



Armani Williams is a professional race car driver and advocate who became the first openly autistic driver to compete in NASCAR sanctioned racing. Diagnosed with autism at age two, Williams has used his platform in motor sports to promote acceptance and raise awareness about autism while pursuing a competitive racing career. In addition to competing on the track, he works with organizations that support youth with autism and encourages greater inclusion in sports and STEM fields. (NASCAR, *Armani Williams*, 2021)



Hormona Lisa is a drag performer, comedian, and disability advocate known for using humor and performance to challenge stereotypes about autism and disability. As a performer with autism, Hormona Lisa brings visibility to neurodivergent artists within the LGBTQ+ community and uses drag as a platform to celebrate identity, creativity, and self-expression. Through performances and advocacy, they highlight the importance of representation and inclusive spaces in both the arts and disability communities. (Autistic Self Advocacy Network, *Autistic Pride and Performance*, 2022)



Naoki Higashida is a Japanese author who gained international recognition for his memoir *The Reason I Jump*, written when he was thirteen. Communicating through assisted typing, Higashida offers insight into sensory experiences, communication, and perception from the perspective of someone with autism. His work has helped readers around the world better understand autism and has contributed to broader conversations about communication access and inclusion. (TIME, *My Autism Allows Me to See the World in a Different Way*, 2017)



Elizabeth Bonker is an advocate and nonprofit leader who promotes communication access. Bonker, who types to communicate, gained national attention when she delivered the valedictory address at Rollins College. She is the founder of Communication 4 ALL, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to communication tools. Through her advocacy and nonprofit work, Bonker works to ensure that people with autism who communicate differently have the support and resources needed to share their voices. (MCIE, *Empowering Nonspeakers with Communication and Education*, 2025)