



CHRIS BURKE

FULL ACCESS BROKERAGE

Presents

NYC SPROUT FILM FESTIVAL

FRIDAY

September 19th, 2008

Wildish Community Theater

5:30 Reception with Chris Burke

7:00 Film Festival

**Full Access Brokerage invites
you to attend a special evening
of entertainment, social
advocacy and fun!**

**For more information
contact us at
(541) 284-5070 ext.112.**

BIOGRAPHY

ACTOR, MUSICIAN, SOCIAL ADVOCATE

Chris Burke is the youngest of four children of Marian Burke, a retired trade-show manager, and Frank Burke, a retired NYPD inspector.

As a child with Down Syndrome, his parents were told to institutionalize him when he was born. They decided to raise him at home and nurture his talents. Burke's parents always encouraged him to follow his career objectives no matter how untraditional they seemed for a young man with Down Syndrome.

In the early 1980's public schools were not mainstreaming students with disabilities into the general population and there were no good private education programs for disabled students in the area. Burke was eventually sent to board at the Don Guanella School, in Springfield Pennsylvania where he successfully graduated in 1985.

Burke first set his sights on tap dancing. He later switched to acting while at Don Guanella School. He was further inspired by attending night classes, going to auditions, writing scripts, and reading books.

Burke got his first acting job in the ABC movie, "Desperate". It was there that network executives at ABC were impressed by his performance and created "Life Goes On" with Burke's character Corky as the main role. The TV series propelled Burke into fame and wide recognition. Burke made several guest appearances in, "Touched By An Angel" as Taylor, an angel who has Down Syndrome.

He continues to deliver inspirational speeches and is goodwill ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society.