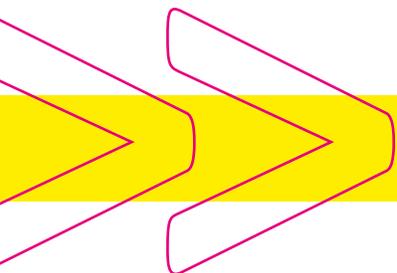




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PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 24, 2014

KST Presents Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project in “Beautiful Struggle”

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Kelly Strayhorn Theater is excited to present former artists-in-residence Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project for the Pittsburgh premiere of *Beautiful Struggle*. They developed the show during a creative residency at KST in 2011. The show, which begins at 8 p.m. on February 21–22, tackles the challenge of sparking an accessible discussion about race.

Beautiful Struggle ponders the visibility and invisibility of race and privilege and how violence and love live on in the body’s memories. A mixture of dance styles from African, to hip hop, to contemporary permeate the work, making possible a vast range of bold, daring, and visceral movement that will keep any audience second-guessing.

“This is a provocative work that will spark conversation and, perhaps, new ways to talk about race,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST.

Cofounders Esther Baker-Tarpaga and her husband Olivier Tarpaga, originally from Burkina Faso, are ethnochoreographers who explore and investigate “the beauty and dissonance of the human condition” through dance and theater. Esther used her research of African forms in dance as inspiration for the creation of *Beautiful Struggle*.

In a KST interview with co-creator Baker-Tarpaga about the inspiration behind the show, she said, “The burden is often placed on African Americans to educate white folks [about race]. I don’t want that.”

Instead, the interracial husband and wife duo, along with their team of multi-racial dancers, tackle the burden together through a highly physical dance work that incorporates live energetic African instrumentation, recorded electronic music, spoken word, and performance art.

Advance tickets can be purchased online at kelly-strayhorn.org/events/baker-and-tarpaga-dance-project-beautiful-struggle/ (\$15 Artists/Students; \$20 15206; \$25 General).

Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project
Beautiful Struggle
 Friday and Saturday
 February 21–22, 2014, 8 PM
 Kelly Strayhorn Theater
 5941 Penn Avenue

Tickets
 \$15 Artists/Students
 \$20 15206 Residents
 \$25 Gen. Admission

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE
SPRING 2014 PRESS PHOTO GALLERY
 ONLINE AT KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG



Photo by Nick Fancher

Moving Against Racism in the Arts

As a companion to Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project’s *Beautiful Struggle*, KST and Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council’s Pittsburgh Coalition for Racial Equality in the Arts are teaming up with Baker & Tarpaga Dance



Project and WWHAT's UP Pittsburgh (Whites Working and Hoping to Abolish Total Supremacy, Undermining Privilege) to present a workshop titled Moving Against Racism in the Arts. The free workshop will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, at The Alloy Studios at 5530 Penn Ave.

Participants will be encouraged to examine the (in)visibility of race and privilege and how violence and love live on in the fabric of our arts organizations and ourselves. Forgoing the panel discussion model, the workshop will revolve around a candid community conversation with movement, writing, and small group sharing to set participants in motion to listen, learn, and lead. The workshop is specifically designed for artists, arts administrators, and patrons of the arts who are interested in working together to create positive change for all. Lunch will be provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. Due to space restrictions, this event is limited to 70 participants. Registration is required at online at kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops/moving-racism-in-the-arts/.

Master Class with Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project

Professional and pre-professional dancers who crave a challenge are invited to the Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project Master Class at The Alloy School on February 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Registration is \$5 at the door.

ABOUT BAKER & TARPAGA DANCE PROJECT

Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project was founded in 2004 by Esther Baker-Tarpaga and Olivier Tarpaga. Creating a rich blend of live music and physical images making, Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project is a transnational dance theatre project based in Columbus, Ohio, and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Drawing from Africanist and postmodernist aesthetics, BTDP integrates choreography, spoken word, and live music soundscapes. BTDP are embodied border crossing ethnochoreographers investigating the beauty and dissonance of the human condition.

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, professional 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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