

Pushing the boundari

GERARD MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Di Bartok

GERARD O'Dwyer believes that anyone who wants to make a difference should be encouraged to follow his or her dreams.

"Don't let anyone put you down or stop you," Mr O'Dwyer, winner of the emerging leaders category of the 2012 National Disability Awards, said.

Those words are aimed at people with disabilities but his message directed at all of us is stronger: "Never put anyone down because everyone wants to make a difference and should be encouraged."

The amazing Guildford man has not let Down syndrome stop him from following his dream to act and work in theatre.

For those who want to follow his steps, the Riverside Theatres at Parramatta is offering a great opportunity with its Beyond the Square project.

Mr O'Dwyer, alongside

DISABILITY AWARDS

Winner Emerging Leader:

Gerard O'Dwyer from Guildford

Finalist Excellence in Accessible Communities:

Andrew Fulton of North Rocks

Finalist Excellence in Improving Social Participation:

Alison Richardson of Parramatta

creative director Alison Richardson, is a driving force behind shows featuring performers with disabilities.

Ms Richardson, who "rescued" Mr O'Dwyer from a job at McDonald's to work at Riverside, said the actor was an "amazing" person with a bigger-than-life character.

"He thrives in acting and wins people over with his personality," she said.

"We are so proud of him for winning this award.

"He has shown people what is possible and opened up more opportunities for people with disabilities."



Gerard O'Dwyer, from Riverside Theatres, has won a national disability award.

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