

Diana Feldman



Photo by Liana Muccio

JOB

Founder and executive director of ENACT (Educational Network of Artists in Creative Theater) a not-for-profit educational theater company that uses drama therapy, conflict resolution and theater to help youth, parents and teachers improve communication and overcome obstacles; workshops and issue-oriented performances address problems facing today's youth including drugs, teen pregnancy and violence.

BIOGRAPHY

35; born and raised in Great Neck, professional singer / songwriter, graduate of SUNY-Stony Brook, M.A. in educational theater and drama therapy from New York University, has taught at Hunter College, founded ENACT in 1987; single.

RESIDENCE

Apartment in Chelsea.

IMPACT

'We use conflict resolution through drama, but we use it in a way to get to the core issues of what is behind a lot of problems. We try to help kids work through, and on, their communication skills and their behavior. We also use theater and drama as a personal and social transformation.'

FOCUS

'Our spring theater project on May 18 and 25 at St. Marks on the Bowery Church. It's called 'Listen, Listen to the Spirit of the Youth,' and involves students from alternative and special education high schools. The theme of the play grew out of their feeling of powerlessness, their feelings on violence, sexual orientation and drug use.'

COMMITMENT

'Along with the fourteen actor / instructors that work with ENACT, we also have a psychologist consultant who works with us. We go to group homes and into some very serious situations. What keeps us going is seeing the program work. You watch kids do a scene about the most difficult and upsetting things going on in their lives and see them change their belief system.'

By Sheila McKenna