



**Kesiena Wanogho**, aka KESSWA (b. 1992) is an interdisciplinary artist from Detroit, MI. As a vocalist, producer, and filmmaker, her work integrates performance, video, music and spoken word to function as a resource for emotional healing. Her work with renowned musician Shigeto, "Is My Mind A Machine Gun?" (2021) premiered on the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit's (MOCAD) new media platform Daily Rush and premiered as a performance art piece at Dlectricity's 2021 Festival. [KESSWA is a 2022 Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellow](#), and has toured Germany as [Musicboard Berlin and Detroit-Berlin Connection's premier artist-in-residence](#). She has performed at [Pop-Kultur Festival](#), [Dlectricity](#) and [Haldern Pop Festival](#). She has also performed in support of avant-garde artists such as [Esperanza Spalding](#), Sudan Archives, The Sun Ra Arkestra and [Rashaad Newsome](#) at institutions such as The Cleveland Museum of Art, The University of Michigan Museum of Art, and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

**Alfonso Cervera** (he/him/they/them/él/elle) is an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University and a first-generation Queer Mexican American performer, educator, curator, and activist. His work bridges Queerness, Ballet Folklórico, and Afro-Latine social dances through a contemporary autobiographical practice called Poc-Chuc. This inclusive technique has been praised for connecting "the sociality of the audience with the isolated frigidity of the concert stage...resulting in a world of untethered Mexican modernity" (Hugo Cervantes).

Cervera has taught at numerous institutions, including Cornish College of the Arts, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has also presented solo and collaborative works at prominent venues and festivals such as the Breaking Ground Dance Festival, Judson Church, the Wexner Center for the Arts, the SoloDuo Dance Festival in New York, Highways Performance Space, and Redcat in Los Angeles. In addition, Cervera is a co-founder of Primera Generación Dance Collective based in Riverside, CA where they create activist works that are rooted in the Mexican American identity and *desmadre*.

Beyond his artistic career, Cervera is a certified Yoga teacher, Reiki healer, and board member of Show Box LA, a non-profit based in Los Angeles. His contributions have been recognized through numerous grants, including support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Hispanic Heritage Project, Artist Trust in Seattle, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and other local Los Angeles County grants.

**Aliyah Khan** is an associate professor of English, and Afroamerican and African Studies, and director of the Global Islamic Studies Center (GISC) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Khan is the author of *Far from Mecca: Globalizing the Muslim Caribbean* (2020), on the history, literature, and music of enslaved West African Muslims and indentured Indian Muslims in Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad. Her nonfiction and creative writing and interviews appear in *Pree: Caribbean Writing*, *GLQ*, *Caribbean Quarterly*, the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, the *Journal of West Indian Literature*, National Public Radio, and the *Washington Post*.

