



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "THE HOBART SHAKESPEAREANS"**

By Mel Stuart

*A co-production of Mel Stuart Productions, Inc.,
P.O.V./American Documentary, Inc. and Thirteen/WNET New York*

"A fine and passionate documentary. . . . Rafe Esquith is a genius and saint. The American education system would do well to imitate him. These children's lives have been changed by their year with this man."

- **Anita Gates, *The New York Times***

"See this show with your kids, or without them, but don't dare miss it. Like Esquith, it's almost remarkably inspirational, soulful, honest and memorable."

- **David Bianculli, *New York Daily News***

"For Esquith, it's not about making an easy path for his students but about opening doors for them to work hard and create better lives for themselves."

- **Merrill Balassone, *Los Angeles Times***

"A terrific documentary. . . . offers fresh hope for classroom transformations."

- **Mike Hughes, *Gannett News Service***

"The Mexican and Korean children crowding Los Angeles' Hobart Boulevard Elementary School face long odds. . . . Even so, fifth-grade teacher Rafe Esquith leads his students through a rigorous program of English, math, geography and more."

- **Frazier Moore, *Associated Press***

"An excellent new P.O.V. documentary."

- **Catherine Seipp, *National Review Online***

"Director Mel Stuart does a terrific job of capturing this uplifting story."

- **Charlie McCollum, *San Jose Mercury News***

"Engaging. . . . *The Hobart Shakespeareans* shows how learning and performing Shakespeare gives these kids the much-needed gift of hope."

- **Ken Parish Perkins, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram***

"The happy accident that united veteran filmmaker Mel Stuart with extraordinary elementary schoolteacher Rafe Esquith allows the story of *The Hobart Shakespeareans* to inspire people, both young and old, near and far."

- **Steve Ramos, *Cincinnati Beat***

"An amazing documentary. . . . *The Hobart Shakespeareans* is packed with joy and heart and, I promise, will leave parents, teachers and kids . . . inspired to the hilt."

- **Jeanne Jakle, *San Antonio Express News***

"Rafe Esquith is an inspiration to us all."

- **Steven G. Kellman, *San Antonio Current***

“Esquith . . . has made sure that his remarkable class is not just a blip in an otherwise bleak educational career for his students. . . . [Mel] Stuart can't help but celebrate the achievements of the singular teacher in *The Hobart Shakespeareans*. Would that it inspires scores more.”
- **Roger Catlin, *The Hartford Courant***

“Certainly television is meant to entertain us, but it can also educate and inspire. . . . That's the case with *The Hobart Shakespeareans*. The uplifting documentary will remind you of the impact just one person can have on the lives of children.”
- **Michael Storey, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette***

“It is rare to see a school year come to a close with a room full of students with tears streaming from their eyes, but when it's the classroom of Rafe Esquith it's not a surprise. . . . The work of Esquith is captured in a documentary film masterfully directed by Mel Stuart.”
- **Liza Young, *Education Update***

“You can teach in a rich, suburban school with tons of resources and not be effective. Be inspired by Esquith's tips for transforming teaching and creating a community atmosphere where students love to learn.”
- **Tricia Mosser, *What Works in Teaching and Learning***

“A stunning new documentary. . . . There's something joyful and painfully touching when we see the life force in action with purpose.”
- **Terrence McNally, *AlterNet***