

**North East Outstanding Learner of the Year
Kris Brown**

Alison Walton-Robson (Headway Arts, Northumberland): Kris had a life threatening childhood illness, which has left him with various disabilities. Kris found it quite difficult at school.

Kris: I was so far behind all the rest of people and I didn't know what was going on.

Alison: Kris suffered bullying and had, you know, taunts and lots of bad experiences of young people. His family were very supportive about looking at other ways of learning.

(Actor: So do you love Denise?
William: What?)

Alison: He joined Seven Stars who are a learning disabled theatre company.

William: When I started acting on the course, I thought it was great.

Alison: Not only is he a very competent actor he's also now a qualified actor. What he's now done is gone into schools with this piece of drama and shown people what he can do.

William: Now I'm like confident. Yeah.