

Fernanda Sierra, Specialized Honours B.A. Culture and Expression
Bruno R. Verás, PhD Candidate, Department of History (Coordinator)
Professor David V. Trotman Department of History (Supervisor)

from the archives to the stage:

Cultural Production of Biographical Testimonies from the African Diaspora

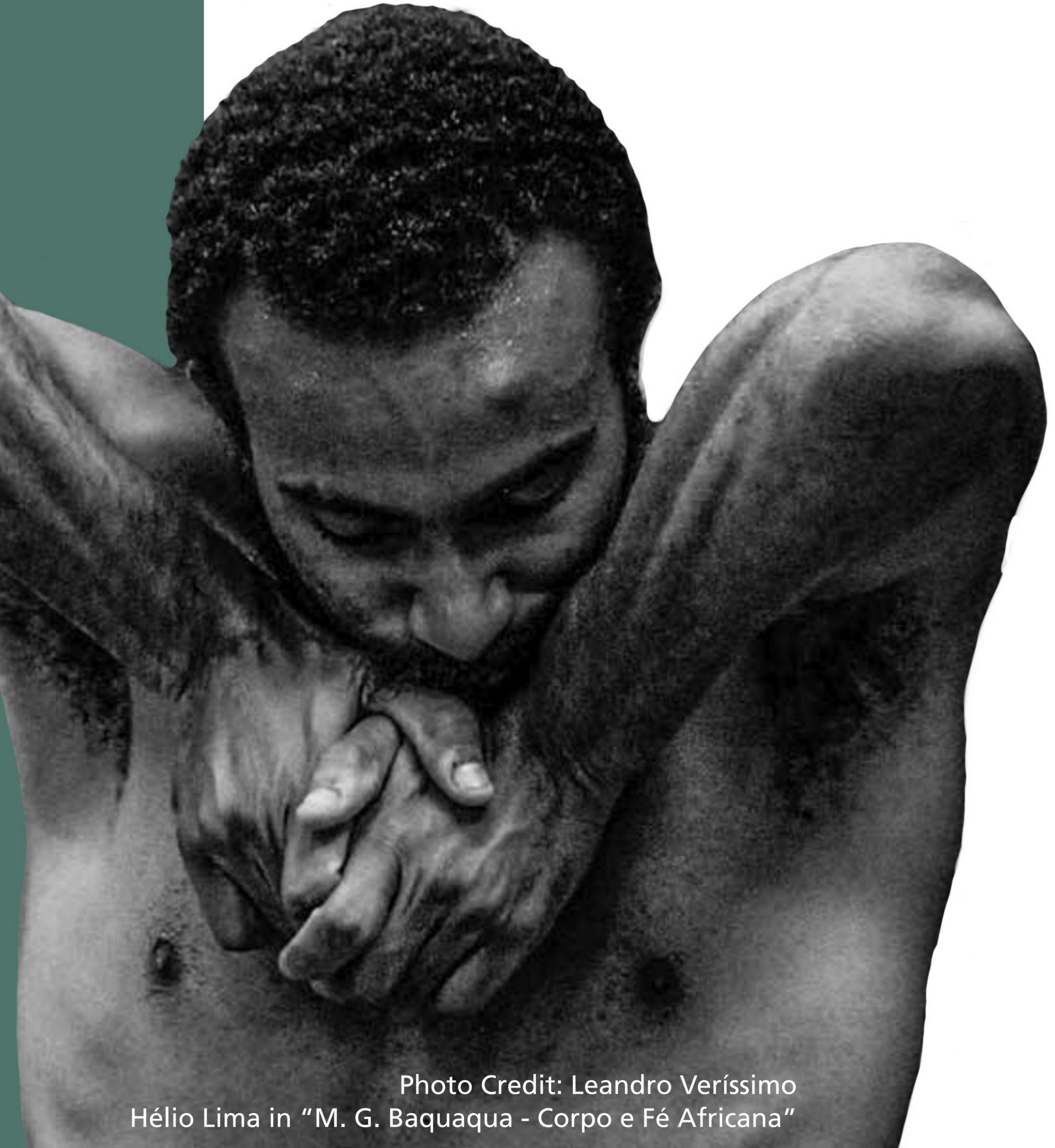


Photo Credit: Leandro Veríssimo
Hélio Lima in "M. G. Baquaqua - Corpo e Fé Africana"

The project investigates the **collaborative processes** and practices between historians, artists, and cultural producers when taking archival research beyond the academic space and into artistic platforms.

APPROACH



Collected photographs, performance recordings, documentaries and scripts from multiple cultural productions based on **Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua's** life history.

Interviewed those involved in the research, conceptualization and creation of said productions.

Analyzed materials using Pierre Nora's key ideas about **lieux de mémoire (sites of memory)**, Stuart Hall's concepts on **cultural identity and diaspora**, as well as best practices in **public history** and **cultural history theory**.

RESEARCH

QUESTIONS

- In the context of **Black diasporic cultural production**, how do **public history initiatives** re-image and represent **individual traumatic narratives** which emerged during or after **Atlantic enslavement**?
- How do artists **approach, explore and/or embody** an **historical figure** and the detailed descriptions of their **narrative**?
- How does **memory** and **history** intersect with the processes of **remembering** and **telling**?

As a **public history initiative**, the discussions were edited and are available to the public as a **podcast series**.

CONCLUSIONS

Baquaqua's cultural productions aim to explore current issues of **belonging, identity** and **Blackness** through this -- his own -- **historical narrative**. Revealing how memory, history, remembering and telling intersect in the process of exploring diasporic identities.

The **balance** between **historical representation** and **re-imagination** is rooted in the artist's desire to create spaces (sites of memory) of **possibilities** and **freedom**.

fromthearchivesstothestage.com



Photo credit: Baquaqua – Documento Dramático Extraordinário

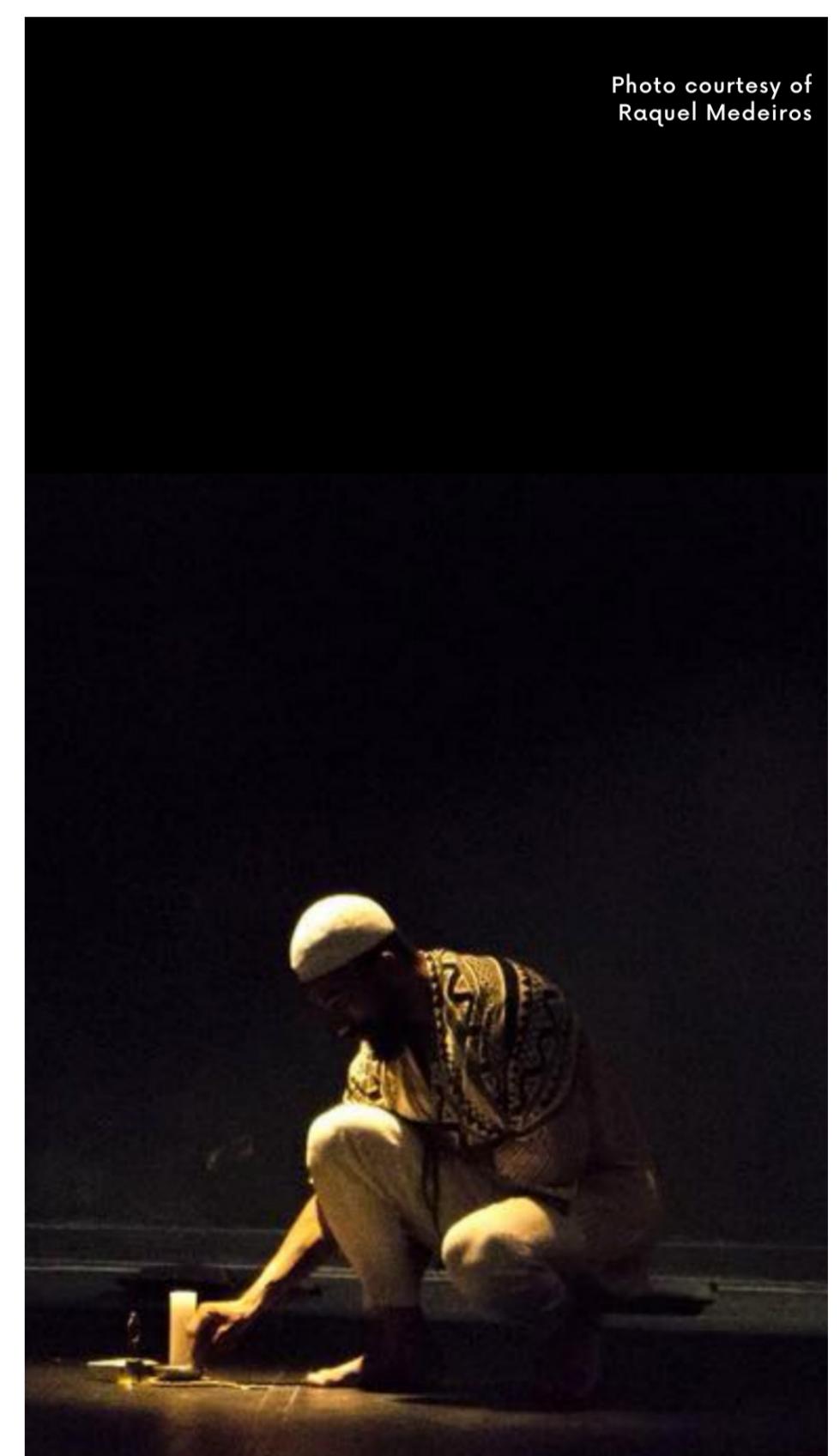


Photo courtesy of Raquel Medeiros