

Hello, my name is Keith Jones
and I'm the president and CEO
of SoulTouchin' Experiences
and a co-founder of Krip Hop Nation.
I'm also an artist who is a rapper,
poet and graphic artist and graphic designer.
I have been a part of Krip Hop Nation
since its beginning.
And I'm honored to be speaking to you today
about a selection from Leroy Moore's book.
The Artist that I chose,
seemingly quite selfishly,
is our co-founder Rob DA Noize Temple.
Rob DA Noize Temple unfortunately passed
and is no longer with us.
May he rest in power.
But the reason I wanted to discuss Rob
was because his impetus for joining
and starting
and being a part of Krip Hop Nation
is very much in his story.
Being born with Erbs Palsy
and having to fight for his ability to just DJ
and to earn his keep and to earn his place
in an art form, which he helped create,
helped master,
and helped express
and expand around the world.
Rob's ability to see past challenges
and individual circumstances,
to see the broader picture,
the broader mission,

and to find a place where he, Leroy and myself
could come together and build something
that would empower and embolden
artists from around the world
who are facing the same discriminatory challenges
that we face.

It was interesting in reading Rob's story,
how his challenges
were very similar to my own
and even similar to others
who are now coming up behind us,
who are facing discriminatory practices
solely based upon the fact that they have a disability.

Now in my instance, a lay person
who has been doing music and art
and being an artist since forever.

And the challenges that are still faced
in terms of people's perception
about our creativity are telling.

And our exceptionalism is not
that we're just great artists -

It has to be because we've overcome.

Oh, you're so amazing.

But that's what makes Rob's story
so incredibly important
and incredibly powerful
is that despite challenges and adversity,
he persevered.

He gave the world something,
and he is giving the world something
that will live long, long after we are not here.

So it's with that that I share Rob DA Noize Temple,

his story, his inspiration,
and his power with you all.

Thank you very much.

Again, my name is Keith Jones.

Have a great day.