



Kelly Strayhorn Theater  
 5941 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206  
 t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.3416  
 kelly-strayhorn.org

KST Administrative Offices  
 The Alloy Studios  
 5530 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206  
 t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.3416



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## afronaut(a) 2.0: an exploration in film — return of salon series highlighting film and local artists

### MEDIA CONTACT

**Paula Simon**  
 Marketing Associate  
 412.363.3000 x 310  
 paula@kelly-strayhorn.org

Pittsburgh-based interdisciplinary artists **Alisha B. Wormsley** and **Blaine Siegel** collaborate to bring audiences **afronaut(a) 2.0: an exploration in film**. The film-focused salon series is presented free each Sunday from August 10 through September 28, concluding with a two-day media festival. afronaut(a) 2.0 is presented by the Kelly Strayhorn Theater as part of the East Liberty LIVE! summer series.

afronaut(a): 2.0 explores how diverse groups of artists utilize film in their culture, discipline, and process. Alisha B. Wormsley became inspired to curate the salon series after discovering experimental filmmaking in West Africa. Created in 2013, afronaut(a) originally focused on non-traditional and black diaspora film but has since expanded to what Wormsley calls “an exploration in film and inspiration to artists.” Wormsley hopes that by incorporating a broader collection of screenings with discussions and performances the series will challenge audiences’ perception of traditional film. “We’re trying to show them films they would otherwise never see,” she says. “And since teaming up with Blaine, they will see these films as installations around the city.”

afronaut(a): 2.0 focuses on collaborations between Pittsburgh artists. Many of them, including Wormsley who started in photography and collage, found their way to film from an alternate medium. By showing audiences this crossover, Wormsley hopes the series will encourage conversations about how artists are inspired by film.

A selection of curated films will be presented at non-traditional venues including The Alloy Studios, Wagman Observatory, Healcrest Urban Farm, and the Braddock Library Pool.

“We’re looking forward to having so many artists in a variety of disciplines participating in this series,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST. “We hope this series will encourage people to think about the ways in which film inspires them.”

A kickoff party will be held on Sunday, August 10, from 1–4 p.m. at The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Ave. in Friendship. The series continues on Sundays from August 17 through September 28.

A detailed schedule of the entire series follows on the next page.



Artwork by Alisha B. Wormsley



## afonaut(a) 2.0 Schedule

### August 10

#### “Soundtracks” - Kickoff Party

@ The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Avenue

- » Local musicians provide improvised soundtracks for silent films
- » Curated by Alisha B. Wormsley and Blaine Siegel
- » Featuring Richard Nicol of Pittsburgh Modular, Tracksploitation, and Matt Aelmore (french horn)

### August 17

#### “Space is the Place”

@ Wagman Observatory, 225 Kurn Rd, Tarentum, Pa. 15084

- » *Space is the Place* (1974)
- » *Mars is Underwater* - Multimedia sound collage by Ricardo Iamuuri

### August 24

#### “Short Films for Short People” - Kids’ Film Festival

@ The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Avenue

- » Short films, curated by David Cherry
- » Featuring films and performances (tba) for kids based around film

### August 31

#### “The Deep End”

@ The Pool at the Braddock Library, 419 Library Street, Braddock, Pa. 15104

- » *The Swimmer*
- » Performance by Jasmine Hearn

### September 7

#### “Conditions of the Mind”

@ The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Avenue

- » With guests Et Green (PHIL), Tomashi Jackson (BKLYN), Ah Keisha McGants (PHIL)
- » Sarah Shotland, author of *Junkette*
- » Anqwenique Wingfield singing songs of Nina Simone and Billie Holiday

### September 14

#### “Bloody Sunday”

@ Healcrest Urban Farms, Garfield

- » Horror film (tba)
- » Gory makeup artist Jazmin Navarro
- » Performance (tba)

### September 21

#### “Mysticism and Film”

@ The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Avenue

- » Alisha B. Wormsley and guests
- » Performance by Jil Stifel and Jasmine Hearn

### September 27–28

#### afonaut(a) Media Festival

@ Various locations, (tba)

- » *Black Radical Imagination* film series, curated by Amir George
- » Films On The Water (in partnership with The Drift – [www.driftpgh.com](http://www.driftpgh.com))
- » Home Screening Hangouts
- » *Ongoing Box* - A film by Dave Bernabo
- » *A Band Called Death* - With panel discussion led by Christiane Leach





## THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

» And more features to be announced soon!

*This project supported in part by a Seed Award from The Sprout Fund. Sprout Seed Awards are modest financial awards (\$500–\$10,000) that provide critical financial support for projects and programs in the early stages of development—when just a small amount of investment has the potential to yield big results in the community.*

*Also supported by The Heinz Endowments' Small Arts Initiative. The Heinz Endowments supports efforts to make southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to live and work, a center for learning and educational excellence, and a region that embraces diversity and inclusion.*

### **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 East Liberty LIVE! — a vibrant series of affordable and accessible summer arts programming. With a variety of dance, music, and film events throughout the summer, East Liberty LIVE! provides creative activities and innovative arts experiences for those who work, play, and live in the East End.

### **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.

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