

GERTRUDE STREET PROJECTION FESTIVAL

Transcription Jonathan Homsey - Mx.Red,

Hello, my name is Jonathan Homsey and I have the work Mx.Red presented in the Gertrude Street Projection Festival 2021. This artwork is about the nonbinary pop star of the future. I made this work three years ago as part of the Festival of Live Art, in Footscray Community Arts Center. And this time I was really fascinated by utopian worlds, and I had this vision, um, of a kind of gods or whoever's kind of looking over us, whatever we like to call him, or her, or them. And they're kind of clocking off and they're going to turn on MTV and this other dimension, who would they See? Um, and I imagine this kind of red avatar who could telepathically sing and wouldn't even express the words vocally, everything was done in through this telepathy and, um, intricate gestures, full of subtext.

And speaking of intricate gestures full of subtext, it's kind of what I do a lot in my practice. I've been dancing as long as I can remember across countries from Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, the United States and Australia, where I've called home for the last 11 years. And I love to play with gestures. I'm originally a hip hop dancer and have explored other mediums, mainly in the contemporary dance canon. My art practice, I love to make people feel good, and I usually do that in the form that I do called waacking, spelled W A A C K I N G. It is full of texture with very intricate gestures, that really are about telling the story. Waacking is honoring the music and I'm so grateful to be in a community in this city and across the world that really empowers these gestures inspired and created by black and Latinex queer men in the gay clubs of Los Angeles and the late 1970s.

When I think of work done in the queer lens, and I think of how it collides with the movement that I do, that I'm grateful to be trained in, in this lineage, I think about what if they didn't pass away from AIDs? I think about what would they want to see 500 years into the future. There's a whole generation of beautiful queer people who are not sharing their stories and art with us. I always wonder if the trailblazers from the 1970s and 1980s were still with us, how gender theory would manifest, and how different the trajectory would be 500 years from now. If that epidemic didn't sweep the world and took away from us so many artists and provocateurs, I hope artists like myself could at least honor them through our offerings of the imagination.