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### KST presents Cuban contemporary dance company — two Pittsburgh premieres, noteworthy collaborations

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- **Two chances to see brand new works**
- **Collaborations with world-renowned artists**
- **Master class with Malpaso, pre-show mixers, and post-show discussion**

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) is proud to present the premiere of two new works by Havana's **Malpaso Dance Company** on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28 at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater.

"As U.S. and Cuba relations resume, Malpaso is a great opportunity to bridge gaps in cultural understanding through art and audience engagement," says Janera Solomon, KST executive director. "We're looking forward to creating more great opportunities like this to cultivate diversity through art in our community."

Malpaso was founded by Osnel Delgado, Fernando Saéz, and Dailelys Carrazana Gonzalez in 2012. The company's core artistic vision is led by artistic director and resident repertory choreographer Osnel Delgado, who has received major Cuban awards including the Premio a Mejor Coreografía del Concurso Solamente Solos (Award for Best Solo Choreography), and a Special Mention award at the VII Iberomericán "Alicia Alonso" Choreography competition in Madrid. His work expresses the passion and uncertainties that define Cuban life and are embodied in the country's rich dance tradition.

Both nights at Kelly Strayhorn Theater Malpaso performs two new original works — each created with a noteworthy collaborator. The first, *Despedida* ("farewell"), was choreographed by Delgado and features an original score by Grammy-award winning musician **Arturo O'Farrill**. The second and currently untitled work is the creation of the prolific American choreographer **Trey McIntyre**, commissioned by The Joyce Theater and Jacob's Pillow.

McIntyre has produced close to 100 dance pieces during his career so far, including works for Stuttgart Ballet, Moscow Ballet Theater, Ballet de Santiago (Chile), and Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet. In 2005, he founded his dance company, Trey McIntyre Project. McIntyre is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Choo San Goh Award for Choreography and a Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Society of Arts and Letters. McIntyre's works have been performed by companies such as Stuttgart Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and The Washington Ballet.

Arturo O'Farrill is a jazz musician and pianist, composer, and director at the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. A recognized composer and player, Mr. O'Farrill has received a Grammy Award and two Grammy nominations for his work in Latin jazz. The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra has performed at the Kennedy Center for



Photo courtesy of Malpaso Dance Company



the Performing Arts, the Newport Jazz Festival, The Joyce Theater, Megaron Concert Hall in Greece, Kan-nai Hall in Japan, the Taichung Jazz Festival in Taiwan.

Following their critically-acclaimed international debut at The Joyce Theater in 2014, Malpaso ignites the stage as the forefront of Cuban contemporary dance. Currently, the company boasts 10 members, including former members of Danza Contemporánea de Cuba.

**In addition to these high-profile performances, Kelly Strayhorn Theater will host a master class and artist lunch on Wednesday, February 25 and a post-show discussion on Friday, February 27.**

*The presentation is part of the KST's World Stage Series, an initiative supporting international arts programming in Pittsburgh's East End.*

*KST's presentation of Malpaso is also made possible in part by support from The Benter Foundation.*

## Event Details

**Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28, 2015**

8 PM Curtain | 7 PM Pre-show Mixer each night

Post-show discussion Friday night

Artist/Students - \$15

15206 Resident - \$20

Gen. Admission - \$25

Groups of 10+ call for group rate

Tickets available via [kelly-strayhorn.org](http://kelly-strayhorn.org) and by calling 412-363-3000 x 318

Box office opens 7 p.m. day of performances

## Additional Events

**Master Class with Malpaso**

Wednesday, February 25 | 10–11:30 a.m. The Alloy Studios :: \$5 at the door

All levels of dancers are invited to join the company for a fun, challenging master class. An artist lunch follows at 11:30 a.m., free to all class participants. Register via [kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops/](http://kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops/)

**Student Matinee**

Friday, February 27 | 10 a.m. Kelly Strayhorn Theater

Contact Desiree Lee, education and community outreach manager at 412-363-3000 x 315

## 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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