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International, Emerging Artists and Pittsburgh Premieres Highlight Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s Fall 2014 Season with 13 Exciting Dance, Theater, and Film Events

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New Season Reflects Back With Regent Theatre Centennial

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) kicks off its seventh season of dance, theater, film, and celebrations with internationally renowned and local artists. This season the theater takes a look back in time with the centennial anniversary of the space that KST calls home — the historic Regent Theatre. An entertainment destination since 1914, the Regent building continues to deliver extraordinary arts experiences to the East End community.

“Through all the changes and redevelopment East Liberty has endured this venue has always been a hub for quality entertainment and the community to get together,” says Janera Solomon, KST executive director. “We strive to present local and international artists that give our audiences unexpected and unique experiences.”

Lori Moran, vice president of the East Liberty Chamber of Commerce, is excited about the building’s future. “The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, mirroring East Liberty’s dogged resilience, offers theatre attendees a wide array of entertainment and remains a pillar of the community,” says Moran. “Janera Solomon has transformed a diamond in the rough to a polished and spectacular jewel, bringing dance, drama and laughter back to East Liberty’s center stage. Spectacular venue, entertainment for all.”

Reverend Randall K. Bush, senior pastor of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, is a close neighbor and friend of KST. He reflects, “In the late 1980s, strong interest existed in bringing a community theater to life in the old Regent Theatre building. Early fundraising efforts were encouraging, but by 1996, this initial plan failed and the theater doors were locked. Working closely with East Liberty Development, Inc., the congregation of East Liberty Presbyterian Church signed on as an anchor tenant for what would become the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. The church made this commitment to the theater as one way to revitalize the East Liberty neighborhood and to encourage community talent to be showcased in a vibrant urban performance space. It is with great joy and pride that East Liberty Presbyterian Church gazes across the street to see the transformed Regent Theatre once again strengthening our shared neighborhood and showcasing the talent of our community through the active programming of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater.”

This season, KST celebrates and honors 100 incredible years of the historic Regent Theatre building.

In addition to celebrating the centennial, KST presents three Pittsburgh premieres, including the legendary dance icon Carmen de Lavallade, international dance artist Hind Benali, and local favorite TanzTheater André Koslowski.

KST encourages active audience engagement through activities including pre-show mixers, post-performance discussions, dance parties, workshops, and artist lunches.



A historic postcard shows the Regent Theatre would it appeared in the early 20th century.



KST PRESENTS FALL 2014 Events

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

As I Remember It - Carmen de Lavallade

Friday, September 13 & Saturday, September 14 :: 8 p.m. at KST



Legendary dancer, choreographer, and actress **Carmen de Lavallade** graces the KST stage for this unforgettable performance of her new work **As I Remember It**. De Lavallade, who made her Broadway debut in 1954 and danced as a prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera, blends dance, film and first-hand accounts to reflect on her personal history, spanning more than six decades.

The presentation of As I Remember It was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

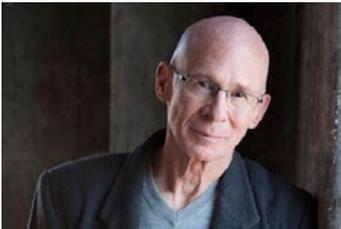
This engagement of Carmen de Lavallade is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Fresh Works @ The Alloy Studios

Fresh Works is KST's creative learning program for Pittsburgh-based artists. The program provides artists with production support, lighting, and sound design, and 80 hours at The Alloy Studios to research, explore, play, and finally share a work-in-progress performance. Fresh Works debuted in 2013 and, so far, this residency incubator has benefited seven lead artists.

Fresh Works - Mark Conway Thompson

Friday, September 19 :: 8 p.m. at The Alloy Studios



Mark Conway Thompson has performed in Europe, South America, and throughout the U.S., including several shows with Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh. In addition to dance, Mark has performed as a mime at Smithsonian Institute and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and as an actor in shows including *Cinderella*, *King Lear*, and *A Soldier's Tale*, among others. He has also appeared in numerous television shows and film including *True Detective* and *Stuck With Each Other*.

Fresh Works - Anthony Williams

Friday, October 17 :: 8 p.m. at The Alloy Studios



Anthony Williams is a resident teaching artist at Kelly Strayhorn Theater who recently presented his work *Identity* at KST's newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival 2013. He has performed with Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and Ballet Chicago. Anthony has studied with a range of master teachers and choreographers including Terrence Greene, Nathan Trice, Ray Mercer, Christopher Huggins, and former KST artists-in-residence Sidra Bell and 2013 MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham. Anthony continues his journey in Pittsburgh as a freelance dance artist.

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

IDENTITY - Hind Benali/Fleur D'Orange

Thursday, October 9 & Friday, October 10 :: 8 p.m. at The Alloy Studios



In this new piece, Casablanca-based choreographer and dancer **Hind Benali** explores her personal past and African roots while addressing the culture, history, and gender politics of Morocco. Rich in images and movement, Benali's performance reflects the complexities of Moroccan life. This performance is accompanied by a live-recorded soundscape, featuring hip-hop artist Surfjan and live composer Mousin.

Part of KST's World Stage international performance series.

The presentation of Fleur D'Orange is part of Center Stage, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and the Asian Cultural Council. General Management for Center Stage is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.





The Regent Theatre's Centennial Birthday

Community Day :: Saturday, October 11 :: Time TBD
Reception :: Thursday, October 16 :: Time TBD

A great neighborhood deserves a great theater. Join the community in celebrating 100 fabulous years of the **Regent Theatre**, the building that KST calls home. From 1914 to today, this building has served as a neighborhood destination for social and cultural experiences unlike any other in the region.



Groove Aesthetic: Winds of the Sahel with music composed by Joe Sheehan

Friday, October 24 :: 8 p.m. at The Alloy Studios

Keyboardist and composer **Joe Sheehan** joins classically trained lyric soprano and jazz vocalist **Anqwenique Wingfield** for **Winds of the Sahel** — an evening of dancing, instrumental, hip-hop, classical, African, and folk music. Part of the ongoing Groove Aesthetic series.



Halloween Mayhem

Saturday, October 25 :: Noon–4 p.m. at KST

Zombies, a costume parade, puppets, live performances, games and more fill Kelly Strayhorn Theater for the sixth annual **Halloween Mayhem**, a spooky day of activities designed to delight and entertain the whole family.



My People Film Series

Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25 :: 7:30 p.m. at The Alloy Studios

Now in its sixth season, this film series explores the lives and experiences of LGBTQ people of color with award-winning films, performances, and discussion. Inspired by Billy Strayhorn's life, **My People** connects the rich history and contributions made by generations of LGBTQ people of color.



PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

Wiegenlied - TanzTheater André Koslowski

Friday, November 7 & Saturday, November 8 :: 8 p.m. at KST

TanzTheater André Koslowski, formerly Pennsylvania Dance Theatre, reworked **Wiegenlied** during their June 2014 residency at The Alloy Studios and now return for a full presentation of this dynamic and haunting performance.

Wiegenlied, German for lullaby, takes place in a damaged landscape occupied by dead trees and trash. The dancers perform solo, often with their eyes closed, like lonely people dancing to comfort or calm themselves. This atmospheric piece is set to a traditional Welsh lullaby, arranged by American composer and conductor Efrain Amaya.

Trans*Voices

Friday, November 21 & Saturday, November 22 :: TBD at KST

Presented in partnership with Garden of Peace Project, Trans*Voices of Pittsburgh N' Beyond provides a safe space for the often-silenced trans community to share their experiences. **Trans*Voices** showcases original monologues from national and local artists in the Pittsburgh community. In addition, Garden of Peace Project has invited eight leaders in the trans community to perform original monologues.



7th Annual Suite Life: A Billy Strayhorn Birthday Bash

Saturday, November 29 :: 8 p.m. at KST

Join us in recognizing internationally acclaimed pianist, composer and Pittsburgh-native, **Billy Strayhorn**. During more than 30-years of collaboration with Duke Ellington, Strayhorn wrote such great tunes as **Take the A Train** and **Lush Life**. Join us for a fantastic concert and birthday cake for all.



Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 13 :: TBD at KST

Celebrate the holiday season with KST at the **Holiday Bazaar** — a perfect place to find treats for family, friends and co-workers who've been on the nice list all year. KST is proud to partner with local artisans to offer delicious baked goods, handcrafted jewelry, and one-of-a-kind gifts.





Lost in Language and Sound - Ntozake Shange

Date/time TBD, at The Alloy Studios

Award-winning poet, playwright, and novelist **Ntozake Shange** presents a work-in-progress showing of **Lost in Language and Sound**. A multidisciplinary performance piece, Shange's new work mixes music, dance, and spoken word to bring her riveting memoir to life. Shange is most known for her Tony Award-nominated show **for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf**.

Lost in Language and Sound is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by 651 ARTS in partnership with Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and NPN. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). The Forth Fund is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information visit www.npnweb.org.

SPRING 2015 SNEAK PEAK

East Liberty Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday January 19 :: Noon-4 p.m.

KST presents the sixth annual East Liberty Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Free and open to the public, the daylong celebration includes activity tables with partner organizations that work toward social justice in our community, as well as on-stage performances.

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

Soundtrack '63

Friday, January 25 & Saturday, January 26 :: Times TBD

The MLK celebration continues with *Soundtrack '63*. An interactive documentary accompanied by live music and a multimedia video installation, *Soundtrack '63* focuses on critical events of the civil rights movement, specifically those that occurred in 1963.

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

The Wholehearted - Stein | Holum Projects

Thursday, March 19-Saturday, March, 21; Thursday, March 26-Saturday, March 28 :: Times TBD

In the summer of 2013, Stein | Holum Projects spent a week in residence at The Alloy Studios developing *The Wholehearted*, which had its world premiere at ArtsEmerson in April 2014. This spring the company returns to remount the complete show on the mainstage at KST.

Utilizing the forces of text, song and physicality, *The Wholehearted* dives into a narrative fraught with the violence of love, the sexuality of sports, and the truth behind the stories we tell ourselves. Collaborative partners and Drama Desk nominees Deborah Stein and Suli Holum tackle the story of a fictive female boxer based on the biographies of iconic women in athletic history. Unlike any solo theatrical experience, Stein and Holum deliver a unique multimedia feast, questioning the line between personal fantasy and factual reality.

6th Annual newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival

Thursday, May 7-Saturday, May 9 :: Times TBD

The Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents three nights of exciting new work by young choreographers from Pittsburgh and around the country. Each evening is a medley of four to five short works presented in one exciting program. Come enjoy dance and a vibrant audience that knows how to have fun!

Past festivals have featured anonymous bodies, August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project, BLOOM! Dance Collective, Gia T. Cacalano, Marjani Forte, Jasmine Hearn, idiosyncrazy Productions, Jaamil Kosoko, André Koslowski, Simone Sobers, and STAYCEE PEARL dance project.

PITTSBURGH PREMIERE

Super Nature - Bodycartography Project

Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9 :: Times TBD

In this visceral performance installation, the artists of Bodycartography "engage the wild, the domestic, and the civilized aspects of human nature to create a radical ecological melodrama."



Directors Olive Bieringa and Otto Ramstad, joined by Bessie award-winning composer Zeena Parksin and visual artist Emmett Ramstad, explore empathy in this unique one-on-one show that takes place in an empty gallery space.

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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