

Writing to Make the World a Better Place

Engelic Everett, 33, is committed to making the world a better place for everyone, especially those with disabilities. She started her own company making shirts with positive messages, creating a brand and website based on advocacy. A recipient of People Inc.'s services, Engelic lives and thrives with Down syndrome. For the past seven years, she has taught during People Inc. employee training sessions, volunteering her time, explaining how to help people follow their dreams.

Engelic is a published playwright and performer. In October 2016, she earned the Museum of disABILITY History's inaugural Chris Burke Award for Excellence in Disability Advocacy, and is also featured within the Museum's "In Celebration of Down Syndrome" exhibit.

One cause that is important to Engelic is bullying awareness and prevention. She recently wrote a children's book which incorporates these themes, called *Olivia The Bully*. The book, published by the Museum of disABILITY History, a project of People Inc., will be available at its store at the end of March 2016. To learn more about Engelic, here is a Q&A:

You're a very open-minded person. Do you talk with people about your disability?

Engelic: I am not ashamed to talk about my disability, which is Down syndrome. I know that I am a unique person just the way I am. All you have to do is look at me as a person behind my disability; once you get to know me, you will love me.

Why do you enjoy writing?

Engelic: I love writing – it's my passion. The first play I wrote is called *Respect*. The main character in the play has a developmental disability. The reason why I decided to write it that way is because I believe that some people treat people with developmental disabilities unfairly.



I wrote another play named *What IF!* with the Unique Theatre Company, which was performed in December 2016. In



February 2017, I also performed in People Inc.'s Arts Experience's (a fine arts day habilitation program) musical presentation called *Tune Travel*.

Your newest endeavor is the children's book, *Olivia The Bully*. In the book, Olivia, who is a rabbit (your favorite animal) begins to discuss this topic with fellow animals at a very early age. Why did you write this book?

A cause that is important to me is bullying awareness and prevention. My belief is that bullying is a serious topic that needs to be heard. The book teaches the values of friendship, understanding and loving one another – these are all things that are important to me!