

KST PRESENTS

FRESHWORKS | DANCE | THEATER

ANDRAYA RAND-MATHIS

DIVING WITHIN

Friday & Saturday, December 1 - 2
7:30pm

*Warning: This performance contains depictions of depression and adult content/moments of intimacy



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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FRESHWORKS | DANCE | THEATER

ANDRAYA RAND-MATHIS

DIVING WITHIN

ABOUT THE WORK IN PROGRESS

Diving Within centers interviews from members of the Black/African American community to reflect on the peaks and valleys of individuals' healing process related to grief, heartbreak, and childhood trauma. Using dance, music, drag, performative storytelling, and audio from first person interviews with trans women, Andraya creates a safe space to feel, reflect, and converse about personal healing without judgment or pressure.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Andraya Rand-Mathis is a choreographer, dancer, and educator who was born and raised in the city of Pittsburgh. She has choreographed several musical productions, which have won Gene Kelly Awards for Best Choreography. Even though Andraya started their dance training at a late age, she is a force to be reckoned with for her generation and future generations to come. Since hitting the dance scene a little over 8 years ago, Draya has had the opportunity to work with some amazing artists such as Greer Reed, Staycee Pearl, Kontara Morphis, and Anthony Williams.



DeAndre Clark-Yarbrough is a well rounded individual who has served in the Army Reserves. Through 8 years of serving our country, he knew he was meant to be a performer after he had his first taste of an adrenaline rush from dancing at a young age. DeAndre knew that dance was his passion at that very moment. He was introduced to different dance styles in grade school where he was one of the first males to join every dance team possible. The thrill that DeAndre chased after as a child has carried with him as an adult and has opened up many doors for him. Dee has had the great opportunity to experience different forms of dance. Music videos of local artists, hair shows, fashion shows, church services and even weddings have been graced by Dee's dancing abilities.



Marissa Lily, a recent graduate in Musical Theater from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City, is now a production assistant working on major network TV and film productions in the city of Pittsburgh. She is an entertainment creative, a leader, and a teacher. She has an equal passion for producing behind the scenes and entertaining in front of the camera and stage. She is a believer who knows anything is possible with a positive attitude, hard work, and an all doing spirit. Some of her most recent credits include Mayor of Kingstown and Netflix's Rustin. She thrives in fast-paced environments and easily connects with people of all walks of life. She is a force. She is Marissa Lily.



Simon Phillips is inspired by the nature of sensation, biomechanics, and applied psychology in dance. Originally from Macon, Georgia, Phillips dances primarily for recreation. Simon attended Kennesaw State University, where he obtained bachelor's degrees in Dance and Psychology. He has since worked with several international arts organizations as a performer, educator, and program coordinator. Simon currently works as a teaching artist and fitness coach in community schools, hospitals, and centers including Art In Motion and Lua Dance Club. Some of Simon's core themes are freedom of individuality, mental health, and accessibility in the arts.



Aziaha Robinson, a 27-year-old Pittsburgh native, considers herself a movement artist first but has proven to be an all around performer. From teaching to creative directing; performing arts has always been something she's held near and dear to her heart. Robinson has instruction experience with both adults and youth ranging from ages 5-17 for the last 8 years. Her classes, Moves by Z, is an experience designed to encourage and condition artists to hone their skills through choreography and technique driven performance. With a variety of genres such as: Contemporary, Liturgical, Hip Hop, African, and House. Aziaha hopes to expand her practice in her community and others in an effort to promote creativity, growth, and inclusivity.



Arnita Thompson loves to dance and teaches several classes throughout the city of Pittsburgh.



SPECIAL NOTES FROM THE ARTISTS

Thank you to my interviewees, Gary D'Andre, Daiquonne Lanier, Diamen Green, Josiah Ross, and Lauryn Porter, for sharing their stories. Thank you to my cast. Love my family and friends.

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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