

QueerCrip Aesthetics and Performing the Score of Myself

Alison Kopit

University of Illinois- Chicago

“What if I go through life as usual, but use movement, time, and space in ways that feel authentic to me for one week?” This was a movement score that I developed for myself when I was first exploring the contours of my “crip sensorium” and disability identity. It was part performance art and part self-research, but once I started moving and using space and time in new ways, I realized that the score could become the fabric of my everyday life; the score has never stopped. My disability identity, sense of community, movement practice, academic work, and relationship with space and time has grown out of this experiment. “QueerCrip Aesthetics and Performing the Score of Myself” manifests this score in a multimedia performance that melds live improvised movement with poetry and film, explores the intersections of queer and disabled existence, and dances with the performance of identity.

Bio:

Alison Kopit is a queer and disabled activist scholar in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois- Chicago. Her recent master's thesis is entitled *Toward a Queer Crip Aesthetic: Dance, Performance, and the Disabled Bodymind*, and explores the possibilities for bold forms of performance to emerge out of marginalized communities. She is a co-creator of a community-driven online art project called the Not Sorry Project, works on the editorial team of *Monsterring Magazine*, and is the arts administrator and access ambassador for *Rebirth Garments*, a queercrip fashion line that seeks to celebrate all bodies and presentations. Politicized queer and disability community is at the center of her work, art practice, and life