

KST PRESENTS

LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

A SCREENING & CONVERSATION

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021
7:00PM**

ABOUT KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a non-profit community performing arts center in East Liberty, advancing live art through strategic vision and community collaboration with two venues running along Penn Avenue, KST's Alloy Studios and the historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater. More than 20 years after its founding, KST continues to use its broad reach to impact the contemporary arts and the community.

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LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

A SCREENING & CONVERSATION

WITH KYLE ABRAHAM, BRIAN BROOME, AKASHA L. VAN CARTIER, STAYCEE PEARL, AND SARAH HUNY YOUNG



ABOUT THE FILM

Set to a tender soundtrack, the film was created by **Kyle Abraham** in collaboration with the dancers of his contemporary dance company **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** and filmmaker **Dehanza Rogers**. The 30-minute piece features performances from **Abraham, Tamisha A. Guy, Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Claude "CJ" Johnson, Catherine Kirk, Jae Neal, Donovan Reed, and Gianna Theodore**.

ABOUT THE DISCUSSION

The film screening is followed by a panel discussion with **Kyle Abraham** and Pittsburgh based artists including **Brian Broome, Akasha L. Van Cartier, Staycee Pearl, and Sarah Huny Young**. Centered around queer relationships in Pittsburgh, the conversation will explore self love, Black love and the multiplicity of ways love is exchanged between queer folk and across race.

ABOUT MY PEOPLE FESTIVAL

Created in honor of Out, Queer, and Black namesake **Billy Strayhorn**, *My People* is Kelly Strayhorn Theater's annual festival featuring Queer and Trans Artists of Color that began as a film series and lives on as a multi-disciplinary, multi-event festival. For 2021 the program will be co-presented with **Pittsburgh Dance Council** and will center the work of Black, Queer, Pittsburgh native and MacArthur Genius Award Winning Choreographer, **Kyle Abraham**.

ABOUT KYLE ABRAHAM

Kyle Abraham (Artistic Director, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham) and his choreography have been featured in O Magazine, Ebony, Vogue, Kinfolk, Document Journal, and several other publications. He is the proud recipient of a 2016 Doris Duke Award, 2012 United States Fellowship, several coveted Princess Grace awards including the 2018 Statue Award and in 2013, he was named MacArthur Fellow.

Over the past several years, Abraham has been commissioned by a variety of dance companies, including The Royal Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, New York City Ballet (NYCB), Paul Taylor American Modern Dance (PTAMD), and National Ballet of Cuba, among others. Highlights include Abraham's collaborations with NYCB—When We Fell, which The New York Times reviewed as “among the most beautiful dance films of the pandemic” and The Runaway, which was recognized as one of the “Best Dance(s) of 2018.” Abraham also created Only the Lonely in 2019 for PTAMD, being selected as the final choreographer Paul Taylor commissioned before his passing. Additionally, Abraham has been commissioned by Fall for Dance Festival, premiering to be seen, a solo for American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Calvin Royal III in 2020 and Ash, a solo work for American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Misty Copeland in 2019.

The University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance named Abraham to the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professorship in Dance starting Fall 2021. He is the Artistic Director of A.I.M, the internationally acclaimed New York-based dance company.

In 2011, OUT Magazine labeled him as the “best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama”.

For more information please visit:
<http://aimbykyleabraham.org>.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Brian Broome's debut memoir, *Punch Me Up to the Gods*, was an NYT Editor's Pick and a finalist for the 2021 Kirkus prize. His work has appeared in The Washington Post, Poets and Writers, Medium, and more. Brian was a K. Leroy Irvis Fellow and an instructor in the Writing Program at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been a finalist in The Moth storytelling competition and won the grand prize in Carnegie Mellon University's Martin Luther King Writing Awards. He also won a VANN Award from the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation for journalism in 2019. His film, *Garbage*, won the Audience Choice Award at the Cortada Short Film Festival and was a semi-finalist in the Portland Short Fest.

Akasha L. Van Cartier, Pittsburgh's foremost Drag Queen has been entertaining audiences for 21 years. She first started raising money performing in benefit events. Akasha has also competed and performed nationally, gaining experience, recognition, and starting Drag Queen Story Hour with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Akasha did a three episode series of virtual Drag Queen Story Time episodes with KST for the Fall 2020 season. You can now see Akasha throughout the tri-state area, reading to children and raising money for the Humane Animal Rescue League. Find Akasha on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Venmo or Cashapp @lastladyofpgh.

Staycee Pearl is the co-artistic director of PearlArts and STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos, where she creates artful experiences through dance-centered multimedia works in collaboration with her husband and artistic collaborator, Herman Pearl. Staycee received her initial dance training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. In 2009, STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos (SPdp&SS) debuted at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Since then the duo has produced several works including ..on being..., OCTAVIA, and FLOWERZ, and are currently working on their National Dance Project supported CIRCLES. Staycee is passionate about sharing resources and creating opportunities for the arts community by initiating project-generating programs including the Charrette Series, the In The Studio Series, and the PearlDiving Movement Residency.

sarah huny young is an award-winning creative director and visual artist primarily documenting and exalting Black womanhood and queer communities through portraiture and video. Framing her subjects as collaborators, she often shoots on-location across the country in personal, intimate spaces of the subject's choosing. Her work has been featured in Pittsburgh City Paper, New York Magazine, and The New York Times. huny received the Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh grant in 2016 and 2020 to execute AMERICAN WOMAN, a portrait and documentary series about Black American women, and was named one of the most influential African-Americans of 2017 by The Root ("The Root 100"); "Who's Next in Art" 2018 by The Incline; and one of "12 People to Meet in Pittsburgh 2018" by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She is also the 2020 recipient of a "Best in Pittsburgh" award, via Pittsburgh City Paper, for co-founding the Pittsburgh Artists Emergency Fund to assist gig workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, huny owns and operates creative agency Supreme Clientele, is a 2021 Sibyls Shrine resident artist and a "Marking this Moment: Pittsburgh Artists in 2020" Fellow via Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and a member of Diversify Photo and Black Women Photographers.

MY PEOPLE 2021



GET UR SPADES ON

AN IMMERSIVE CARD PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Thursday, November 11
7:00pm - 10:00pm

KST's Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Ave
Free!



COMMUNITY CLASS

WITH KYLE ABRAHAM
PRESENTED BY PEARLARTS

Friday, November 12
10:00am - 12:00pm

KST's Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Ave
Pay What Makes You Happy
Proof of Vaccine + Masks Required

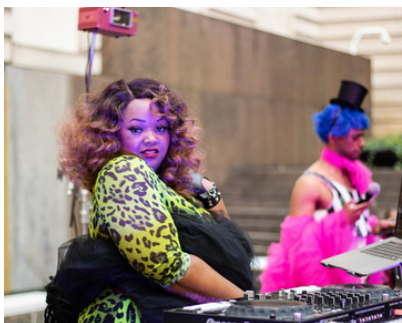


BLACK, QUEER & HERE

CURATED BY SARAH HUNY YOUNG

Friday, November 12
7:00pm

KST's Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Ave
Pay What Makes You Happy



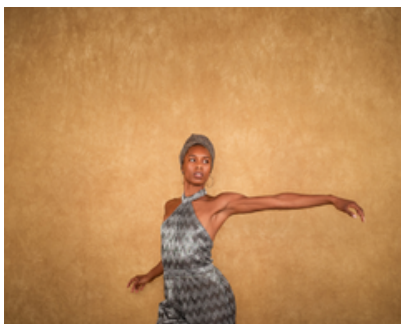
AN UNTITLED LOVE

A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
PITTSBURGH DANCE COUNCIL

Saturday, November 13
8:00 pm

Byham Theater
101 6th Street Season



THIS SEASON AT KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER

SYNCHRONIZED

WITH SOY SOS (LIVE)

PRESENTED BY PEARLARTS

Wednesday, November 17
8:00 pm

KST's Alloy Studios
5530 Penn Ave.
Pay What Makes You Happy!



SUITE LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF
BILLY STRAYHORN & GENE KELLY

Saturday, November 27
6:00pm VIP Celebration
8:00pm Jazz Concert

Kelly Strayhorn Theater
5941 Penn Ave.
Pay What Makes You Happy!



**TO SEE MORE OF OUR FALL SEASON SHOWS,
VISIT KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG**

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