by funding cuts. Pubcast seems a natural destination, ditto grassroots-organizing exposure. Residual "Super Size Me" oomph might get this effort from the same production company some theatrical exposure, though it won't strike the same pop-zeitgeist nerve.

Garrulous, inexhaustible Jay W. Jensen — an octogenarian still busy with various teaching duties 15 years after official retirement from Miami Beach Senior High — can count thesp Andy Garcia, "Rush Hour" director Brett Ratner, songwriter Desmond Child, film casting director Debra Zane, Broadway producer Adam Epstein and many other luminaries among his grateful former pupils.

But he gets equally enthusiastic testimonials from a rabbi, a hair-transplant surgeon and an attorney, who all feel his classes and productions gave them life-enhancing confidence and people skills. Indeed, pic's convincingly argued point (ballasted by numerous onscreen experts) is that arts education is no disposable extra, but a key element in developing all-around creativity, self-worth, problem-solving skills and the very ability to learn.

Studies cited here prove their beneficial effect on delinquency, advancement to college, even biological gray-matter development itself. The involving emotional stimulation of music, visual arts and drama instruction also provides an enormous incentive for kids to stay in school.

In a particularly depressing irony, a primarily African-American institution is seen stripped of all music instruction — John Philip Sousa Middle School.

Conservatives who might embrace Jensen's volunteerism as an alternative to actual funding might back off when they discover he's gay, and tours with a one-man-show about his close (but platonic) friendship with the late Tennessee Williams.

Deftly if somewhat episodically cross-cutting between different narrative talents and nationwide commentators, "Class Act" finds numerous other educators and activists keeping alive — with or without public funding — such programs.

Pic engineers its own inspirational uplift, but clearly the national trend is ebbing fast downhill. As one interviewee suggests, we will all soon end up in the short-attention-spanned, barely-literate clutches of a next generation whose improved education — one that simply matched prior standards — we refused to bankroll.

Editing is sharp, use of existing music lively, other package aspects well-honed.

STUDIO-ON-HUDSON

37 N Broadway Nyack, New York 10960 845.348.7674 v  
845.348.1548 f

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: WWW.CLASSACTTHEMOVIE.COM