



**Kelly Strayhorn Theater**  
 5941 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206  
 t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.4320  
 kelly-strayhorn.org

**KST Administrative Offices**  
 The Alloy Studios  
 5530 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206  
 t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.4320



# NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 19, 2014

## KST SPRING 2015 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS U.S. PREMIERE OF TWO NEW WORKS BY CUBAN DANCE COMPANY, HIGH-OCTANE THEATRE PERFORMANCE, RETURN OF SUNSTAR, NEWMOVES FESTIVAL AND MORE

### MEDIA CONTACT

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

### Keeping Stories Timeless with...

- Two exciting works by dance company from Cuba
- Cutting-edge, multidisciplinary theatre
- Return of three-day long women’s music festival and contemporary dance festival

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) announces its spring 2015 season, a continuation of the Regent Theatre’s centennial. KST presents a diverse selection of innovative programming from January to June, featuring community events, festivals, dance and theater performances, and Pittsburgh premieres.

“This season is all about keeping stories timeless and presenting unique works that Pittsburgh might not otherwise experience,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST. “As a leading presenter in cutting-edge performances, and as global citizens, we’re thrilled to welcome Malpas Dance Company from Havana, Cuba as part of our World Stage Series. We’re also looking forward to the Pittsburgh premiere of *The Wholehearted* in March. Stein | Holum Projects developed *The Wholehearted* in part during an artist residency at The Alloy Studios in July 2013. They bring great energy to KST and we can’t wait to present this intense theatre piece. The newMOVES Contemporary Dance Festival will also return for its sixth year this May, and will feature a performance by anonymous bodies || art collective co-director Kate Watson-Wallace, a talented experimental choreographer who has performed at KST several times.”

“Audiences have lots of great opportunities to connect with thought-provoking performances and our diverse community this spring. As we continue with our centennial season we look ahead to the future with exceptional programming that showcases KST as an entertainment destination that also contributes to the sustained growth of our neighborhood.”

KST encourages audiences to connect with the theater and community through activities including pre-show mixers, post-performance discussions, dance parties, workshops, and artist lunches.

### SPRING 2015 Events



#### East Liberty Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 6th Annual

*Monday, Jan. 19 :: Noon–4 p.m. at Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

Join us in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as KST presents the sixth annual East Liberty Celebrates MLK day. Open to the community, this event includes family-friendly activities and performances. This year’s theme explores resilience, an aspect that has characterized Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and work in the civil rights movement.



Resilience resonates with KST as we continue our centennial season as the premier center of arts and entertainment in East Liberty. Join us on January 19 as we bury Capsule 15206—KST’s time capsule project—beneath the theater for the next 100 years!

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE



### Malpaso Dance Company

*Friday, Feb. 27 & Saturday, Feb. 28 :: 8 p.m. Curtain 7 p.m. Mixer :: Location TBA*

In partnership with The Joyce Theater in New York, KST proudly presents the U.S. premiere of two new pieces by Cuban dance company **Malpaso**, featuring work by Trey McIntyre and music by Grammy award-winning musician Arturo O’Farrill. Founded in 2013 under the artistic direction of Osnel Delgado, Malpaso ignites the stage as the forefront of contemporary dance in Cuba.

Malpaso is the launch of KST’s **World Stage Fund**, made possible by The Benter Foundation. Contributions to the World Stage Fund guarantee Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s ability to discover and present diverse, challenging, and innovative performers from around the globe.



### SUNSTAR Festival

SUNSTAR is KST’s biennial festival in honor of Women’s History Month. SUNSTAR celebrates the best of women in music with three days of concerts, parties, talks, and more. In addition to concerts and special events, SUNSTAR supports the vibrancy and diversity of independent female artists with workshops for young women who are interested in the creative process of the performing arts.

#### SUNSTAR Day 1 - Thursday, March 12

##### anonymous bodies + RYAT

>> Future-beat maker/composer/producer RYAT collaborates with director and choreographer Kate Watson-Wallace of anonymous bodies || art collective on an interdisciplinary stage show integrating dance, 3D animation, sensor-based interactive mapping, and a live instrumental set.

#### SUNSTAR Day 2 - Friday, March 13

##### Sunstars in the Making

>> Featuring live performances by up-and-coming young women in music.

#### SUNSTAR Day 3 - Saturday, March 14

##### Tribute to Women in Music

>> SUNSTAR: Tribute to Women in Music features dynamic vocalists who own the stage, capture the audience, and deliver the song like no one else. Each vocalist delivers a well-crafted playlist that reflects her own unique life experience. From the highs to the lows there’s a song for it all. Performer details to be announced throughout the spring season.

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE



### *The Wholehearted* - Stein | Holum Projects

*Thursday, March 19 – Saturday, March, 21*

*Thursday, March 26 – Saturday, March 28*

*8 p.m. Curtains, 7 p.m. Mixers :: Location TBA*

Meet Dee Crosby, a world champion boxer taken down in her prime by her own husband. Now, Dee is hell bent on redemption—no matter the cost. Fast-paced and heartbreaking, *The Wholehearted* is theatre with the impact of a prize fight, a ruthless look at violence in sports—and in the name of love. Spectators sit ringside, spellbound by a performance that combines high-octane fight choreography with the tuneful showmanship of Elvis Presley and the live-action camera work of a sporting event. The experience ricochets between intimate live performance and larger-than-life video on Jumbotrons above the stage as Dee’s tale hurtles tragically forward to the rhythms of the American Dream running off the rails.

*The Wholehearted* was developed in part during Stein | Holum Projects’ Creative Community Residency at KST’s Alloy Studios in July 2013.



### Let’s Move! Family Dance Party

*Saturday, April 11 :: 11 a.m.– 2 p.m. at Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

Put on your dancing shoes and bring your family to join the fun. This party has just the right mix for toddlers and their families to get down. Welcome the spring season with kid-friendly music spun by a live DJ, dancing, hands-on art activities, and more.

Let's Move! Dance Parties are part of the KST Family series and are held four times throughout the year. These unique events connect families through dancing, music, and activities in a fun and inviting atmosphere.

## **KST** MOVES

### **newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival**

*Thursday, May 7–Saturday, May 9 :: Various times + venues :: Details TBA online*

Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents a multi-day, multi-venue festival showcasing exciting new work by young choreographers from Pittsburgh and around the country at the 2015 newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival.

newMoves features performances along with special events that connect the festival artists with each other and with our terrific audiences. This year the festival features *Super Nature*, an intimate performance installation by BodyCartography Project.

## **KST** PRESENTS

### **7th Annual Full Bloom Summer Dance Party**

*Saturday, June 6 :: 7 p.m. Spotlight Reception, 8 p.m. Dance Party at Kelly Strayhorn Theater*

Full Bloom Summer Dance Party is KST's annual benefit bash featuring live performances from local and visiting artists, a sampling of the best food and drink from East Liberty, and activities including an interactive photo booth and dance party.

Voted one of the top-10 dance parties by local press, Full Bloom is the party of the summer. Proceeds support East Liberty LIVE!, KST's original summer series that delivers extensive, accessible, and affordable arts programming for children, families, and our friends who live in, work in, and enjoy 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, 350-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.

# # #