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### TanzTheater André Koslowski returns to KST for Pittsburgh premiere of “A Cantankerous Wiegenlied”

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**TanzTheater André Koslowski** returns to Kelly Strayhorn Theater for the Pittsburgh premiere of “A Cantankerous Wiegenlied” on Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8 at 8 p.m.

“A Cantankerous Wiegenlied” is a new dance theatre work built on TanzTheater André Koslowski’s 2013 project simply titled “Wiegenlied.” The company (formerly known as Pennsylvania Dance Theatre) reworked “Wiegenlied” during a KST residency with Swiss dance-maker Leonie Stein this past June at The Alloy Studios.

TanzTheater artistic director André Koslowski is no stranger to the KST stage. Koslowski performed at KST during the newMoves Contemporary Dance Festival in 2013 and 2012, and in 2011 performed the evening-length work “Por La Blanda Arena” at KST with Pennsylvania Dance Theatre.

True to Koslowski and PDT’s reputation, “A Cantankerous Wiegenlied” is dark and intense, but with a wicked sense of humor. Performers dance in isolation among a destroyed landscape, littered with trash and dead trees. As they attempt and fail to communicate, they seek their own survival strategies; all while a bystander tries to comprehend.

Artistic director André Koslowski looks forward to the new setting of the KST stage. “Seeing a piece in an informal studio showing and fully produced on a proscenium stage are two very different things,” he says. “The studio has a certain intimacy that the stage doesn’t have. The stage allows [the audience] to see things as a whole and from a certain distance. Not removing you, but giving you a broader perspective.”

Koslowski is joined onstage by performers Jennifer Keller, Maira Duarte, Tina Konrath, and Kimberly Clay — all framed by the work of set designer Susana Amudarain, costume designer Naoko Nagata, lighting designer Scott Nelson, and music director Efraín Amaya.

“‘Wiegenlied’ was a big hit in Pittsburgh during the company’s residency showing at The Alloy Studios,” says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST. “We’re looking forward to welcoming them back to KST this November. This thought-provoking work creates a unique connection between the audience and performers.”

Join us for a pre-show party, hosted by **LOCALpittsburgh**, at Kelly Strayhorn Theater before Friday’s performance at 7 p.m.



André Koslowski  
Photo © Vanessa Briceno



## Repertory Workshop with TanzTheater André Koslowski

**Thursday, November 6 :: 10–11:30 a.m. @ The Alloy Studios :: \$5**

The Repertory Workshop offers performers a chance to experience physically the work of TanzTheater André Koslowski. How do we approach set material without losing our own voice in the structure, but instead learn how to enhance that voice and command the space with a sense of self?

An artist lunch follows at 11:30 a.m., free to all participants.

To register, visit [kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops](http://kelly-strayhorn.org/classes-workshops).

## 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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