

Hello, beautiful people, it is your girl,
the real Toni Hickman,
and I am so honored to be a part of this video
and able to actually read to you guys
from an amazing book by an amazing man,
my brother Leroy Moore,
who is the co-founder of Krip-Hop Nation,
that I am proudly a part of.

Leroy wrote this amazing book:
Black Disabled Art History 101.
And the book is so profound.

When I first got it,
I told Leroy: Dude, this needs to be in schools
and needs to be in colleges. It needs to be everywhere.
It even needs to be in business
because so many people need to be educated
on the greatness that's happened
with people with disabilities,
and Black people out there, you know.

So I am honored to be a part of this book
but also I'm going to read to y'all
about the stories in here.

We had to just pick a random group
or individual story and read.
I've actually picked the Wild Zappers.

And I'll tell y'all why after I read,
but let me show you an image.

That is the image of them.

And that's what I'll be reading.

So let me start reading for you guys.

It is The Wild Zappers,
and they are still existing.

They started in 1989 to the present.

What brought Fred Beam, Warren Snipe,

Irvine Stewart, Ronnie Bradley,

Kris Pumphrey, Sam Franklin,

Buck Rogers and George Azmaveth

together to form the Wild Zappers?

Dance and Deafness.

The members of the first Black Deaf dance company

dance Hip-Hop and Funk.

This is the part that really took me:

They combine American Sign Language

and dance in order to educate

Deaf & hearing communities about sign language.

I think that is amazing.

If you are on TikTok or Instagram,

there is this young man and he's deaf,

but he dances.

There's been a few Deaf male and female dancers

on TikTok and Instagram.

I love watching them because I think it's so dope

that they can dance to a vibration that they feel

and really be on beat.

You know, I just love that.

People can tap into their energy

and really bring it out.

To see a group of people actually dancing,

but also doing sign language!

So while they're dancing, they're teaching you -

you're learning something.

I just thought that was dope.

They definitely needed to be acknowledged.

And even more so.

I'm sure they're more acknowledged than I know
but I just thought that was pretty cool.

So let me tell y'all a little bit about me.

I'm sorry, I was just looking at the picture
because it's young, it's older, it's like -
Black excellence, you know?

But I'm going to tell you about me:

My name is Toni Hickman, I am also in the book.

I think I'm on page 67.

If you haven't gotten this book or ordered it,
please go to Krip-Hop Nation, find Leroy Moore -
he is everywhere, on every social media platform.

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram -

Wherever you need to find him - he's there!

And he will be glad to get you a book
because he's doing some amazing things.

The more that you guys read
and follow this information, it helps the movement.

Again, my name is Toni Hickman

and I am a Hip-Hop artist.

I've actually been on gold and platinum albums.

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I've done a lot of things.

In 2007, I had my second brain aneurysm.

In 2004, I had the first one.

The second one was in 2007,

and I became disabled

because I had a stroke on the operating table.

And so when I came to,

they told me I'd never walk or speak again.

I was so concerned about my music.

I didn't think I'd ever be doing music again.

I just started getting motivated.
I got my voice back and I was like:
That means I'm not stopping.
And then Leroy finds me and invites me
to join his movement called Krip-Hop Nation,
him and Keith Jones,
It has been one of the most inspiring and best moves
that I could have made.
I have no complaints
because I really admire what Leroy has done
for the disabled community.
If you see that EMMY in the background,
that's because of Leroy,
Leroy made that move happen.
So I'm really honored to be a part of this project,
of this book.
This is my page.
If y'all can see that.
That's me, and that's my story.
I believe that it is very important.
It made me feel like my voice can be used
on a whole other level
as I became a part of the disabled community.
Because I'm still learning, about many issues
that come with a disability,
and Leroy educates me.
He made sure to do that!
So, when I tell you all
there are so many stories in here.
Visual artists, musicians, poets.
And Leroy is a poet, a wonderful poet!
You want to find out about disability and greatness?

This is definitely one of the books.

And like I said, I'm honored to be in it

and honored to have read about the Wild Zappers

because I think they're dope

and now I want to actually see them in a show.

Just because I would like to see

the dance combined with sign language.

That's huge to me.

So on that note:

Thank you so much for involving me.

I hope you read the book,

get the book for your school

for your class.

Get the book. Educate.

Peace.