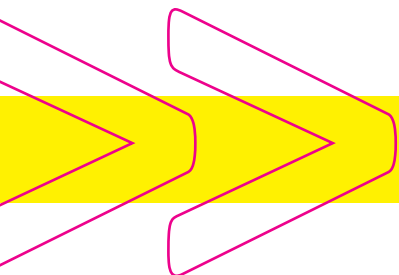




Kelly Strayhorn Theater  
 5941 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206  
 t 412.363.3000 :: f 412.363.3416  
 kelly-strayhorn.org

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



## NEWS RELEASE JUNE 20, 2014

### KST PRESENTS: NYC Choreographer Dean Moss's residency showing reflects on radical abolitionist.

#### MEDIA CONTACT

#### Paula Simon

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



Dean Moss 1964-66, unknown photographer  
 Copyright 2012 Gametophyte, Inc.



Dean Moss by Tim Trumble

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is proud to present **Dean Moss/Gametophyte Inc.'s** residency showing of *johnbrown* on Friday, June 27, 8 p.m. at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Admission is Pay-What-You-Can.

*johnbrown* reflects on the legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup> century white abolitionist John Brown. Utilizing dance, visual art, theater, and video projections, the interdisciplinary performance piece is a look into the generational processes at play of the radical abolitionist's controversial legacy.

An ardent abolitionist during the late 1800s, John Brown believed in using violence as a means to abolish slavery. A martyr of the antislavery movement, he is most known for his raid on Harpers Ferry. Deeply inspired by the history of John Brown's history and actions, choreographer, and visual artist Dean Moss utilizes an impassioned interview of his father on the elder's civil rights experience, framed by the assistance of local youth, to draw contemporary parallels in *johnbrown*.

During his residency, Moss works closely with five Pittsburgh teenagers, onstage and off, in production, tech, video, and performance. The teens' involvement in the piece helps to open a dialogue about how generations reflect on historical figures and the processes at hand over time.

"As incubators for innovative and challenging projects, we're happy to support new works from artists such as Dean Moss," says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST.

Dean Moss founded Gametophyte Inc. in 2002. A dance-based multidisciplinary theater and media artist, curator, and lecturer, his current work explores perceptions of the self and other through a transcultural lens. Largely employing audience participation and artist collaboration for *johnbrown*, Moss often works with other artists, such as performance and visual consultant Laylah Ali. Known for her meticulously crafted gouache paintings, she collaborated with Moss in 2005 for *figures on a field*, based off a series of Ali's paintings. This time, Ali's role focuses on consulting the artistic direction of *johnbrown*.

*johnbrown* premieres this October at The Kitchen in NYC, marking, to the day, the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Brown's historic raid on Harpers Ferry, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment—America's abolishment of slavery.

In addition to the residency showing, a free **Artist Lunch** and discussion will be held on Wednesday, June 25 from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15206. To RSVP email [interns@kelly-strayhorn.org](mailto:interns@kelly-strayhorn.org) or call 412-363-3000.



## 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.

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.

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