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KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER ANNOUNCES ANOTHER SEASON OF DIVERSE EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES: SPRING 2014 KST PRESENTS SERIES

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The new season showcases rising dance companies and other fresh talent

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) is excited to announce its spring 2014 season. Now in its sixth curated season of programming known as KST Presents, KST and The Alloy Studios offer a diverse season of provocative dance, theater, film, and musical performances that bring people together and spark conversation. The season also includes fun and educational events for the whole family, such as the spring season kickoff event: the fifth annual East Liberty Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 20.

One highlight of the spring season is the abundance of rising dance companies, including the April 4–5 Pittsburgh premiere performance of *The Secret History of Love* by transgender trail-blazer Sean Dorsey of San Francisco and company.

“We’re known for great dance, and this season exemplifies our commitment to supporting great dancers,” says Executive Director Janera Solomon. “KST’s spring season showcases so many new talents to watch. This is your chance to see their work first and meet the choreographers and ask them questions while the work is fresh and new.”

This season, KST welcomes back former artists-in-residence Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project and Sidra Bell Dance New York. During Baker & Tarpaga’s residency at The Alloy Studios in 2011, they worked on *Beautiful Struggle*, which will have its Pittsburgh premiere February 21–22 at KST. Bell’s *garment*, which the internationally acclaimed choreographer developed during a residency at The Alloy Studios, will give its world premiere performance on March 7–8.

KST is a platform for audiences to experience new ideas and new ways of making art. As incubators of new works by emerging artists, KST is proud to present works made during our residency programs. KST residencies for local and national artists create a forum for exploring new ideas and taking risks.

This season’s Next Stage artists Gia T. Cacalano (Pittsburgh) and Mana Kawamura (NYC/Japan) “reflect what we find most exciting and important about dance today and we are pleased to provide a platform for their work,” says Solomon.

Fresh Works will feature artist-in-residence Alan Obuzor, a rising star contemporary ballet choreographer. Theater artist Mukwae Wabei Siyolwe, our other artist in residence this season, will present a new work with music by renowned composer, performer, and band leader Daniel Bernard Roumain, better-known as DBR.



Talents of young people in our community are also prominently featured this season, including the MLK Day Celebration performances on January 20, the youth ensemble Dreams of Hope season preview that investigates pride based on the experiences of LGBTQ leaders in Pittsburgh on January 24–25, and the Soundwaves Steelband concert on February 28. Families won't want to miss KST's Let's Move! Family Dance Party on April 12 and the expanded Saturday programming at The Alloy School, which offers dance and movement classes for children and their families on Saturdays during the fall, spring, and summer. Classes are taught by professional dancers in a fun, creative, and non-competitive environment. Spring programming at The Alloy Studios will include pre-ballet, creative movement, and more. Please contact Jenine Smith for more information about The Alloy School at jenine@kelly-strayhorn.org or 412-363-3000 x 310.

The spring 2014 season calendar follows below. More information and tickets are available at kelly-strayhorn.org.



**FIFTH ANNUAL
East Liberty Celebrates
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

- January 20 at Noon
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: Free

KST honors Dr. King's legacy of peace and unity with an afternoon of free performances by Pittsburgh groups working toward a greater cause through art. A KST FAMILYtime event, festivities kick off at noon with community partners that work toward social justice in our community: MGR Foundation, Project Silk, Love Front Porch, Union Project, North Way Christian Community, Assemble, and Literary Arts Boom. Live performances by Hope Academy, Soundwaves Steelband, CHANCE, Dreams of Hope, and 1Hood Media will begin at 2 p.m.



**Dreams of Hope
Season Preview**

- January 24–25 at 8 p.m.
- The Alloy Studios
- Tickets: Pay-What-You-Can

Dreams of Hope will preview an original piece that investigates pride, based on the performers' own experiences, research, and interviews with LGBTQ leaders in Pittsburgh. Dreams of Hope provides the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied youth a welcoming environment to grow in confidence, express themselves, and develop as leaders.



**SIXTH ANNUAL
Next Stage Dance Residency
Showing - Mana Kawamura
& Gia T. Cacalano**

- February 1 at 8 p.m.
- The Alloy Studios
- Tickets: \$10

Next Stage Dance Residency supports the creation of fresh work by giving talented choreographers the opportunity to explore and develop new material at The Alloy Studios. The residency includes five days of creative rehearsal time and this work-in-progress showing. This year's resident artists are Mana Kawamura and Gia T. Cacalano. Previous Next Stage resident artists include 2013 MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham, Sidra Bell, and the Murphy/Smith Dance Collective.



Fresh Works - Alan Obuzor

- February 7 at 8 p.m.
- The Alloy Studios
- Tickets: \$10

Fresh Works is a creative laboratory for Pittsburgh-based artists who seek to make connections between dance and the rest of the world. Lead artists are given 80 hours at The Alloy Studios to explore cross-genre collaborations. The program culminates with a performance during Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn.





PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

**Baker & Tarpaga
Dance Project
*Beautiful Struggle***

- February 21–22 at 8 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: \$15 Artists/Students;
\$20 15206; \$25 General

Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project ponders the visibility and invisibility of race and privilege and how violence and love live on in the body's memories. Drawing from the text of white anti-racism activist Tim Wise and theories of the African Diasporic movement, *Beautiful Struggle* is a highly physical dance theater work that integrates live music, text, and performance art.



Soundwaves Steelband

- February 28 at 8 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: TBA

Soundwaves is Kelly Strayhorn Theater's premier youth ensemble. Designed for talented students to develop and enhance musical skills, Soundwaves features students from several schools including Pittsburgh Obama, CAPA, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, and St. Edmund's Academy. Rehearsing under the direction of KST resident artist Mat Docktor, students learn steel band techniques, music theory essentials, and elements of ensemble performance.



WORLD PREMIERE

**Sidra Bell Dance New York
*garment***

- March 7–8 at 8 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: \$15 Artists/Students;
\$20 15206; \$25 General

KST is proud to present the world premier performance of *garment*, which was developed by internationally acclaimed choreographer Sidra Bell during an artist residency at The Alloy Studios. Exploring bending and shifting identities in a playful and interactive stage arena, Bell's evolving movement vocabulary rejects the ordinary.



**SUNSTAR: Tribute to Ladies
in Jazz**

- March 29 at 8 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: \$15 Artists/Students;
\$20 15206; \$25 General

Impassioned women pioneers of jazz overcame decades of sexism and racism, making known their undisputable talents. With an evening of contemporary interpretations of the Great American Songbook, KST pays homage to female trailblazers like Ella Fitzgerald and Lena Horne who advanced innovations in jazz from the bandstand and carved a place for themselves in history.



**Sean Dorsey Dance
*The Secret History of Love***

- April 4–5 at 8 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: \$15 Artists/Students;
\$20 15206; \$25 General

Based on remarkable real-life stories from decades past, the performance reveals how people in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community survived tremendous obstacles and found love. Speakeasies, wartime love affairs, police raids, and steamy underground cabarets explode onstage in this powerful work by transgender trailblazer Sean Dorsey of San Francisco. The tour of Sean Dorsey Dance is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Mukwae Wabei Siyolwe & Daniel Bernard Roumain *Wade in the Water* Residency Showing

- April 16 at 8 p.m.
- The Alloy Studios
- Tickets: TBA

In this new work, multitalented performer Mukwae Wabei Siyolwe explores modern-day revolutions spurred by social media in Africa while simultaneously looking back in time to an ancient ceremony on the Barotse Floodplain that relocated the masses to higher ground. This multi-generational encounter allows indigenous and Western identities to collide and blurs the lines between exhibit, documentary, and performance — between old and new — and between photos, video, and sound.



Let's Move! Family Dance Party

- April 12 at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: Pay-What-You-Can

Put on your dancing shoes and bring your family to join the fun at Let's Move! Family Dance Party, one of KST's four signature FAMILYtime events. This party has just the right mix for toddlers and their families to get down! Enjoy kid-friendly music spun by our guest DJ, dancing, hands-on art activities, and more.



BlackStar Film Festival

- May 10
- Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- Tickets: TBA

Originating in Philadelphia, the BlackStar Film Festival illuminates the global black experience through films by and about people of African descent from across the world. KST will share films from the festival, an outlet for often-overlooked cinema by directors, writers, and producers working in narrative, documentary, experimental, and music video filmmaking.

About Kelly Strayhorn Theater

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professional equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater's Gallery of Stars. The building, opening in 1914, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.

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