

KST PRESENTS

FRESHWORKS | THEATER

PRIA DAHIYA

YOU AND ME AND THE END OF THE WORLD

Friday & Saturday, October 6 - 7
7:30pm

*Warning: This performance contains flashing lights and images that may trigger seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy. Audience discretion is advised.



KST PRESENTS
FALL 2023

BRAVE ACTIONS BOLD VOICES

The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is – it's to imagine what is possible.

- bell hooks

The KST Presents Fall 2023 season is about celebrating the brave actions and bold voices of the artists, audiences, and communities who call KST home. The season features new offerings from Mutual Aid Residents **Dreams of Hope** and **PearlArts**, a visual art exhibition in the **BOOM Gallery**, two **Freshworks** Performances in Progress, and premieres of **Local and Global Performances** from longtime Pittsburgh favorites and returning faces.

Our **Mutual Aid Residencies** continue to support Dreams of Hope and PearlArts with administrative facilities and space for ongoing classes and events. This fall, Dreams of Hope hosts the **theatriQ** educational workshop series, offering queer creatives ages 13 – 26 a space to learn, discuss, and connect through a plethora of topics pertaining to theater and the performing arts. PearlArts brings together **Soy Sos** and **Ali Berger**, and later Soy Sos, **James Johnson III**, and **Erik Lawrence** for two editions of the music and dance staple, **Synchronized with Soy Sos**. Later in the season, a dance-focused **PearlPRESENTS** will feature SPdp&SS founder **Staycee Pearl** alongside choreographers **Raphael Xavier** and **Chitra Subramanian**.

Curated by **DS Kinsel**, the BOOM Gallery, located in KST's historic 1914 lobby, presents **Eternal Maternal**. Featuring artworks from interdisciplinary artists **Fran Flaherty** and **Meg Foley**, the exhibition centers motherhood both as an active pursuit and a fundamental state of existence, irrespective of and subject to gender. Visit the gallery before performances from the opening on Monday, September 18 and Sunday, December 17 to experience the artists' unique interpretations of the sacred practice.

Our Fall 2023 **Freshworks** Residencies support exciting new performance works in process. On October 6 and 7, **Pria Dahiya** shares a "play-adjacent performance work" **You and Me and The End of the World** that touches on loneliness and coming of age through a pandemic. On December 1 and 2, **Andraya Rand-Mathis** presents dance, music, and drag in **Diving Within**, part of a healing process from grief, heartbreak, and childhood trauma.

KST's **Youth and Family** programs feature a revamped Halloween celebration. Bring the whole crew to join us for **Pumpkin Palooza**, An East Liberty Halloween Adventure! There will be tricks, treats, performances, and crafts from community partners. Tune in August 10 for our complete Fall 2023 offerings from **The Alloy School**.

The KST Presents **Local and Global Performance** series welcomes **Blood Baby** from Detroit/Philadelphia-based artist **Meg Foley**, featuring four works from the series (Primordial, Queer Parent Convening, Communion, and Touch Library). Foley shares the performance Communion on Friday and Saturday, September 22 – 23. Don't miss the Welcome Dinner & Artist Talk on September 18, where Foley will be in conversation with **Fran Flarety**; **The Embodied Imaginary**, a workshop with Foley on September 20; and a **Queer Parent Convening** later that evening. On December 8 and 9, Pittsburgh's own superduo **slowdanger** takes to the KST mainstage with **SUPERCELL**, a new work addressing climate change and media sensitization. Join artists **anna thompson** and **taylor knight** for a Welcome Dinner & Artist Talk on December 4, and their workshop **Demystifying the Box** on December 6.

Finally, the Fall season wouldn't be complete without **Suite Life**, our annual celebration of KST namesakes **Billy Strayhorn** and **Gene Kelly**! Join us on Saturday, November 25 for a VIP reception and eclectic performance celebrating these Pittsburgh legends and artistic champions.

There is so much to be explored in the voices and actions of artists across the KST Presents programs. We hope you will add **your bravery and boldness** to the mix by coming out to share in the work!

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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PRIA DAHIYA

YOU AND ME AND THE END OF THE WORLD

ABOUT THE WORK IN PROGRESS

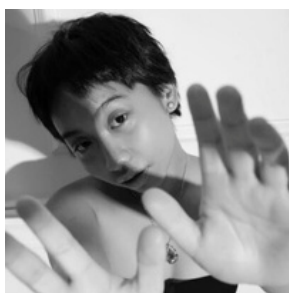
You and Me and the End of the World is a digitally sick, nauseatingly young, and fearfully queer play-adjacent performance project about first love, first loss, and a thoroughly annoying pandemic. Embodying the disconnect between the bewildering psychological excess of living online and the frightening reality of living offline, this performance in progress explores the relationship between alienation, desire, mortality, and the internet.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pria Dahiya is a director, visual artist and writer exploring internet culture through literary adaptation, movement and media design. Pria has spent twenty-one years being biracial, bisexual, and chronically online. Her work touches on the absurd code-switching and constant alienation of this duality, and how the internet can hide, broadcast, and manipulate these conflicting identities. Her recent work, "Anything Good Makes Me Want to Die", was an evening of two short, surreal plays adapted from Otessa Moshfegh's short stories. These self-produced plays inaugurated her theater company the New Modern Product Theatre, an avant-garde company centering the realities of being raised online.



20 year old **Yin Raquino** (they/them) writes sonnets with their right hand and cracks the knuckles of their left. They return to Pittsburgh bruised, sober, and eager to devise art that is aligned with their integrity, intuition, and newfound definition of inquisitiveness. They believe it is imperative that we refuse to assemble a museum exhibit of loose threads in our denim pockets. We cannot afford to tear each other down anymore when ecstasy does the unraveling for us. They've made an oath to their Filipino ancestors to sustain virginity in their drinks, but never their mouth.



Rory Janney (she/her) is a writer, actor, playwright, costume designer, theatre & community maker based in Pittsburgh. Her work explores alienation, community, trauma, loneliness, and grief through all things human, fantastic, absurd, and grime. She likes tchotchkes, bric-a-brac, knick knacks, women, horror stories, sunscreen, monsters, soft-yolky insides of hard and ugly things, hard-snarly insides of pretty polite things, chasing grace, embracing ugly, pirates, bats, and therapy. Having been a part of New Modern Product Theatre's baptismal piece, "Anything Good Makes Me Want to Die," she is excited to continue the work to make this happen.



Rowan Acadia Dunlop is a proud Cajun from the back pastures of Vermont. As a writer, dramaturg, visual artist, and founding member of New Modern Product Theatre, Rowan's work revolves around the rural experience, the study of the past for the sake of the future, and holding hands. Rowan works on war dramas and good old fashioned love stories, and has worked with the DOD as a scriptwriter for President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition, with the U.S. Army War College, researching/devising WWII case study exercises, and with StoryWarrior Media Capital, producing children's animation. Rowan also enjoys working with goats.



davine byon (she/her) is a performance artist, theatre designer, and digital hoarder. her work visualizes the media landscapes that hold our silly and shameful collisions, offering that they might also be precious, even sublime. she is traumatized by brutal anonymous internet behavior and charmed by the hope that none of it matters. davine's recent work has been featured at Kelly Strayhorn Theatre, Rivers of Steel, Quantum Theatre, the Miller Institute for Contemporary Art, Pao Arts Center, Lenfest Center for the Arts, the New Hazlett Theater, City Theatre Company, and The Andy Warhol Museum.



SPECIAL NOTES FROM THE ARTISTS

Thank you to Thomas Feather for providing lights.

Thank you to Adil Mansoor for your mentorship and support.

Thank you to Mom and Dad for everything.

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 July 1, 2022 and April 15, 2023

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