



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 JANUARY 28, 2015

## KST announces spring session at The Alloy School, new family-friendly yoga class

### MEDIA CONTACT

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

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) is thrilled to announce **The Alloy School’s spring 2015 session** of dance, acting and yoga classes. Open to the community, the Saturday morning classes are geared toward toddlers, tweens, and families of all levels. The spring session kicks off on **Saturday, January 31** and ends with a student showcase on May 2.

The Alloy School’s curriculum is designed to teach students fundamental skills in a comfortable and engaging atmosphere. The session ends with a special showcase where students can invite friends and family and show what they’ve learned.

A new class this session is Family Yoga, the perfect opportunity to learn and have fun with the whole family. Family Yoga supports all ages by providing variations in intensity levels to accommodate each student.

“The classes we offer at The Alloy School are fun, accessible, and are a great way to engage the whole family,” says Janera Solomon, executive director at KST. “From ballet to acting, we offer a diverse selection of classes in a non-competitive atmosphere. Our experienced instructors are invested in the growth of each student with an emphasis on fun!”

The Alloy School terms last six weeks and each term is \$30, with sessions offered in the spring, summer, and fall each year. Classes are just \$5 per week, \$50 for the entire 12-week session, or \$30 a six-week half session. All classes are held at KST’s Alloy Studios, located on 5530 Penn Avenue.

Visit KST’s [Classes + Workshops](#) page for more information, questions, and to learn more about teachers at The Alloy School.

### ALLOY SCHOOL SPRING 2015 SCHEDULE

**Saturdays, January 31st–May 2nd | No classes April 4th | Showing on May 2nd**

#### **Pre-Ballet (3–5 yrs) :: 9:00 – 9:45 AM**

Using the foundations of ballet such as alignment, musicality, and strength, the instructor guides children through basic ballet vocabulary and technique.

Introduction to Ballet (5–7 yrs) Reinforcing the basic concepts from pre-ballet, Introduction to Bal-



let progresses gradually to ensure students develop muscles correctly as they transition to barre and center exercises. Moving in time with the music and memorization of ballet terminology is increasingly important.

### **Creative Movement (3–5 yrs) :: 10:00 – 10:45 AM**

Encourage your little one's creativity through movement and personal expression with this class that explores making shapes, telling stories, and playing games with music, body, and dance.

Hip Hop (8–12 yrs) This upbeat class combines basic hip-hop and jazz technique and choreography. In this fast-paced and fun class, students will develop coordination, rhythm, flexibility, and self-expression.

### **Contemporary Movement (8–12 yrs) :: 11:00 – 11:45 AM**

A fusion of jazz, modern, and hip hop dance. Students will discover a range of movement that is intended to nurture the young artist within them.

### **Pre-Ballet (3–5 yrs) :: 11:00 – 11:45 AM**

Using the foundations of ballet such as alignment, musicality, and strength, the instructor guides children through basic ballet vocabulary and technique

### **Family Yoga (all ages) :: 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

Bring the entire family and practice yoga together! This class offers an opportunity to cultivate emotional and physical bonding while learning postures for the whole family. Family Yoga supports all ages by providing variations in intensity levels to accommodate each student.

### **Acting (8–12 yrs) :: 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

This class is designed to build self-confidence and develop creativity in a fun, supportive environment. Students will build valuable interpersonal and acting skills including active listening, cooperation, spontaneity, physical awareness, characterization, and fundamentals of scene work through improv games and theatrical exercises.

## **2015 Alloy School Instructors**

**Jessica Brown** is passionate about teaching children the beauty and freedom in dance expression. She began dancing at Schenley High School and later obtained her Master's degree in Education. She has danced with Mount Ararat Dance Ensemble, Destiny and Commission Church of Pittsburgh. Jessica has choreographed for Langley High School and Hillcrest. She has also taught African dance at the Kingsley Center and Langley Middle School for Umojaa Arts.

**Mario Quinn Lyles** is from Buffalo, NY and has taught hip hop for the last five years at various studios, including Pittsburgh Heat, Evolve Dance Complex and Shape Fitness Center. He has performed at local events such as Pittsburgh's Light Up Night in 2012 and Electro Dash 5K in 2014. He also choreographed and performed in the local band City Love Story's music video production "Adalaide," which was featured on KDKA in early 2014. Currently he is a hip hop educator and mentor at Hip Hop On L.O.C.K, as well as founder/art director and choreographer at Level Up Dance Studio in Pittsburgh.

**Alexandra Bodnarchuk** is a freelance dance artist based in Pittsburgh who is active as a dancer, choreographer, arts administrator and teacher. In May 2014 her work, CONNOTATIONS: unknown, premiered to sold out audiences at PearlArts Studios in Pittsburgh. Excerpts of this work have been presented city-wide at RAW:natural born artists and the newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival as well as in the HATCH Presenting Series (NYC) and American Dance Festival (Durham, NC).

**Tiffany Williams** attended the Creative and Performing Arts High School (CAPA) and was trained in ballet, the Horton technique, jazz, and other forms of modern dance. During her time at CAPA, she was a member of Pittsburgh's Black Dance Ensemble where she performed the company's repertoire in various cities. In 2007, she trained with world-renowned teachers at the Alvin Ailey summer intensive. Tiffany received her BFA in Dance at Temple University in 2013. She is the recipient of the "Rose Vernick Choreographic Achievement Award" for her choreography "Just Keep Moving."

### **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