

KST PRESENTS

DANCE | MUSIC | COMMUNITY | PERFORMANCE

THE AUDACITY TO BELIEVE

A MLK DAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
12:00PM - 3:00PM

ABOUT KELLY STRAYHORN THEATER

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is a non-profit community performing arts center in East Liberty, with two venues running along historic Penn Avenue. KST's Alloy Studios is a cultural hub in the heart of East Liberty, and the historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater is located in the thriving business district. More than 20 years after its founding, KST is a home for creative experimentation, community dialogue, and collective action rooted in the liberation of Black and queer people.

STAFF

Bianca Berdeguer, Box Office Coordinator

Chanel Blanchett, Programming Manager

Joseph Hall, Executive Director

Rebecca McNeil, Chief Financial Officer

Melanie Paglia, Deputy Director

Simon Phillips, Education Coordinator

Ben Pryor, Programming Director

Liz Rudnick, Marketing Manager

J.R. Shaw, Production Manager

Michael Uhrin, Development Manager

Pamela Weatherspoon, Event Rental Manager

Matt Washil, Production Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Golden, Chair

Richard C. Smith, Vice Chair

Joseph Decker, Treasurer

Alyssa P. Lyon, Secretary

R. Yvonne Campos

Martell Covington

Stacey L. Jarrell

Anne Billiet Lackner

Alyssa P. Lyon

Badel Mbanga

Arthur Pang

Lisa B. Freeland

Caitlin Green

Kyle Crawford

Marita Garrett

Melinda Maloney

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Stephanie Flom

Deborah Powell

Jamee Todd

DANCE | MUSIC | COMMUNITY | PERFORMANCE

THE AUDACITY TO BELIEVE

A MLK DAY CELEBRATION

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Audacity to Believe takes its name from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, given in Oslo, Norway on December 10, 1964. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 had been passed in July of that year, to be closely followed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. King declares, "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits." The community partners and performers included in The Audacity to Believe all embody King's bold conviction.

Hosted by Duane Binion, executive director of True T Pittsburgh, the two-part event features theatrical performances from Alumni Theater Company and K-Theatre Dance Complex (Rickia Davenport & Kantara Morphis), a dance showcase from Hill Dance Academy Theatre, and a musical performance from vocalist Jacquea May. These will take place from 1:00pm - 2:00pm in the theater. Before the curtain opens, KST has gathered community partners to present all-ages activities in the theater lobby from 12:00 pm - 3:00pm. KST's own The Alloy School will be present alongside Assemble, a community space for arts and technology education, Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, a community-focused organization committed to Garfield and its surrounding neighborhoods, Union Project, a Historical East-End site and institution that uses the arts to bridge gaps between communities, and The Latino Community Center, who ensure access to resources for Latino families in Pittsburgh.

CREDITS

Host: **Duane Binion**

Performances by:

Jacquea Mae

Rickia Davenport

Kontara Morphis

K - Theater Dance Complex

Hill Dance Academy Theatre

Alumni Theater Company

Community Partners:

Assemble

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

The Alloy School

Latino Community Center

Union Project

Repair the World Pittsburgh

Production Team:

Kari Wabash

Brit Pierce

Liam Lyons

ABOUT THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Duane Binion is the Co-Creator of True T Pittsburgh (PGH), a Pittsburgh-based 501-c3 organization that serves the LGBTQIA+ Community of Color through creative art & entertainment, social activism, and meaningful resource sharing. He is a social change-maker, producer of art, and community leader working to build social awareness for LGBT+ POC and community members of the iconic underground Ballroom scene for over 10+ years. Duane is a 2013-2014 Pittsburgh Public Ally Alum, and former Producer at Pittsburgh's historic Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Through his 5 year tenure with the theater, Duane has adapted a diverse background in arts management, program development, community engagement, marketing, media, and performance art. Under the curatorial leadership of then-Executive Director of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater; Janera Solomon, he has managed projects for an exciting mix of artists including; Carmen de' Lavellade, David Rousseve, Bill Shannon, Thaddeus Phillips, Staycee Pearl Dance Project, slowdanger, and more! Duane has a passion for creating platforms that aid in dismantling the negative stereotypes and portrayals of black and brown queer people. In 2019 he was awarded his first Advancing Black Arts grant by the Pittsburgh Heinz Foundation to create a new project highlighting the rich creativity of the underground ballroom scene. He has served on a number of panels and committees, and most recently was recognized by Coro Pittsburgh with the 2019 Distinguished Coro Alumni Leadership Award.

Rickia Davenport is a native of Pittsburgh's Hill District and South Hills areas. She has been shaping the lives of students through dance and fitness for over 12 years. Rickia has always had a love and passion for dance, even when the path was difficult to navigate. She began to realize that dance not only helped to shape who she was becoming, but also allowed her the freedom to dream. Her life journey is reflected in her teaching methods. Rickia has a strong background in Hip-Hop, Ballet, Contemporary Dance and Fitness. Ms. Davenport attended Potomac State College in West Virginia where she performed in the musical "Chicago". She has taught for dance schools and companies throughout the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding regions. Currently, Rickia serves as the Arts Education director with K-Theatre Dance Complex and is a lead Dance Instructor for Propel Charter Schools. She has also cultivated dance partnerships with Voices against Violence, Gwen's Girls, Dance Junction, Be Healthy Be Smart Fitness and more! Aside from the networks of dance Rickia has developed, she is also the proud CEO of Kai FiTT. Kai FiTT focuses on fitness, mental wellness and health. "Sometimes its the Journey that teaches you a lot about your Destination".

Kontara Morphis is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. She is a resilient visionary who has an undying passion for the arts. Kontara is the Artistic Director of K-Theatre Dance Complex, a Dance Academy that provides quality dance instruction in several major areas of dance, which include Ballet, Contemporary, Modern and Hip Hop. The Academy's curriculum also incorporates Dance Theory, Terminology and Dance Theater. KTDC has largely impacted the physical, academic, creative, and personal development of its' students. Kontara has led choreographic works for The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Dance Alloy, Propel Schools, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, The University of Dayton, Wright State University, and more. Kontara has served as the Assistant Artistic Director of REED Dance in Pittsburgh, PA. Currently Kontara is contracted with Propel Charter Schools as a dance instructor. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree at La Roche University as a Dance Education major.

We Got Next - An American History Story, focuses on Black American History. The work pays homage to those that were the "First", regardless of the risks and fear. Although laying the foundation is hard and necessary, those that pick up where they left off is extremely important. The next generation is here and ready to become the next politicians, lawyers, doctors, leaders, and so much more we just have to continue showing them the line of leaders they came from.

ABOUT THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

(Alumni Theater Company (ATC)) is a year-round program providing talented Black youth in grades 6-12 with high quality performing arts training and a platform to express their ideas. ATC is currently in its 15th season of creating bold theatrical work that gives fresh voice to the experience of young Black artists and highlights their rich contribution to our community.

Jacquea Mae is an international singer, actress & spoken word artist that has graced the stage and has featured at many venues, theatrical productions and engagements throughout Pittsburgh, Switzerland, Ghana and beyond. Ms. Mae continues to receive rave reviews for her powerful, often passionate, free, from the gut and soulful performances. Through the generous support of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Jacquea Mae created & performed *Steel In My Veins* for Freshworks 2022, a story about being a Black woman in Pittsburgh. With steel instead of blood in her veins, the world tells her that she must carry it when she wants to just be. The work takes the audience on the journey of a Black woman who comes to terms with exhaustion, self-sacrifice, and deciding to save herself – no matter what the world tells her.

Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT), a Pittsburgh Cultural Treasure is a 501c3 non-profit organization located in the Historic Hill District of Pittsburgh, PA., founded in 2005 by Ayisha Morgan-Lee, Ed.D. to provide children, youth, and teens, ages 3 to 18, access and opportunity to dance. HDAT trains students ages 3 – 18 in various styles of concert dance, fitness and nutrition, and leadership skills. HDAT's mission is to provide professional level training in Black Dance traditions, history, culture, and aesthetics that engages and empowers students to pursue careers in Black dance. HDAT's developmentally designed curriculum is rooted in Black Traditions of Dance while creating a holistic approach to Dance with a curriculum that uses Dance as the core and the skills and knowledge of other Artistic professions and careers that support Dance such as Theater, Technology and Writing.

In 2007, HDAT established Ju.B.Lation, Spirit Filled Feet, a multi-generational Liturgical Dance Pre-Professional Company that uses Sacred Dance to celebrate the Cultural and Spiritual traditions of the Black Church experience. Ju.B.Lation is a pre-professional company that provides performance opportunities for dancers and greater exposure to Black Dance in the Pittsburgh region and nationally. HDAT is committed to empowering children, youth and teens to develop techniques, and skills that facilitate achievement and success in the world of Dance and everyday life in a nurturing and caring environment.

HDAT's company members have studied and performed with noted national master artists such as Carmen de Lavallade, Misty Copeland, Debbie Allen, Ronald K. Brown Evidence Company, Lauren Anderson, Cleo Parker Robinson, Philadanco, Desmond Richardson, Kathy Smith, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), Lindsay Benton, Princess Mhoon, Sholoa Roberts, Leslie Anderson-Braswell, Baba Chuck Davis, Papa Assane Konte, Joselle Audain Deans and Buddy Thompson. Company members have attended summer intensives with Joffrey Ballet, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem and DCDC.

THANK YOU!

We thank the generous individual donors, corporate sponsors, foundations and agencies that provide vital support for our programs and allow us to thrive in our community. This list reflects donations and commitments made between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

WINTER/SPRING 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS & FOUNDATIONS



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Bilal Abbey
Kyle Abraham
Deborah L. Acklin
Jorunn W. Allersma
Peter Andersen
Scott Andrew, Ethan Jerrett
Joann & Martin Aurand
Rosa Averbach
Arthur Aviles
Valerie Baer
Esther Baker-Tarpaga
Nina Marie Barbuto
Norma Jean Barnes
lisa barr
Darrell Barrett
Heather Bartley
Beverly Bates
Leslie Begala
Jaclyn M Belczyk
Sue Bell
Dorothy Bellhouse
Linda Benedict-Jones
Nancy Bernstein & Rocky Schoen
Faith Berry
Gene Bertsch
Kurt Beschorner
Dana Bishop-Root
Susan Blackman
Brittany Blackwell
Hillary Bliss
Paul E Block
Mona Blountt
Lea Blumenfeld
Alyson Bonavoglia
Lisa Borghesi
Henry Boytim
Lauren Braun & Douglas Levine
Karen Brean
Norman Brown
Erica Brusselars
Julie Bubanovich
Elizabeth Burbano
Elizabeth Burnette
Catharyn Burton
Beth & Randy Bush
Regina Butler
R. Yvonne Campos
Alexis Canoy
Margaret Cantwell
Mike Capsambelis
Aidan Carney
Rebecca Carpenter
John Carson & Mary-Lou Arcscott
Lindsay Cashman
Alberta & Joe Certo
Etta Cetera
Cheryll M. Chakrabarti
Bruce Chan
Shirley Chapman
Ronnie G Charles
Elizabeth Chodos & Brian McNearney
Lynn Clarke & Erika Johnson
Jstn Clmn
Rosemary Coffey
Susan & William Cohen
Lisa Collier
Sister Juanita L Collins
Ebenezer Concepcion
Thomas & Carla Cords
Veronica Corpuz
Martell Covington
Karing Coyne
Rebecca Crane
Kyle Crawford & Jessica Mederbach
Jolita Crosland
Lisa Cunningham
Margo Cunningham
Rob Cunningham
Teena Marie Custer & Ron Chunn
Brian D'souza
Orlana Darkins Drewery & Darnell Drewery
Judith Davenport
Michele de la Reza & Peter Kope
Joseph Decker & Susan Ardisson
Jose Diaz
Emma Diehl
Tina Dillman
Phuong Dinh
Alex Dolnack
Joshua & Hallie Donner
Meg & Matt Dooley
Rita Drapkin
Clare Drobot
Dr Edmund & Mrs Edmund Effort
Kim El
Ellen Estomin
Tara Finegan
Fire Shorty
Donna Fisher
James Fitch
Stephanie Flom
Lee Fogarty
Angela Ford
Lisa Freeland & George Chaney
Molly B Frounfelter
Zheya Gai
Kathleen Gaines
Howard Gamble
Sandy Garcia
KA Garrett
Stephanie Garrison
Tiffany Gary-Webb
Mita Ghosal
Nancy Gippert
Dr. Cecilia Golden
Ronald Adam Golden
Erin Goldstein
Julie Gonzalez
Evlyn Gould
Lisa Grandstaff
Hannah Graves
Khadija Gray
Caitlin Green & Upendo Tookas
Kathleen & Christopher Green
Toby Greenwalt
Alexandra Gruskos & David Orenstein
Tim Gyves
Penn Hackney
Brandy Hadden
Julia Hagle
Nicole Hall
Jason Harchick
Elizabeth Hardin
Brittany Hargrove
Aurelie Harp
Cheryl Harrison
Ronald Hartman & Leslie Golomb
Susan Haugh & Jane Ramseyer Miller
Byronne Hearn
Jessica Heathcote
Michelle Heck
Divya Heffley
Wanda & Howard Henderson
Kelly Henderson
Holly Hickling
Teresa Hilario
Susan Hill
Alexandra Hiniker
Courtney Hobbs
Christopher Horwitz & Pamela Murray
Melanie Howard
Christiana Howell
Mac & Wren Howison
Karen Humphrey
Colin Hunt
Melisha Hutchins
L Hyun
Kathryn Isherwood
Jennifer Jabaut
Tacara Jackson
Stacey Jarrell
Deana Jirak
Amanda Johnson
Cecelia D Johnson
Diamond Johnson
Jenny Johnson
Alexandra Jones
atiya jones
Jennifer Joy
Katherine Kaemmerer
Janet Kafka
Caroline Kallos
Michael Kamin
Suzu Kawamoto
Carolyn Kazdin
Jennifer Keller
Erika Kellerman
Penelope Kemekenidou
Danielle Keyes
Venea King
Isaac Kivuva & Catherine Mutunga
Lynn & Milton Klein
Daniel Klein
Kluz-Allen Family
Kristin Komazec
Kathryn Krause
Erma Kuykendall
Anne & Vincent Lackner

Justin Laing
Alex Lake
Gail Langstroth
Kate Lasky
Nina Ledonne
Andrew & Desiree Lee
Michelle LeRoy
Nancy Levine
Claudette Lewis
Elsa Limbach & Plamen Karagyozov
Caldwell Linker
Leanne Longwill
Marina Lopez
Christine Lorenz
Kilolo Luckett & John Barbera Jr
Alyssa Lyon
Julie Mallis
Melinda A Maloney
Adil Mansoor
Beth Marcello & John Rodella
Laura Marin
Diana Marston Wood & David Wood
Heather Rae Martin
Naeem Martinez
Crystal Massie
Dita Mathew-Malik
Taylor Mayo
Badel Mbanga
Janet McCall
Erin McCrosky
Linsey McDaniel
Jan McMannis, Tony Buba
Kathleen Kelly Meade & David Meade
Eva Mergner
Muzz & Michelle Meyers
Michele Miller-Cox
Diane Milowicki
Gerard Minaya, Gerry Winfrey
Mark Minnerly
Christine Mondor
Ayanah Moor
Phyllis Moorman Goode
Ayisha A. Morgan-Lee, EdD & Eric A. Smith
Molly Morrill
Jay Moser
Steve & Gail Mosites
Jessica G. Moss
Briann Moyer
Clare Mulholland
John Musser
Greg Mutinelli
Maelene Myers
Shaun Myers
Scott Nelson
Celeste Neuhaus
Luke Niebler
Olivia O'Connor
Sean O'Donnell
Margaret Oates
Melanie Paglia
ariel pang
Arthur Pang
Lisa Parker & David Sogg
Richard Parsakian
Mariah Passarelli
Karla C Payne
Staycee & Herman Pearl
Cynthia "cyd" Pennington & C.W. Donohue
Meg Pereira & Patrick McArdle
Erin Perry
Sandra Perry
Stephanie Petroski
Whitney Philipps
juliet phillips
Katie Phillips
Julz Picard
Oliver Pinder
Sarah Platt
Melanie Pliskin
SJ Porter
Deborah & Martin Powell
Lindsay Powell
Sadie Powers & Nicole Hall
Shannon Pryor
Andrew Ptaschinski
Barb Pugh
Christa Puskarich
Diana Ramsey
Cathy Raphael
Rachel Rearick
Joseph Reed
Ross Reilly
Kayla Reiman
Daniel & Lauren Resnick
Ryan Ricarte
Emily Rice
Martha Riecks & Christopher Tracey

Georgiana Riley
Ringold-Unangst Family
Laura Ristau
Shay Rivera
Maggie & Mathew Rosenblum
Nathaniel Rouse II
James Saal & Felicia Snead
Maria Teresa Saenz Robles
sarah sanford
Janet Sarbaugh
Anna Savage
Wayne Savage
Nancy Schaefer
Antonia Scheidel
Cait, Jack & Bee Schindler
Margaret M Schmidt
Rose Scilla
Doreen Scott
Roslyn & Herschel Segall
Kelly Seibel
John Seidman
Daniel Shaffer
Amit Shah
Sawyer Shaw & family
Dom Sheffey
Sean Shepherd & Jake Goodman
Megan Sigismund
Carol Sikov Gross
Yael Silk
Suzie Silver, Hilary Harp
Shana Simmons
Nichole M Sims
Luke Skurman
slowdancer
Richard C Smith
Felicia Snead, MD
Maryanne Sonick
Rick Soria, Dr. Scott Fech
Rayden Sorock & O.E. Zelmanovich
Sarah Anne & Chad Stacy
Lauryn Stalter
Rashni Stanford
Lyn Starr
Randi Starr
Toni Stowers
Chitra Subramanian
Irene Surmik
Xavier Szigethy
Zachariah Tabler
Aaron Tarnow
Anna Taylor & Thompson Knight
Keysha Taylor
Edward Terry
Mark Thomas
Emily Thurston
Arvid Tomayko & H. Gene Thompson
Lauren Turner
Dixie & John Tymitz
Michael Uhrin
Hana Uman
Elizabeth Urbaitis
Stewart Urist & Sara Packin
Rachel Vallozzi
Vicki Vargo & Chris Meklas
Amelia Wagner
Janine Walker
Dr. Tahirah Walker
Julie Waltz-Stalker
Dennis Washington
Jessica Wasserlauf
Nadine Wasserman, Guillermo Perez
Kim Weild
Robert & Arlene Weiner
Helene Weinraub & Geoff Clauss
Dan Weisberg
Sarah Wertheimer
Heather White
Peggy C Whitehurst
Michael E. Whitelock
Tiffany Wilhelm & Kyle Bostian
Mandee Williams
Rosia Williams
Randall Wilson
Lida Winfield
Heidi Wiren Bartlett
Scott Wolovich
Kelley Woodruff
Sarah Woodruff
Alecia D Young & Damon J Young
Amy Zhuang