



Arts and Creativity Resources

The following excerpt has been taken from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center website.

http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.mtKZKgMWKwG/b.4453485/k.5C5/Arts_and_Creativity.htm

By participating in the arts, people with disabilities greatly contribute to our workplaces and communities, help bury old stereotypes regarding disability, and create a global culture truly representative of all people.

The arts enhance lives in many ways. They improve both personal and academic success, from the beginning of a child's education through the time of adulthood and career. Elementary school students who participate in music programs score higher in reading, mathematics, language, and overall achievement tests. Students who study the arts in high school earn higher test scores. And students who participate in studio art courses improve their writing and vocabulary skills. These findings underscore the value of the arts in positively shaping the lives of all people, including people with disabilities.

Because art is an infinite and unconditional field, people with disabilities are free to express themselves without physical, social, or attitudinal barriers.

Art is the universal language that has the ability to unite all people. The following Arts and Creativity resources connect people with disabilities to the visual arts, music, theater and dance.

Source: VSA – The International Organization on Arts and Disability

Web Sites

General

<http://www.artheals.org/>

Arts and Healing Network

An Internet resource celebrating the connection between art and healing.

<http://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc/>

The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)

Tarjan Center

UCLA Semel Institute

760 Westwood Plaza, Suite 67-455

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1759

Phone: 310-825-5054

The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC) is the nation's centralized resource on the inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities in all facets of the arts community. It does so by providing information, training, and technical assistance with a strong focus on accessibility and careers in the arts for people with disabilities.

<http://www.nea.gov/resources/accessibility/>

NEA Office for AccessAbility

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20506

Phone: 202-682-5532 / 5733 (V)

The National Endowment for the Arts' Office for Accessibility is the advocacy-technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment to make the arts accessible for people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and people living in institutions.

Visual Arts

<http://www.princetonhcs.org/Default.aspx?p=7563>

ArtFirst!

University Medical Center at Princeton

253 Witherspoon Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-497-4000

An international juried exhibition and sale of original arts and fine crafts by professional artists with disabilities.

<http://www.artrodfoundation.com/>

Art Rod Foundation, Inc.

206 South Davenport

Metamora, IL 61548

Phone: 309-367-4496

The Art Rod Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting handicapped awareness and the triumph of the human spirit. The Art Rod is will travel to various schools with artist Greg DePauw, an incomplete quadriplegic, who teaches basic drawing and watercolor techniques. He speaks about self-respect, setting goals, dreaming and how to develop a "Can-Do" attitude!

<http://www.amfpa.com/>

Association of Foot and Mouth Painting Artists

Offers financial support to painters accepted into the group.

<http://sci.washington.edu/info/forums/reports/conversations-2.asp>

Conversations...Artists. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 2009. Streaming video, 50 mins.

Artists discuss their art in the context of their SCIs.

<http://www.vsarts.org>

VSA – The International Organization on Arts and Disability

818 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 800-933-8721, 202-628-2800

Founded in 1974 as an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, VSA creates learning opportunities through the arts for people with disabilities. The organization offers arts-based programs in creative writing, dance, drama, music and the visual arts implemented primarily through an affiliate network in 39 states and 70 international affiliates in 67 countries.

Dance

<http://www.nea.gov/resources/accessibility/rlists/DanceResource.html>

List of integrated dance organizations compiled by the National Endowment for the Arts. Some of the organizations on the list are featured below.

<http://www.aeroinc.org/>

Aero, Inc.

P.O. Box 600-200

Newton, MA 02460

A Boston area non-profit featuring mixed abilities dancers.

<http://www.axisdance.org/>

AXIS Dance Company

1428 Alice Street, Suite 200

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510-625-0110

AXIS Dance Company has performed its innovative body of work in theaters and dance spaces at throughout the U.S. as well as overseas. AXIS has become an internationally known resource for physically integrated dance and is one of a handful of companies setting a standard for professionalism in this emerging field.

<http://www.dancedetour.org/>

Dance>Detour

1935 South Archer Avenue, Suite 413

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 312-341-1018

Founded in 1995, Dance>Detour is Chicago's first professional "diverse-abilities" dance company comprised of multi-talented artists with and without disabilities. The focus of

their work is solely dedicated to the art of physically integrated dance and collaborations that include dancers of all abilities.

<http://www.danceability.com/>

DanceAbility International

P.O. Box 51257

Eugene, OR 97405

Phone: 541-342-3273

DanceAbility International encourages the evolution of mixed-abilities dance by cultivating a common ground for creative expression for all people. The mission is accomplished through performance, educational programs, teacher training and workshops

<http://www.dancingwheels.org/>

Dancing Wheels Company & School

3615 Euclid Ave

Cleveland, OH 44115

Phone: 216-432-0306

Dancing Wheels is a professional, physically integrated dance company uniting the talents of dancers both with and without disabilities. The School of Dancing Wheels opened in 1990 and has become a world-class training center for dancers, choreographers and educators.

<http://www.fullradiusdance.org/>

Full Radius Dance

P.O. Box 54453

Atlanta, GA 30308

Phone: 404-724-9663

Founded in 1990, Full Radius Dance is a physically integrated modern dance company that presents mature, choreographically complex works celebrating technique and physicality. Full Radius also offers lecture demonstrations, master classes, and teacher training.

<http://www.thegimpproject.com/gimp/>

GIMP Project

400 West 43rd Street #21S

New York, NY 10036

Phone: 212-268-0976

GIMP, a project of Heidi Latsky Dance, features four trained dancers and four performers who have physical disabilities. The show is accompanied by a new and evolving outreach program.

<http://www.infinitydance.com/>

Infinity Dance Theater

220 West 93rd Street

New York, NY 10025

Infinity Dance Theater is a non-traditional dance company committed to expanding the boundaries of dance by featuring dancers with and without disabilities. In addition to performances, Infinity Dance offers educational programs including lecture demonstrations and teacher training.

<http://www.ncpad.org/programs/index-title.php?id=2755&letter=L>

Light Motion Dance Company

1520 32nd Avenue South

Seattle, WA 98144

Phone: 206-328-0818

Light Motion was established in 1988 to develop the artistic expressions of both dancers with and without disabilities. Working with both choreography as well as improvisation, the Company travels nationally and internationally to perform and teach dance residencies for dancers of all ages, abilities, and professional levels.

<http://www.sinsinvalid.org/>

Sins Invalid

San Francisco, CA area

Phone: 510-689-7198

Sins Invalid is an inclusive performance project involving artists of color, queer and gender-variant artists, and artists with disabilities (broadly defined). They present multidisciplinary performances (video, poetry, spoken word, music, drama, and dance) by people with disabilities; organize performance workshops for people with and without disabilities; and offer political education workshops for community based organizations.

Music

<http://www.disabled-musicians.org>

Coalition for Disabled Musicians, Inc.

P.O. Box 1002M

Bay Shore, NY 11706

Phone: 631-586-0366

The Coalition for Disabled Musicians, Inc. (CDM) is dedicated to enabling physically disabled musicians to pursue their musical dreams. Their online forum connects disabled musicians to each other provides information on topics such as adaptive gear and adaptive techniques for pain, endurance, and other limitations.

<http://www.disableddrummers.org>

Disabled Drummers Association

18901 NW 19 Avenue

Miami, FL 33056

Phone: 305-621-9022

An organization dedicated to serving drummers with disabilities and helping them to be a positive part of the music industry, as well as to help change the way disabled musicians are viewed and treated in the industry today. Their website includes a marketplace to buy, sell and trade equipment.

<http://www.ravendrumfoundation.org>

The Raven Drum Foundation

9595 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 900

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Phone: 310-774-7462

An organization established by Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen to encourage the healing powers of drumming and to help people overcome the emotional and physical pain resulting from traumatic events. The foundation provides free educational programs to inspire personal growth during times of adversity.

Performing Arts/Theater

<http://www.uppityco.com/dp.html>

The DisAbility Project

4466 West Pine Boulevard, Suite 13C

St. Louis, MO 63108

Phone: 314-534-1454

That Uppity Theatre Company produces The DisAbility Project, bringing awareness and sensitivity to issues in the disability community through a combination of art and advocacy that tours to a variety of audiences. The group is comprised of people with and without disabilities who are diverse in age, race, ethnicity, class, occupation, education, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, and performance experience.

<http://www.arts.gov/resources/Accessibility/NTCP.html>

The Non-Traditional Casting Project

1560 Broadway, Suite 1600

New York, NY 10036

Phone: 212-730-4750

The Non-Traditional Casting Project works to advance the participation of artists of color, female artists, artists who are deaf or hard of hearing and artists with disabilities. The Project maintains a free national talent bank, the Artist Files, for theatres, production companies and casting offices to consult.

<http://www.questvisualtheatre.org/>

Quest Visual Theatre

7414 Newburg Drive

Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: 301-524-3849

Quest is a group of artists, educators, and dedicated volunteers representing a diverse ethnic, cultural, and artistic panorama who are committed to creating, producing, presenting, and supporting theatre that emanates from a visual base and features casts and production staffs that are inclusive.

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see www.paralysis.org and click *Borrow from Our Lending Library* under PRC Quick Links.

Books

- Albright, Ann Cooper. **Choreographing Difference: The Body and Identity in Modern Dance**. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1997.
- Alexander, Marc. **Painters First: Art Celebrating the Conquest of Misfortune**. Hampshire, England: Leader Books, 1995.
- Bailey, Sally Dorothy. **Wings to Fly: Bringing Theatre Arts to Students with Special Needs**. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1993.

- **Beyond Victims and Villains: Contemporary Plays by Disabled Playwrights.** Victoria Ann Lewis, editor. New York: Theater Communications Group, 2006.
- Cohen, Jane G. and Marilyn Wannamaker. **Expressive Arts for the Very Disabled and Handicapped for All Ages.** Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1996.
- Fahy, Thomas and Kimball King, Editors. **Peering Behind the Curtain: Disability, Illness, and the Extraordinary Body in Contemporary Theater.** New York, NY: Routledge, 2002.
- Hildebrand, Tammy. **Wheelchair Afghans & Bags: 8 Designs for Comfort & Convenience.** Berne, Ind.: Annie's Attic, 2006.
Designs for crocheting wheelchair afghans and bags that hang off the wheelchair arm or walker.
- Kaufmann, Karen A. **Inclusive Creative Movement and Dance.** Champaign, Ill.: Human Kinetics, 2006.
- Lefens, Tim. **Flying Colors: The Story of a Remarkable Group of Artists and the Transcendent Power of Art.** Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2002.
- Pointon, Ann and Chris Davies, Editors. **Framed: Interrogating Disability in the Media.** London: British Film Institute, 1997.
- Scribner, Paul, Editor. **Putting Creativity to Work: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities.** Washington, DC: VSA, 2000.
- Syll, Monita Imbert. **Victors All.** Los Angeles, CA: Authors Unlimited, 1992.
Covers painters who belong to the Association of Foot and Mouth Painting Artists.
- Thompson, Lauren. **Ballerina Dreams.** New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2007.
A true story of five little girls with cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities who take a ballet class.
- Treanor, Richard Bryant. **My Paintings: Celebrating the Good Life.** Washington, DC: Richard Bryant Treanor, 2002.
Treanor is a wheelchair user due to polio.
- Wisheart, Cynthia. **Storms and Illuminations: 18 Years of Access Theatre.** Santa Barbara, CA: Emily Publications, 1997.

Video

- **Passage: A Disabled Dancer Dances Again.** Sherborn, MA: Aquarius Health Care, 2004. VHS
Following a diving accident, a professional dancer is left quadriplegic. She brings adaptive dance to Montreal.
- **We Are PHAMALY.** Boston, MA: Fanlight Productions, 2003. 19 minutes.
About an acting group based in Colorado called PHAMALY (Physically Handicapped Amateur Musical Actors League).

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.