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The Water Pirates of Neverland: Run Aground! Energizes California Students

Inland Empire, CA. - Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and The National Theatre for Children (NTC) have partnered to educate and inspire California students and their families. From February 4 to March 13, professional actors from NTC will visit 50 elementary schools with live performances of *The Water Pirates of Neverland: Run Aground!*, sparking conversations on water conservation in classrooms throughout IEUA's service area.

The program will focus on the uses of water, the importance of water, how to conserve water, and ways in which water gets polluted.

The live program revolves around famed pirate Captain Doorknob, whose ship has run aground on a desert island. With the help of student volunteers – as well as colorful characters like PJ the Penguin and Toni the Flipper, a dolphin angry about water pollution – Captain Doorknob learns about water conservation and sets out to get his ship back on the high seas.

In addition to live performances, the program includes student playbooks (print and online versions), teacher guides, e-books, and digital games and activities that align with the important concepts outlined in the live shows. IEUA and its partnering retail agencies sponsor every aspect of the program, making the performances and materials a cost-free supplement to lessons in science, literacy and the arts.

“Live theatre is a great way to educate,” says NTC president and founder Ward Eames. “The show goes beyond reading or other more passive methods of engaging kids. These children are watching a story unfold right before their very eyes, with the two actors playing all sorts of characters. We don't lose the kids' attention for a minute, because they get to respond and interact with the show. It really sticks with them.”

“Educating students on water related topics is essential,” adds IEUA Board President Paul Hofer. “By educating them in a fun, exciting way, we are encouraging students to be enthusiastic about the learning process while inspiring them to take action in becoming environmental stewards.”

For a complete list of schools and locations on the tour, contact Matt Levine at mlevine@ntccorporate.com. For more information on The National Theatre for Children, visit: www.nationaltheatre.com.

About Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) is a regional wastewater treatment agency and wholesale distributor of imported water. The Agency is responsible for serving approximately 875,000 people over 242 square miles in western San Bernardino County. The Agency is focused on providing four key services: (1) securing and supplying imported water; (2) collecting and treating wastewater; (3) producing high-quality renewable products such as recycled water, compost and energy; and (4) promoting sustainable use of groundwater and development of local water supplies.

About The National Theatre for Children

NTC is a premium provider of educational programming with operations in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand. We work directly between schools and clients to promote beneficial behaviors and life skills to students in grades K-12 on a local, regional and national level.

Our award-winning educational programs are provided free for schools and are customizable to accommodate specific messages and goals for clients. Through formats including live performance, in-class discussion, graphic novels, print curriculum, and digital games and activities, we present topics such as energy conservation, safety, financial literacy, STEM, water and environmental stewardship, and health and social responsibility in ways that engage and empower students. In doing so, we are helping our clients to be forces of change for students, parents and communities.

Visit www.NTCcorporat.com.