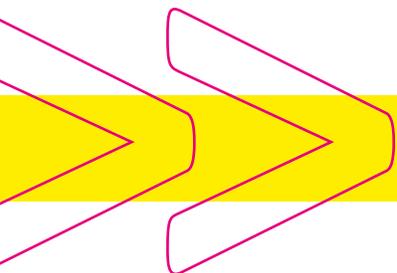




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NEWS RELEASE OCTOBER 29, 2014

KST Presents Sixth Season of My People Film Series, Connects Strayhorn Legacy to LGBTQIA People of Color

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Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents the sixth annual **My People: A Film Series in Color**, a three-part film series highlighting the lives and experiences of LGBTQIA people of color. The series features films, discussions, and performances on Tuesdays through November, and kicks off with a social at **8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4 at The Alloy Studios.**

My People is inspired by Billy Strayhorn's life. A Homewood-native, Strayhorn is considered one of the greatest jazz composers of all time. He studied music at an early age and collaborated with Duke Ellington on hit songs such as *Take the 'A' Train* and *Lush Life*. Strayhorn also identified as an openly gay, black man during a time when it was incredibly difficult, even in the arts. The film series, which began in 2009, connects Strayhorn's legacy with the rich history and contributions made by generations of LGBTQIA people of color.

The film series, programmed by KST Associate Producer Duane Binion and Public Allies Fellow/Programming Assistant Ryan Ricarte, aims to serve as an intimate forum on the resources and allies LGBTQIA individuals have in Pittsburgh, as well as build the visibility of the underrepresented LGBTQIA people of color community in Pittsburgh through continuous media and community conversations.

"My People is important to KST because it is one way we create inclusive environments for people to get together and create community conversations," says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST.

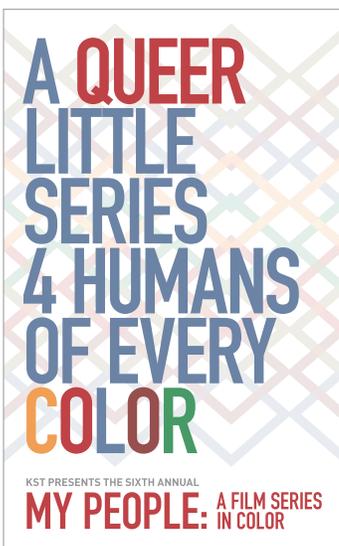
This year, My People showcases films that center on an all-too-familiar theme for queer audiences: disconnect. In feature and short films, as well as a web-series, patrons experience narratives pervaded by exclusion — from the norm, one's body, and one's community — and its influence on identity, relationships, and self-discovery.

MY PEOPLE SCHEDULE

- All activities are held at the Alloy Studios and begin at 8:00 p.m.
- Doors open for pre-show mixers with complimentary wine and refreshments at 7:30 p.m.
- Post-screening conversations facilitated nightly

November 4 :: My People Social

As a friend and partner in the Pittsburgh LGBTQIA community, KST invites you mingle with other affiliates and join our conversation about the history and future hopes of Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA community of color. Join KST for a catered evening of discussion, a preview of the films and



performances slated for My People, as well as an opportunity to learn about the many resources and organizations available for LGBTQIA Pittsburghers.

November 11 :: Feature Film Night

***Out in the Night* :: 75 min / 2014 / Directed by Blair Dorosh-Walther**

Under the neon lights in a gay-friendly neighborhood of New York City, four young African-American lesbians are violently and sexually threatened by a man on the street. They defend themselves against him and are charged and convicted in the courts and in the media as a "Gang of Killer Lesbians".

November 18 :: Short Films Night

***Hector: Lost Souls with Switchblades* :: 15 min / 2012 / Directed by Jeff Compton**

Modern day hooligans who style themselves as a retro 50's gang bully a gender-bending loner who shows up at their bar.

***Barrio Boy* :: 8 min / 2013 / Directed by Dennis Shinnors**

A Latino barber secretly falls in love with a handsome Irish stranger over the course of a haircut during a hot and sweater summer afternoon in a macho Brooklyn hood.

November 25 :: Web Series and Performance

***No Shade: Pilot* :: 22 min / 2013 / Directed by Sean Anthony Special guest: Michael David Battle from Garden of Peace Project**

A dramedy about four flamboyant friends on a journey to success, love and evolution. This humorous New York City-based show touches on religion, disabilities, sex work, transgender issues and safe sex, and even features a colorful homage to the ballroom community.

Followed by an exhilarating ballroom performance by **True T Entertainment**, a local ballroom and community health group.

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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