

Aesthetics of Access

Workshop by

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UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

„Recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and that disability **results** from the **interaction** between **persons with impairments** and **attitudinal and environmental barriers** that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

(from: Preamble - CRPD,

http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention_accessible_pdf.pdf)



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Not all
disabilities
are **visible**

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medical model
of disability

„problem is the
disability“

vs.

social model
of disability

„problem is society“

- person with a disability
- individual tragedy
- medical gaze
- benefits and control
- goal: assimilation

- environmental/attitudinal barriers
- discrimination
- lived experiences
- rights and full participation
- goal: social change

Common representations on disability

- medical gaze
- othering
- inspiration porn („despite...“)
- pity („suffering from...“, „bound to a wheelchair“)

Ableism

- more than derogatory terms/slurs and explicit discrimination
- structural form of oppression (like sexism, racism...)
- defined by a set of normative ideas, practices, institutions etc.
- normalizing/othering certain types of bodies and behaviours
- resulting in a hierarchy of abilities (closely linked to neoliberal ideas of productivity)
- Closely tied to capitalism, racism, eugenics...

→ Can you think of examples of ableism within the field of dance and performance?

Nondisabled Privileges

- unearned advantages (you didn't have to fight for them)
- enable you to gain more privileges
(e.g. in terms of education and cultural capital)
- often taken-for-granted (and therefore invisible)

→ Can you think of examples of privileges you have (in relation to disability)?

Aesthetics of Access

- term coined by the Graeae Theatre Company (UK)
- Accessibility as an integral part of the artistic process
- In contrast to "retrofitting": adding accessibility after without taking it into account in the development of the artistic work
- With the artistic lead or involvement of disabled artists/experts

Creative Audio Description



Fia Neises: WITH OR WITHOUT YOU (2023)
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Creative Captions



Camilla Pölzer: I NEED A HERO (2023)
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Integrated Sign Language



Saša Asentic: Dis Contact (2022)

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Relaxed Performance



Magda Korsinsky: Macht Pause! (2023)
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