



# Campaign for change

## ACTOR AN AMBASSADOR

Susan Liu

GUILDFORD actor Gerard O'Dwyer has been named as an ambassador for the state government's Don't Dis My Ability campaign.

O'Dwyer, who has Down syndrome, recently won a best male actor award for his role in the short play *Beautiful*, performed at the Newtown Theatre and National Institute of Dramatic Art's Parade Theatre.

"I've been acting for three years and I'm really enjoying it," he said.

"I like the acting because it involves theatre making and that's something I really enjoy."

O'Dwyer's credits also include the Tropfest short film

*Be My Brother*, which won him the best actor award and an appearance in the television advertisement for CareCareers, which won a bronze award for best television commercial.

When not acting, O'Dwyer, 27, is a spokesman for Beyond the Square, Parramatta Riverside Theatre's

**“My message for people with a disability is to be proud of who you are**

**GERARD O'DWYER**

performing arts program for people with a disability.

"It feels great and I'm

very proud to be chosen again this year for the campaign," he said.

"My message for people with a disability is to be proud of who you are, how far you have come and always follow your dreams."

Announced by Disability Services Minister Andrew Constance this month, the Don't Dis My Ability campaign has been designed to celebrate the diversity and achievements of people with a disability. "100 events will be held across NSW. I encourage the community to take part in the events and meet the campaign ambassadors," Mr Constance said.

**Gerard O'Dwyer has been named as an ambassador for the Don't Dis My Ability campaign.**

