Hi, I'm Krystina Wray Jackson, also known as Bombshell BlaQ, and thank you Leroy F Moore and Krip Hop Nation for inviting me to this beautiful project. I'm coming to you from Dublin, California, just East of San Francisco. I'm originally from Philadelphia. I was born outside of Philly in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and I moved to Stockton, California, in the 90's. I went to Junior High and High School and College there. And when I was 19 during a snowboarding adventure, I injured my neck

and became paralyzed.

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And I'm now
living with quadriplegia.
That was in January 2002,
and now it's September,
and 2021
and this coming January,
I am celebrating
20 years
as a spinal cord injury survivor.
And it's wonderful
to be on this side of the journey
and to be celebrating
Disability Culture
and normalizing and sharing
amazing information
about Black disabled artists.
So, thank you, Leroy.
If you don't have the book
Black Disabled Art History 101
definitely pick that up,
it's phenomenal.
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I'll be reading about some of my favorite artists in the book. It's impossible to pick just one so I'll start with Dance, and I'll read about India Harville. She's a phenomenal dancer. I am also a queer African American person who identifies as non-binary and I use a wheelchair and I definitely connect with her and her artistry. So let's jump in with India's beautiful story. "If you can breathe, you can dance." Dance and movement have helped India Harville,

a queer Black disabled woman,

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cope with
her hemiplegic migraines.
Today, she shares the healing gift
of Dance as a teacher.
In her wheelchair, Harville
teaches people
to dance on their feet,
on wheels,
on crutches
or with the cane.
I love this. I adore this.
It is so important, regardless
of your physical abilities,
that you enjoy the body
that you are in,
that you move your body
any way you can
and that you celebrate your life
and share that gift with others.
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That is what India is doing

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so beautifully.
That is the artist I wanted
to highlight from this book,
and there are many more.
So let's continue.
The next one is someone
who is doing it all.
I'm an actor and a singer,
a comic book writer.
Albert Clemens really blew
me away when I read his story,
That's the beautiful thing
about this book.
There are so many Black disabled
artists I had no idea about,
and so this was a
wonderful discovery.
So Albert Clemens' story,
a.k.a Cripple Clarence Lofton:
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Can you dance,

sing, whistle

and play an instrument all at the same time?

Albert Clemens could, and did.

Clemens got his stage name
Cripple Clarence Lofton

because he was born with a limp.

He was a tap dancer,
a boogie woogie piano player

and singer, and owned a nightclub in Chicago in the 1940's.

When I was injured at 19,
I was a creative writing major,

and after becoming disabled,
I learned that it's very expensive.

Caregivers and wheelchairs and equipment

and modifying your home and vehicles.

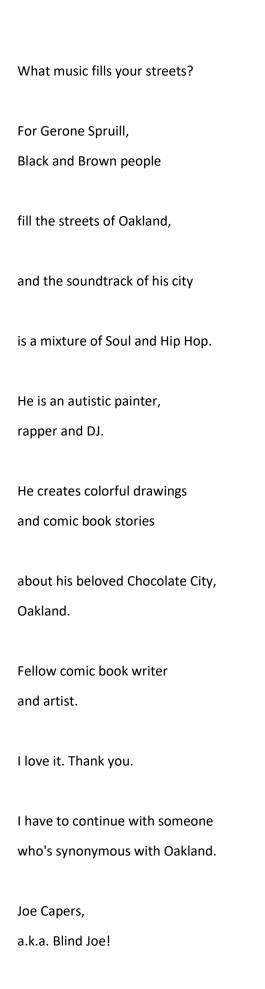
And I changed my major

to Business
and I concentrated on Finance
and I went to the Eberhardt School of Business
in Stockton at the University of the Pacific.
And I also studied Entrepreneurship,
and that's what I did once I graduated.
I started a company making accessories for wheelchairs
and in 2018, when I became "Ms. Wheelchair California,"
that was my platform -
encouraging people with disabilities
to pursue entrepreneurship
and to carve out a space for themselves,

rather than mold yourself

to fit into corporate culture and a world that's not set up for us to thrive and succeed. To just do that on your own. So I love reading about other African Americans with disabilities. And owning a nightclub in 40's! That's wild and amazing. Thank you Albert Clemens. I have another artist that I wanted to highlight. And he's from the Chocolate City of Oakland. Oakland is a city dear to my heart. Oakland is actually the focal feature of my upcoming comic book and the artist I want to highlight is Gerone Spruill. What colors

make up your community?

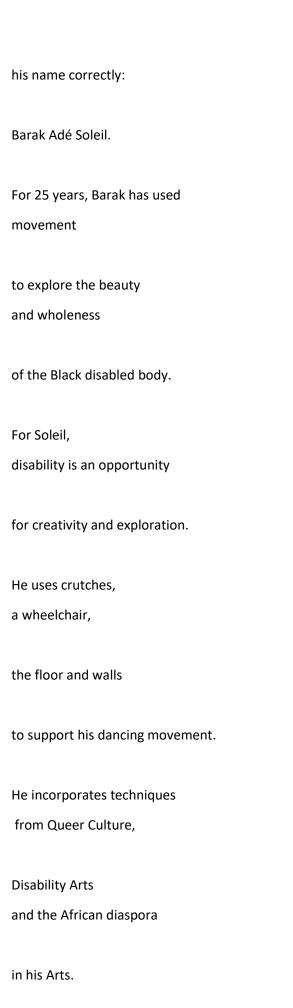


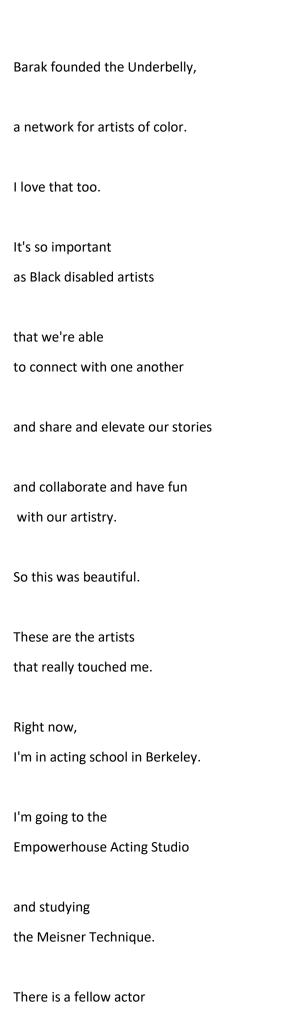
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If you were in Oakland
in the 80's and 90's,
you'd have heard of the likes
of Tony, Toni, Tone,
a young M.C. Hammer,
Digital Underground,
Too Short and
Dawn Robinson of En Vogue.
Joe Capers, aka Blind Joe,
a blind musician and producer,
built the first completely accessible
and affordable studio
in the San Francisco Bay Area.
I can tell you now,
as a recording artist,
that is very challenging
to find.
There's been many times
where we put folding chairs
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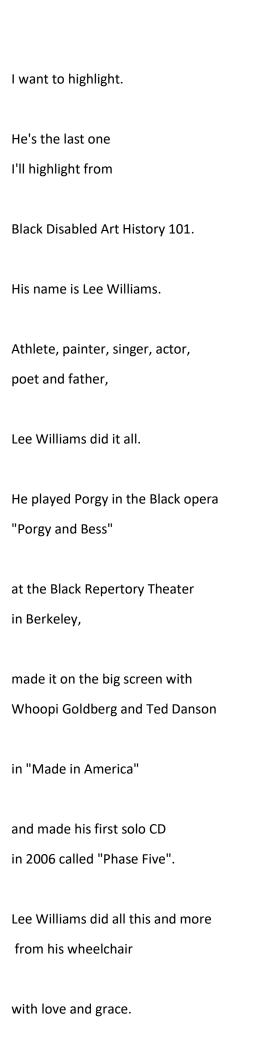
into recording booths,

and someone would have to pick me up out of my wheelchair -It's not ideal. So this is huge! He created these completely accessible and affordable studios in San Francisco's Bay Area. To recognize his contributions to the Arts, in 2013, the city of Oakland officially declared the month of August to be Joe Capers Month. If you're in the Bay Area in August, come celebrate Joe Capers Month with us. I promise it will be a beautiful celebration of artistry. I have another dancer back in the Dance chapter,

I hope I'm saying







I love that so much.
It seems like I'm in good company
in the Bay Area
as a Black disabled artist,
creating Art and music
and writing and everything else.
Lee Williams is an actor
from Oakland, California,
he's the last artist
I'm highlighting.
This has been a pleasure.
I am Krystina Wray Jackson
a.k.a Bombshell BlaQ.
I'm a singer, actor,
comic book writer,
and this has been great!
Till next time.