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NEWS RELEASE

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KST PRESENTS: Swiss dance-maker joins TanzTheater André Koslowski as part of residency, work-in-progress showing of “Wiegenlied”

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TanzTheater André Koslowski joins KST to rework their 2013 *Wiegenlied* as part of KST's Creative Community Residency Program. Guest artist and internationally renowned Swiss dancer Leonie Stein, former head of the Y Institute at Bern University of the Arts, will assist in the creative direction of the work. On Friday, June 20 at 8 p.m. the company presents a work-in-progress showing at The Alloy Studios. Admission is Pay-What-You-Can.

German for “lullaby,” *Wiegenlied* takes audiences to a damaged landscape featuring solo performances by each cast member. The atmospheric piece is set to a traditional Welsh lullaby, arranged by American composer and conductor Efraín Amaya.

André Koslowski is no stranger to the KST stage. A former company member of Dance Alloy Theater (DAT), Koslowski performed with DAT from 1995 to 2003. In 2010, he was recruited to craft an original piece for the company's 35th season, then under the direction of Greer Reed. Formerly known as Pennsylvania Dance Theatre, TanzTheater André Koslowski has shown excerpts of work during KST's newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival in 2013 and 2011, and a full presentation of their work *Por La Blanca Arena* in November 2012.

This summer, TanzTheater André Koslowski is the first of seven artists, local and national, who will be featured in KST's annual Creative Community Residency Program. Since 2009, KST has offered summer residencies to artists interested in creating meaningful connections with audiences. Through audience engagement, the program enables artists such as Koslowski to hold classes and workshops in addition to presenting residency showings.

“We're happy to welcome André back to KST and The Alloy Studios,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST. “Our summer series is all about audiences having fun, but we also want them to expect bold and interesting performances from our residencies.”

In addition to the residency showing, a series of workshops will be presented at The Alloy Studios under the instruction of members from TanzTheater André Koslowski, including Sheila McKenna, chair of the Point Park University Theatre Department. All workshops are just \$5 at the door. Following Wednesday's workshop, a free lunch and discussion is offered to both dancers and fans of dance and theater alike.



Photo by Vanessa Briceno



Acting Improvisation for Dancers

Tuesday, June 17 :: 10–11:30 a.m.

Taught by Sheila McKenna

An introductory workshop on the skills, sets, games and exercise used in acting improvisation. Based on the work of Viola Spolin and Keith Johnstone (creator of TheaterSports).

TanzTheater (Dance Theater) Reconfiguring Presence

Wednesday, June 18 :: 10–11:30 a.m.

Taught by André Koslowski

How can we create a world of immediate presence that directly engages the audience, rather than a re-presented world that comes from a constructed idea of time and space? Through an introduction to the Viewpoints Theory, we will explore structures that open up awareness and teach us to begin work from a base in real experience. Practical exercises will concentrate on setting up grounds for interaction, connection and presentation to help us (the performer) to enter into that dynamic relationship of direct presence.

Followed by an artist discussion with André Koslowski and Leonie Stein from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contemporary Technique

Thursday, June 19 :: 10–11:30 a.m.

Taught by Jennifer Keller

A mix of athleticism, release principles, and a dynamic play of weight through space. Movement phrases encourage students to ride their momentum and to enjoy the risks involved within a spherical exploration of space.

East Liberty LIVE!

This event is part of KST's **East Liberty LIVE!** summer series, sponsored by PNC and Yelp Pittsburgh. Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents this vibrant series of affordable and accessible summer arts programming. With more than 20 events throughout the summer, East Liberty LIVE! provides positive creative activities and innovative arts experiences for those who live, work, and play in the East End.

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a proud partner in presenting **Car Free Fridays** with Bike Pittsburgh. As Pittsburgh's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike Pittsburgh works to transform Pittsburgh's communities into vibrant, healthy places by making them safe and accessible for everyone to bike and walk. Car-free travel empowers people to participate in their surroundings and celebrate life, which is at the heart of East Liberty LIVE! When patrons arrive at KST and The Alloy Studios for a KST Presents event by foot, bike, or transit on Fridays throughout the summer, they receive a voucher for two tickets to a KST Presents event during the 2014–2015 season.

About the 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, professionally 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.