

Press contact: Sarah Bacon  
212-206-6674 x 205  
[sarahb@creativetime.org](mailto:sarahb@creativetime.org)

**The Crutchmaster Takes to NYC Streets**  
**Creative Time presents *What is What: Bill Shannon from Street to Web***

**February 18, 2003: Starting March 24<sup>th</sup>**, Creative Time will launch *What is What: Bill Shannon from Street to Web*, a multifaceted project conceived and performed by artist **Bill Shannon**. *What is What* consists of an expository website, [www.whatiswhat.com](http://www.whatiswhat.com) and three public performances that will occur on New York City streets throughout the course of one week. *What is What* is a collaboration between Bill Shannon and web designer **Eric Rosevear** that will represent the full spectrum of the artist's work and serve as an exploratory forum for an array of related subjects. Also known by his b-boy moniker, Crutchmaster, Shannon's work, both on stage and off, ranges from dance, choreography, and public installations to writing, street interventions, and sociological observation. Online at [www.whatiswhat.com](http://www.whatiswhat.com), video documentation originating from the three live street interventions and past performances will give the public an opportunity to navigate the conceptual framework behind Shannon's practice.

Bill Shannon is a multimedia artist whose novel style integrates his crutches (which he must use to walk), the rhythmic forms central to his urban dance influences, and facial expressions drawn from silent film to achieve a lyrical and provocative oeuvre. Shannon's identity as an artist extends from his life as an east coast street skater in his native city of Pittsburgh into the international performance and installation art worlds.

Despite the artist's widespread notoriety on the stage, Creative Time chose to present three street interventions in which the artist will engage the New York City public and pavement in order to bring attention to, what Shannon calls, "the untrained street aesthetic." Using his "conflicted kinetic imagery" (e.g. spinning down a flight of stairs on crutches) in urban spaces such as parks, public intersections, and sidewalks, Shannon will address a social dynamic that he experiences on a daily basis—being observed by outsiders. In each street intervention, Shannon poses questions to his incidental audience with ambiguous actions, creating a temporal space where chance pedestrians might encounter, engage in, or dismiss his site-specific presence.



To contextualize Shannon's interventions, business cards with the url [www.whatiswhat.com](http://www.whatiswhat.com) will be distributed to chance onlookers, both during the week of Creative Time's street interventions

in March and over the next year at other venues where Shannon will be performing. The website will offer the public a critical space for discourse on Shannon's methodology and a fuller understanding of his practice. In addition to hosting a continued discussion, the website will serve as the anchor for the documentation of Shannon's live work and feature discrete artistic content, giving breadth to the multi-dimensionality of the artist.

### **Bill Shannon**

Bill Shannon, a.k.a Crutchmaster, is an interdisciplinary performance and media artist from Pittsburgh, PA. He has presented installations, dance, performance, video, and spoken word both nationally and internationally over the past ten years. Shannon is widely recognized within the underground performance art scene, the NYC hip-hop and club dance scene, as well as the disabled artist community. In addition to consulting the Cirque du Soleil, Shannon has performed, most recently, at the Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY; the Exit Festival, France; Dance Umbrella Festival, Boston, MA; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA; Florida Dance Festival, Miami, FL; Amman International Festival of Independent Theater, Jordan; Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; Urbana, IL; Yorkshire Dance, Leeds, UK; Now Festival, Nottingham, UK; among many others.

**Eric Rosevear**, the website designer for *What is What: Bill Shannon from Street to Web* has been making websites since 1995. He has worked on web, CD, and DVD projects including *Timestream* with Tony Oursler (MOMA) and the 1999 Online Design awards site for ID Magazine. Rosevear has worked at Nicolson, NY; RGA, Word.com, and Charge.com (the online action sports 'zine).

### **Creative Time**

*What is What: Bill Shannon from Street to Web* expands Creative Time's long history of presenting performance art—specifically dance—with cutting edge artists such as Elizabeth Streb at the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage and *Art on the Beach*. The project also continues Creative Time's legacy of innovative web-based artist works online. For the last 30 years, Creative Time has presented multidisciplinary public arts events and projects, surprising New Yorkers and visitors alike with fresh artistic content in unlikely urban locales. From Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, the skies over Manhattan, and the recent *Tribute in Light* (the temporary light memorial to 9.11.01) to storefronts, milk cartons, deli cups, and billboards, Creative Time supports artists in enlivening the New York cityscape. For more information on Creative Time please visit [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org).



307 Seventh Avenue # 1904 New York NY 10001 (212) 206-6674 (Fax) 255-8467 [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org)

**Upcoming:**

***Dance Theatre Workshop Carnival, thru March 30, 2003:*** Bill Shannon recently performed *AW:Remix* at Dance Theater Workshop, as part of DTW's Carnival series -- a three-month long festival which presents artists in repertory over multiple weeks. DTW's Carnival runs from January 7, 2003 to March 30, 2003 and features work by Chamecki Lerner, Jeanine Durning, Cynthia Oliver, Bill Shannon, Arthur Aviles, Steven Sapp & Mildred Ruiz, Peggy Peloquin, Amy Sue Rosen & Derek Bernstein, Sally Silvers, Dawn Saito, Vicky Shick & Barbara Kilpatrick, Neil Greenberg and Mia Lawrence. For details, check out the Carnival schedule and buy tickets online on [www.dtw.org](http://www.dtw.org), or call DTW's box office at (212) 924-0077.

***The Armory Show, March 7 - 9, 2003:*** Creative Time and Häagen-Dazs present a booth full of artist-designed collectibles by Steve Powers, Cary Leibowitz, Kim Bennett, and The Starlings.

***Local Frequencies, April 2003:*** With renowned producer Danny Kapilian, Creative Time presents *Local Frequencies*, in which New York artists Toshi Reagon, Everton Sylvester, and Gabri Christa explore the cultural heritage of their neighborhoods with three 20 minute original compositions to be released on a CD that will be distributed for free city-wide. Other programming will include a free concert and several radio presentations with WFUV's Rita Houston.

***Art on the Plaza, May 2003:*** Creative Time presents the third installation in the long-term public sculpture series on the Plaza of The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park. Artist TBD.

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