

My Disability is that I'm an Artist

By Allyson Hamblett



Treena Armstrong has been a student at Spark Studio for about a year and a half. She loves the studio because the tutors give helpful advice – they're not like school teachers who tell students what to do. She loves the freedom of expression promoted at Spark.

Treena is currently taking the Art of Theatre course, which runs for most of the day every Tuesday. Her recent project in that class has involved historical research – another passion for this talented artist. The Art of Theatre class is particularly significant for Treena because she is an actor with Interacting (an organisation for disabled actors). I have seen Treena perform "In the Naughty Corner" at Mau Theatre three times, and am impressed by the standard of her acting ability. She has been an actor since 2000.

"One day I was sitting at Spark and everybody was talking about disability. Everybody was saying they had disabilities like cerebral palsy, but I yelled out "My Disability is that I'm an artist." Treena has an incredible sense of humour that was captured by that quote. It puts a spin on the conventional understanding of disability.