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### San Francisco-Based Choreographer Performs Work About Love Within LGBT Community, Part of KST Presents

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Photo credit: Lydia Daniller

Stories of love are universal. Celebrated throughout history, they bind us together in a language that crosses all borders.

In *The Secret History of Love*, award-winning choreographer, dancer, and writer **Sean Dorsey** reveals how people in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community have overcome tremendous obstacles to find love. This special KST Presents performance begins at 8 p.m. on April 4–5 and features musical guest and singer/songwriter Shawna Virago.

Recognized as the United State’s first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey is the winner of two Isadora Duncan Dance awards, the Goldie Award for Performance, and was named one of the “Top 25 to Watch” by Dance Magazine in 2010.

“We’re proud to present *The Secret History of Love* because it is a celebration of life and love within a community that has always been a vital part of our organization,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST.

Based on real-life stories from decades past, *The Secret History of Love* was created through a two-year national LGBT Elders Oral History Project and archival research. Dorsey’s research led him to love letters dating back decades and centuries, even a cocktail napkin with a phone number and love note from the 1950s.

The riveting stories are told through the personal voices of LGBT senior citizens that Dorsey interviewed. Recordings of their voices are woven through the soundscape of the performance, yielding a powerful mixture of contemporary dance, intimate storytelling, and theater, all set to original music.

“I am passionate about uncovering and sharing transgender and LGBT history,” said Dorsey in an interview with TransAdvocate. “Our lives get left out of mainstream history books and family albums. It’s critical that we celebrate, document, and share our history, or our lives and struggles and accomplishments will be lost.”

*The Secret History of Love* is on tour in 20 major U.S. cities including Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and Atlanta, and is made possible by a grant from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Tickets are available at [kelly-strayhorn.org](http://kelly-strayhorn.org), by phone at 412-363-300, and at the door beginning one hour before each performance. Artists/students \$15; 15206 residents \$20; general admission \$25.

There will be a pre-show mixer one hour before each event. A post-show discussion will be held after Friday's performance.

### Sean Dorsey All-Levels Workshop

Thursday, April 3, 2014 :: 4–6 PM at The Alloy Studios, 5530 Penn Ave.

Sean Dorsey will lead an all-levels movement workshop geared specifically for transgender, gender-variant, queer people, friends, and allies. As part of The Alloy School Master Class Series, this workshop provides a space where transgender and queer people can — often for the first time — experience physical expression, dance, and movement in a supportive environment. Registration is \$5 at the door.

### Lez Liquor Hour

Friday, April 4, 2014 :: 5:30–10 PM at Kelly Strayhorn Theater

*Presented by Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Lez Liquor Hour, and Sean Dorsey Dance*

Kelly Strayhorn Theater partners with **Lez Liquor Hour** to bring you Pittsburgh's coolest happy hour for gay women to network and socialize. DJ's Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Dana Bishop Root of the former Operation Sappho dance party spin throughout the evening. Bar Marco is providing the cash bar with a signature Secret Cocktail created by local distillery Wigle Whiskey.

### 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, 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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