

KST PRESENTS

KST X NYC | DANCE

**STAYCEE PEARL DANCE
PROJECT & SOY SOS**

CIRCLES: GOING IN

**Saturday & Sunday, January 13 - 14, 2024
6:00pm**



KST PRESENTS
WINTER/SPRING 2024

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

Pittsburgh's **Kelly Strayhorn Theater** is a **celebrated Black and queer-led organization rooted in Black and queer liberation**. Through our 2021 to 2025 Strategic Direction, **Owning Our Future, Thriving Where We Live**, supported by the **Ford Foundation** and **The Heinz Endowments America's Cultural Treasures** program, we carry out a special initiative **KST x NYC**, sharing our story and the artists in Pittsburgh with the world.

KST X NYC was first launched in 2023 as a special presentation of **Pittsburgh-based theater artist Adil Mansoor's** solo lecture performance, ***Amm(i)gone***, at the **Performance Project at University Settlement**, to open the pathways for local talents to thrive on a national stage. See the contact information below for available dates in 2024/2025!

For 2024, we are delighted to present the **New York premieres** of **slowdanger's SUPERCELL** and **STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos's CIRCLES: going in!** These two works were developed through the multi-year support of KST's **Local & Global Performance** program.

Both **SUPERCELL** and **CIRCLES: going in** are available for touring with support from NEFA's National Dance Project. All performances will be preceded and followed by light refreshments in **The Flea Theater's lobby**. **Join us on Friday, January 12 at 12:30pm for a small reception with the artists.**

Our goal is to **continue sharing narratives** of Pittsburgh with our local community and our **global colleagues**. We invite you to **join our collaboration** and **bring these stories** of contemporary Pittsburgh artists **to your community**.

Joseph D. Hall

JOSEPH HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ben Pryor

BEN PRYOR
PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR



Contact Information:

slowdanger: Joshua Bristow, jeebristow@gmail.com

STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos: Sandy Garcia, sandyg@pentacle.org

Adil Mansoor: Kate Bussert & Bonnie Davis,

kbussert@bretadamltd.net, bdavis@bretadamltd.net

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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LOCAL & GLOBAL PERFORMANCE | DANCE

STAYCEE PEARL DANCE PROJECT & SOY SOS

CIRCLES: GOING IN

ABOUT THE WORK

Black Joy. Femme. Cycles of Life and Love.

Layering dance, visual arts with pulsing beats and bass lines, the work presents **snapshots of popular culture** through **choreographer Staycee Pearl's lens as a Black Woman**. With an ensemble of five dancers, *CIRCLES: going in* is a colorful, unapologetic, and daring path to self-reclamation.

Central to the work is an **original sound score of House, Hip-Hop, Techno and Ballroom music samples** - bringing the joy, spontaneity and uncensored freedom of self-expression from the club to the stage.

CREDITS

Choreography: Staycee Pearl

Sound Designer/Engineer: Herman B. Pearl

Music Collaborators: DJ Haram, DOTGOV, Geña, Ixa, Kha'DJ,

Kilamanzego, Madame Dolores, Meejah, Queen Jo, Yah Lioness

Visual Collaborations: Bekezela Mguni, Kitoko Chargois and sarah huny young

Lighting Design: Scott Nelson

Costume Design: S. Ruth

Set Design: Rob Hackett

Dancers: LaTrea Derome Rembert, Chandler Bingham, Cameron Waters, Nia Goodman, Joy Holder

Tour Coordinator: Joanna Futral

EXCLUSIVE USA TOUR REPRESENTATION: PENTACLE Sandy Garcia,
sandyg@pentacle.org

This presentation of *CIRCLES: going in* is supported by The New England Foundation for the Arts's National Dance Project additional support from the Ford Foundation and The Heinz Endowments America's Cultural Treasures initiative.

CIRCLES: going in is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Joyce Theater, and NPN. *CIRCLES: going in* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Co-commissioning Partners are Kelly Strayhorn Theater, August Wilson African American Cultural Center, and The Joyce Theater. The development of *CIRCLES: going in* is made possible in part by the National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron (NCCAkron). *CIRCLES: going in* is supported in part by The Pittsburgh Foundation's Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh Fund, Heinz Endowments, and The Opportunity Fund.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Staycee Pearl, Executive/Co-Artistic

Director is the co-artistic director of PearlArts Studios and STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos, where she creates artful experiences through dance-centered multimedia works in collaboration with her husband and artistic collaborator, Herman Pearl. In 2009, STAYCEE PEARL dance project &



Soy Sos (SPdp&SS) debuted at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Since then the duo has produced several works including ...on being..., OCTAVIA, and FLOWERZ, and has recently premiered their National Dance Project supported *CIRCLES: going in*, presented by Kelly Strayhorn Theater and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. Staycee is passionate about sharing resources and creating opportunities for the arts community by initiating project-generating programs including the Charrette Series, the In The Studio Series, and the PearlDiving Movement Residency.

Herman Pearl (Soy Sos), Co-Artistic

Director, is the head engineer and owner of Tuff Sound Recording, as well as the sound designer and co-artistic director of PearlArts Studios. Through PearlArts, Herman creates



soundscapes to serve as a component to contemporary dance. As a sound designer, Herman's repertoire includes a wide variety of projects and collaborators. His work has been featured in various independent films and documentaries, video games, and advertising. He has designed soundscapes for numerous choreographers. He has collaborated with many visual artists to create installations and touring exhibits. He has recorded and produced work for a plethora of recording artists across genres and techniques. Herman has performed, created, and recorded his own music for over 25 years.

LaTrea Derome Rembert, Rehearsal Assistant and Senior Dance Artist, is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, PA. From Cincinnati, OH LaTrea obtained his B.A. in Theater Arts from Point Park University (2014). His work has been seen with The Pittsburgh CLO, The CLO Cabaret Theater, the REP, and Pittsburgh Musical Theater. Additionally, LaTrea has been a dancer with SPdp&SS for 9 seasons. In 2020, LaTrea premiered a solo work entitled *_lostncomplex* as a part of the insideTRACK residency with PearlArts.

Chandler Bingham, Dance Artist, was accepted into the Dance Program at Point Park University and graduated with a B.A. in Dance and a minor in History. She has performed choreography by; Staycee Pearl, Daniel Karasik, Kiki Lucas and many others. Chandler has also performed with Bricolage, Rashaad Newsome, and Allana Clarke as well as in several Netflix movies and series productions. Chandler has been a Dance Artist with SPdp&SS since 2019.

Nia Goodman, Dance Artist, is a Charlotte, NC native and currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA. Goodman studied at Point Park University ('22) receiving a Bachelor's degrees in dance and accounting. She has performed in various works with choreographers such as: Al Blackstone, Camille A. Brown, Rennie Harris, Jason McDole, etc. As well as being founder of Valentines Productions LLC, a production company that hosts the annual Queen City Fest, Ms. Goodman has choreographed several projects for the showcase ranging from Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, contemporary and Heels.

Joy Holder, Dance Artist, is a dancer, creator and food enthusiast based on the East Coast. While studying a variety of dance techniques, Joy received a BFA from Columbia College Chicago and has performed on stages across the country, including Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center. They are tremendously excited to join SPdp+SS to continue exploring movement and share their passion for dance and collaboration.

Cameron Waters, Dance Artist, is from New Castle, PA, and graduated from SRU in 2021. Cameron has choreographed works *Contention*, *CAMouflaged Agenda*, and *Akin Chaka*. Cameron was featured in the Netflix film *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. He is the head choreographer of his church, Jubilee Ministries International. He has been a company dancer with the STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos since February 2022.

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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