

KST PRESENTS

DANCE | PERFORMANCE

SHAMEL PITTS | TRIBE

BLACK HOLE: TRILOGY AND TRIATHLON

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 14* - 15 8:00PM

*Post Performance Discussion with Alisha Wormsley

KST PRESENTS WINTER I SPRING 23 THE SOUL OF EAST LIBERTY

What you want. Baby, I got What you need. Do you know I got it? All I'm askin' Is for a little respect when you come home.

– Aretha Franklin

The Winter/Spring 2023 KST Presents season continues to be a home for celebrating the **Soul of East Liberty**. Guided by our recently released strategic direction, "**Owning Our Future**. **Thriving Where We Live**." KST is welcoming the new year with bold programming and renewed vision. We are determined to own our future and remain a home where artists and Pittsburgh residents of all backgrounds can thrive.

This Winter/Spring season, KST mutual Aid resident **PearlArts** is looking forward to bringing *CIRCLES: going in*, a work debuted with KST at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, on tour to The Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago on February 23. At home at KST's Alloy Studios, PearlArts brings a full class season, with **Open Company Dance Classes** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. For experienced dancers, 20-weeks of **Adult Dance Clubs** will begin on January 18 and run through the end of May. PearlArts hosts two **Synchronized with Soy Sos** events, February 25 and April 28. **PearlWatch/charrette** is back on March 24, showcasing new and unseen dance-forcamera and live choreography in different stages of development. Finally, on May 12, PearlArts shares an evening of multi-disciplinary and collaborative explorations with **INTERIM: Props Prompts Play**.

KST begins the Winter/Spring Season with two staples of **Youth & Family Programming**: On January 16, *The Audacity to Believe*, **an MLK day Celebration** reflects joyfully on the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Then, **The Alloy School** Open House kicks off February 4 with a free survey of KST's weekly dance classes, followed by an eight week class session and celebratory Let's Move! Family Dance Party!

Our Community Partnerships include a workshop from writers Dorothy R. Santos & Adrian Jones with The Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry. Boundary-pushing new Freshworks performances will come to KST's Alloy Studios in April and May. Choreographer Nick M. Daniels presents the globally-inspired Nonsensical search for truth and understanding, while B Kleymeyer uplifts Pittsburgh's trans community and celebrates every part of transition with *i'm not done with this body (and i never will be)*.

Our Local & Global Performance offerings include contemporary works of music, dance, and theater—something for everyone! Dwayne Fulton returns to KST on February 11 with *R.E.S.P.E.C.T. An Aretha Franklin Tribute Concert*, featuring Anita Levels. Carrying on this musical momentum, on March 18 KST presents the annual Sunstar Festival: Women & Music, this year co-curated by the SCALE Fellowship Program.

From April 12-15, KST welcomes choreographer and 2020 Guggenheim fellow **Shamel Pitts** back to Pittsburgh with a Welcome Dinner and Artist Talk, Gaga Dance Workshop, and the Pittsburgh premiere of **BLACK HOLE: Trilogy And Triathlon**, an evening-length multi-media performance work that is a journey in movement through an evocative soundscape. Our Local & Global Performance program closes with **Or Forever Hold Your Peace**, a performance from Pittsburgh's **Big Storm** with big dance numbers and even bigger laughs.

Finally, throughout this season, visit the KST lobby for a new visual art exhibition for the BOOM Gallery: Neighbor to Neighbor, featuring Takara Canty, Sophia Fang, atiya jones, Maggie Negrete, Jameelah Platt, and Danielle Robinson, which will run from February 11 through May 27.

Joseph Hall
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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.

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DANCE | PERFORMANCE

SHAMEL PITTS [TRIBE

BLACK HOLE: TRILOGY AND TRIATHLON

ABOUT THE SHOW

In BLACK HOLE: Trilogy And Triathlon, a trio of Black performers (all of African heritage) share the stage in a narrative of unity, vigor, and unrelenting advancement. Their journey originates in the darkness of the titular Black Hole, understood not as a cosmic void but a metaphorical place of transformation and potential. Engulfed in an evocative soundscape of original music, sound samples, and spoken word, the dancers embark on an hourlong, uninterrupted journey in movement in which their tenacity and grace are emphasized by cinematic video projections and stark, monochromatic lights.

ABOUT TRIBE

TRIBE is a Brooklyn, New York based multidisciplinary arts collective founded by **Shamel Pitts** in December 2019. The arts collective, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is composed of international and local artists working across mediums such as movement, choreography, lighting design, video mapping projection, poetry, spoken word, painting, cinematography, scenography, dramaturgy, costume styling, and music composition.

TRIBE's mission is cultivating space to create a platform for artists – most specifically artists of color – with huge inspiration from the **Afrofuturism** movement. This movement states that we have a responsibility through our work to tell new stories and create a brighter future that is different and shines more luminously, from its past. Itsatribe.org

CREDITS

Tushrik Fredricks, Performer Marcella Lewis, Performer Lucca Del Carlo, Video Lighting Designer Sivan Jacobovitz, Composer Rus Snelling, Artistic Production Manager & Lighting Designer Mirelle Martins, Costume Designer & Creative Director Naomi Maaravi, Black Tarp Designer Kaz Russel, Stage Manager Itai Zwecker, Photographer & Cinematographer PALETTE, Photographer & Cinematographer Alisha Wormsley, Discussion Moderator Peter Gustafson, Lighting Peyton Nearhoof, Sound Tina Delmonte, Deck Michele Betts, Wardrobe Jon Hartwell, Camera 1

Shamel Pitts, Choreographer & Performer

Parker Stephens, Camera 2

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Shamel Pitts is a performance artist, choreographer, conceptual artist, dancer, spoken word artist, and teacher. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Shamel began his dance training at LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and the Performing Arts and, simultaneously, at The Ailey School. He is 2003 YoungArts Finalist and a first prize winner of the YoungArts competition. Shamel then went on to



receive his BFA in Dance from **The Juilliard School** and was awarded the **Martha Hill Award** for excellence in dance. He began his dance career in Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance and BJM_Danse Montreal. Shamel danced with Batsheva Dance Company for 7 years, under the artistic direction of **Ohad Naharin** and is a certified teacher of Gaga movement language. He is an adjunct professor at The Juilliard School and has been an artist in residence at Harvard University. He is the recipient of a **2018 Princess Grace Award** in Choreography, a **2019 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Award winner** in Choreography, a **2020 Jacob's Pillow artist** in residence, a **2020 Guggenheim Fellow** and a **2021 New York Dance Award winner** (The Bessies). Shamel is the Founding Artistic Director of TRIBE, a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary arts collective. TRIBE is a 92Y Harkness Dance Center's Artist In Residence for the 2020-2021 season. Shamel Pitts | TRIBE is also a New York Live Arts Live Feed artist in residence. **shamelpitts.com**

Tushrik Fredricks recipient of **Princess Grace Award** (Chris Helman dance honor), nominated by TRIBE in 2021 is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. Growing up he found himself drawn towards the style 'KRUMP'. He graduated from the Peridance Certificate Program in NYC in June 2015 and has had the opportunity to work with **Ate9 dancecompany** (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director), **Sidra**



Bell Dance New York and **UNA Productions**. Tushrik was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at The University of the Arts Philadelphia for Sophomore students (2016-2018). In May 2021 Tushrik received 3rd prize for dance at the SoloTanz Festival in Stuttgart for his self choreographed solo (*territory*) of the heart and in November 2022 it will be presented at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts. instagram.com/tushrik

Marcella Lewis recipient of the 2018
Princess Grace Award in Dance, hails
from Los Angeles, CA, where she began
her dance training at the Lula
Washington Dance Theatre. She then
continued her studies at the Los Angeles
County High School for the Arts
(LACHSA). She later received her BFA from
the Purchase Conservatory of Dance in
2016, where she was awarded the Adopt-



A-Dancer Scholarship. She joined Abraham.In.Motion in fall 2016, as a dancer, soloist, and company liaison. Marcella was featured with Abraham.In.Motion in Dance Magazine in August 2017 and was mentioned in the New York Times for the Abraham.In.Motion Joyce season in May 2018. Marcella is currently a performer with TRIBE multidisciplinary visual performances and is a freelance artist exploring choreography in Los Angeles and New York. instagram.com/marcella thecosmicmirror

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lucca Del Carlo is a graphic designer and video artist from São Paulo, Brazil, currently based in LA/NYC. Lucca is a founding member of the Brooklyn/New York based multidisciplinary arts collective known as TRIBE. He has created the lighting and video mapping projections for numerous performance works and has toured and performed live with the collective in many countries all



over the world. He specializes in transmedia, mixing cinema techniques, concepts of architecture, visual arts, light design, and technology, and integrating those into the direction and creation of scenography, immersive environments and visual live shows. In his view, all ways of visual communication have interlacing points, not only using technology but also using human cognition and its related censorial illusions. Del Carlo's specialty is mixing it in new ways to inspire and break common patterns in visual expression.

luccadelcarlo.com

Sivan Jacobovitz is a producer/musician living in NYC. Dance collaborations include: Kimberly Bartosik's "I Hunger For You" (BAM Next Wave) and "Through The Mirror of Their Eyes" (NYLA – Bessie Outstanding Production Honoree); Shamel Pitts' Black Hole (touring internationally), MENAGERIE (with Gibney Company) and Touch of RED (upcoming – Jacob's Pillow Lab); ASSEMBLY with GREYZONE. instagram.com/sivan_daniel



Rus Snelling, an Australian artist with a career continuing over 30 years, has worked as a production, stage, site and tour manager, lighting and set designer, consultant, technical director and fire sculptor with arts organizations, institutions & freelancing on events and installations around the world ranging from intimate theatrical works, shows on and off Broadway in NYC and on London's



West End. His work includes large scale indoor and outdoor festivals, the Sydney Olympic Ceremonies, the Melbourne Commonwealth Games Ceremonies & Cultural Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Montreal Just for Laughs, Edinburgh Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Vancouver Winter Olympics Cultural Festival, Centennial celebrations, river & street parades, tours & various music festivals. Some artists Rus has worked with are Merce Cunningham, Laurie Anderson, John Leguizamo, Philip Glass, Brian Eno, Tim Robbins & The Actors Gang, Taylor Mac, Patti Smith, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Bandaloop, Camille A Brown & Dancers, Abraham.In.Motion, Streb & Phantom Limb Company among many and on projects & tours in Australia, USA, Canada, Tunisia, Europe, Asia & South America. Rus worked at PS122 in NYC many moons ago and was the founding Production Manager & Resident Lighting Designer at Oz Arts Inc in Nashville TN for 6 years before moving to Miami to continue freelance work and is proudly working on the tour of And So We Walked featuring DeLanna Studi and is excited and honored to be part of the creation of Touch of Red with TRIBE.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mirelle Martins originally from Brazil, received her Bachelor Degree in Social Communications (UnB 2002-06). She has worked as an artist, independent curator and art producer since 2010. In 2013, Mirelle started to research her own artistic expression in performance art with the intensive summer course of Gaga.people.dancers in NYC. Since 2015, she has been producing Gaga courses



yearly in Brazil, so far reaching over 1200 students. In 2016, as a 32-year old, Mirelle made her dancing debut in "BLACK VELVET", a duet by Shamel Pitts, with light designer Lucca Del Carlo. The show toured in the US and internationally from 2017 to 2020, and has received the Audience Choice Award in Stockholm Fringe Festival (Sweden, 2017), and Best out of Town Production by ArtsATL (Atlanta, 2018). The partnership with Pitts continued with "BLACK HOLE" (2018), where Mirelle has collaborated as performer and costume designer. Since 2019, Mirelle is one of the founding artists of TRIBE, Brooklyn-based arts collective led by Pitts, where she also acts as Creative Director. mirellemartins.com

Naomi Maaravi is a Dutch-born, Israel-based EcoFashion Designer with over 30 years of experience creating up-cycled redesigned fashion pieces. Naomi made her first piece for her daughter out of worn out jeans. Her garments are fashioned from either her own collection of high end materials, or out of materials supplied by her clients. Her brand line has since evolved into a high-end recycled – albeit



high fashion – line worn by Israeli artists and celebrities. "Memories, events, joy, happiness, sadness are all parts of the materials I use, blended to create a unique garment with a story on its own," Maaravi says. www.naomimaaravi.com

Itai Zwecker is an Israeli-born director of cinematography, photographer, and video editor, collaborating with Shamel Pitts and later TRIBE since 2018. His photography has been featured in The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail, and other outlets. Zwecker is based in Brooklyn and Tel Aviv, where he works shooting film, dance, music, documentary and commercial projects. vimeo.com/zwecker



PALETTE, founded by The Adeboye Brothers in 2017, is a creative agency focused on producing films, animations, and live experiences for campaign activations both online and offline. Their background is rooted in thoughtful storytelling, art, and pushing the boundaries within the film space. They're currently focused on building out their Production house internationally. Their



production house develops, produces and writes branded and original documentaries, narrative-based shorts, and animations. This organization stands with creatives, the humans connected to culture, the community-movers, the society shapers.

https://www.thepalettegroup.com

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