

## KST PRESENTS

DANCE | THEATER

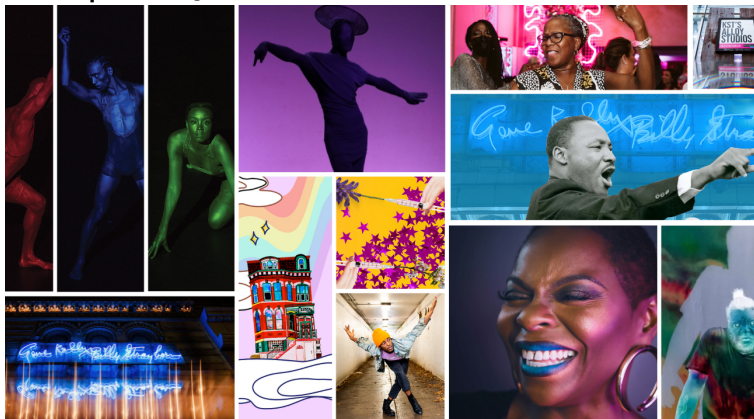
# FRESHWORKS: NICK M. DANIELS

**NONSENSICAL SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND  
UNDERSTANDING**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 7 - 8  
8:00PM**

KST PRESENTS  
WINTER | 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-for-camera 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**  
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**TO SEE MORE OF THE FALL SEASON, VISIT  
[KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG/THE-SOUL-OF-EAST-LIBERTY-WINTERSPRING-2023/](https://kelly-strayhorn.org/the-soul-of-east-liberty-winterspring-2023/)**

# 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 | THEATER

# NICK M. DANIELS

## NONSENSICAL SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND UNDERSTANDING

### ABOUT THE SHOW

*Nonsensical search for truth and understanding* is a movement-based performance that explores how **technology has grown, developed, and changed global communication.**

Choreographer **Nick M. Daniels** draws the audience into an oddly **beautiful and melancholic atmosphere** through digital and electronic noise and piano with stylized phrases inspired by global movement styles such as Butoh, Ballroom, Hip Hop, and traditional African and Indian dance. Photography and projections round out the piece, creating a multidisciplinary heartbeat for this work from D.A.N.A. Movement Ensemble.

### D.A.N.A. MISSION STATEMENT

The D.A.N.A. movement Ensemble (Dancers Against Normal Actions), founded by Freshworks Artist **Nick Daniels**, is a movement based performance art company strongly rooted in Pittsburgh Pa. Their mission is to produce and present work that **demonstrates the power of art** to inspire feeling, provoke thoughts, and encourage artists and audiences alike to recognize their connection with all things and all people. D.A.N.A.'s work and productions transcend human-imposed boundaries and seeks a world where justice prevails.

### CREDITS

**Nick M. Daniels:** Choreography, Videography, Direction, Design and Soundscape Production

**Bradley Palmer:** Technical Direction

**Leslie Bricusse, Anthony Newley, Pamela Z, Edwin Torres, Guillermo E. Brown, Hugo Ball, Alessandro Bosetti, Kent's Nagai, Tony Buck:** Music

**Lauren McKee, Charis Franco, Elanore Ferrara, Nick M. Daniels:** D.A.N.A. Movement Ensemble

**Ian Brill:** Light Sculpture

**Kari Womack, Brit Pierce:** Production Crew

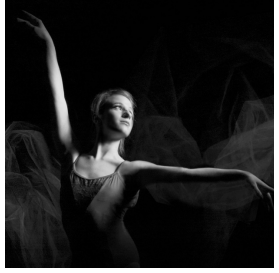
### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Nick M. Daniels** is the founding **Artistic Director of D.A.N.A.** (Dancers Against Normal Actions) Movement Ensemble whose choreographic style is inspired by African dance and many modern and contemporary global movement styles. After attaining his BFA in Dance from **Slippery Rock University** in 1991, Nick created D.A.N.A Movement Ensemble and was a pioneering force in Pittsburgh for the exploration of race and sexual identity in performance art. Nick's creative work often uses self-realized soundscapes and video imagery based in pure, raw emotion. Throughout his career he has toured nationally and abroad, receiving grants and accolades including **The Young-Howse Theater Award for Movement Artist of the Year, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Preserving Diverse Cultures Grant,** and a 2017 Freshworks Residency with Kelly Strayhorn Theater.



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

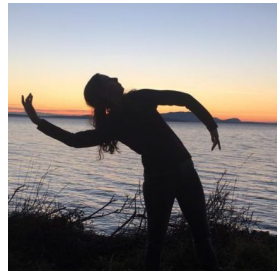
**Charis Franco** has been dancing for twelve years, beginning with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. She trained in their pre-professional program, and took Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Summer intensive program. With them, she has played many roles in their production of the **Nutcracker at the Benedum Center**, as well as their Spring Performance at the **Byham Theater**. Charis has a Bachelor's degree in dance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she completed their full Dance Arts program. She was a company member in IUP Dance Theater, and was in several different performances with them, over the years. Since graduation, Charis has immersed herself in the dance community around Pittsburgh, both performing and teaching. She currently teaches at **Yanlai Dance Academy**, at all levels. She offers ballet, modern, contemporary, pointe, as well as a strength and flexibility class designed for dancers. She currently offers group classes, as well as private lessons.



**Lauren McKee** is a Pittsburgh-based dance educator and performing artist. Lauren grew up in 'The Weather Capital of the World', also known as Punxsutawney, PA. Lauren received a Bachelor of Arts in Dance while completing two minors in Art and Adapted Physical Activity from **Slippery Rock University** in 2014. Since relocating to Pittsburgh, Lauren has performed works with **Shana Simmons Dance**, **Staycee Pearl Dance Project**, and **Attack Theatre**. Lauren is so excited to be part of the D.A.N.A. movement ensemble and is looking forward to working with these amazing artists!



**Elanore Ferrara** recently joined forces with the D.A.N.A. Movement Ensemble. Elanore graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from **Slippery Rock University** in 2014 and has continued dance through teaching and performing.



# ABOUT FRESHWORKS

**Freshworks** is KST's creative residency for artists and collaborators based in the greater Pittsburgh region. The program supports playful exploration in performance through interdisciplinary work in contemporary dance, theater, music, and multimedia, and provides artists with planning support and guidance, studio space, production staff, and encouragement for creative risk taking. **Freshworks** artists are provided a \$1,000 honorarium and \$1,500 resource budget during the residency. Artists are invited to apply either as an individual or as a collaborative group. Learn more at [Kelly-Strayhorn.org](http://Kelly-Strayhorn.org)

# SPECIAL THANKS

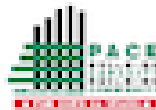
This project is supported by the Pittsburgh Foundation's Mac Miller Fund BIPOC Artist Micro Grant

Special thanks to Legacy Arts Project, Uhimwe, the KST staff and folks from KST who made this performance possible.

# 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.

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