

0:00:00.000,0:00:07.374

My name is Aku Kadogo

0:00:07.374,0:00:09.876

I am the chair of the Department of Theater and Performance

0:00:09.876,0:00:16.683

And we're going to talk about a project I am currently working on called "Salt City: A Techno-Choreo Poem

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This is an original work that I began working on in 2015 with a poet from Detroit, her name is Jessica Care Moore

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Jessica Care Moore and I both hail from Detroit originally, and we wanted to do a work that celebrated our city,

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that celebrated the African-American presence in the city,

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and also celebrated techno-music which was music that was pioneered by African-American men

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straight out of the Detroit Metropolitan area

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and we wanted to create a work that was inspiring, and where young people could see themselves in the future, so we created Salt City

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Salt City takes place in the mines, in the salt mines that are beneath the city of Detroit

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This is specimen A.

0:01:05.999,0:01:12.038

This is our first iteration. This is Jessica Care Moore, there I am on the right side.

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Salt City is a really exciting project to me because I've been working for years in the Choreo-Poem form

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I was originally one of the founding members of the show "For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf"

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by Ntozake Shange; I went to Broadway in that work.

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Ms. Shange coined the phrase, coined the term, "Choreo-Poem"

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And I feel I've been working in this form for 40 years now

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I like this form because it celebrates our language, and our body movement when we speak as African-American people

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and it is definitely a work that I enjoy doing

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We'll continue on.

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Specimen B

0:02:01.421,0:02:12.432

We did another iteration of the work last semester, and now we're developing the work more fully

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We brought in a much more complex lighting rig

0:02:15.535,0:02:21.341

The set design is actually created out of paper, and we made paper mache crystals

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that represented the beneath the Earth and the salt mines, but also that we began to project the future into

0:02:30.750,0:02:42.395

so it's a developing work which will be an immersive, fun, visual participatory theater happening