

**KST PRESENTS**

**FRESHWORKS | THEATER | DANCE**

**ANNA KING SKEELS**

**UNSTITCH**

**Friday & Saturday, May 3 - 4**  
**7:30pm - 9:00pm**



KST PRESENTS  
WINTER/SPRING 2024

# BRAVE ACTIONS BOLD VOICES

**Give me a lifetime of promises / And a world of dreams / Speak the language of love / Like you know what it means**

**- Tina Turner**

The Winter/Spring 2024 KST Presents season promises to bring you **simply the best**. From a **Tina Turner tribute concert** to **Abolitionist Expressions**, a visual art exhibition showcasing incarcerated artists, KST continues to celebrate the **Brave Actions** and **Bold Voices** in our community.

We begin the year with **Youth & Family Programming**. **Justice in Action: A Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** gathers performances and activities centering social justice. Later in February, **The Alloy School** returns with new recreational classes for all ages.

Our Winter/Spring **Freshworks Residencies** support new performance in process from three local artists. First, **Caroline Yoo** and **Davine Byon** present *Prophecies & Soy Sauce Shots*, an experiment in storytelling that spans from the past, present to future. Then, **Anna King Skeels** brings *unstitch*, a new performance examining our relationship to our bodies.

The **Local & Global Performance** series welcomes two weeks of programming from multi-disciplinary artists **Edisa Weeks** and **Mita Ghosal**. After a movement workshop, welcome dinner & artist talk, Edisa's April engagement culminates in the Pittsburgh premiere of **3 RITES: Liberty**, an excavation into the foundations of Liberty in America. **Mita Ghosal's** weeklong May programming brings **Lost on a Loom** to KST's Alloy Studios, examining lost South Asian Histories through Indian textiles and movement.

We can't wait to journey through the winter into the spring with you feeling **warm, inspired, and part of a brave, bold community**.

Sincerely,

**Joseph Hall**  
Co-Executive Director

**JOSEPH HALL**  
CO-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 | THEATER | DANCE

# ANNA KING SKEELS

## UNSTITCH

### ABOUT THE WORK

*unstitch* is a big-hearted and unadulterated tour through the organs of a soft and scarred body being torn apart at the seams. Artist **Anna King Skeels** takes us through the journey of a fat queer person. This work in process examines our relationships with others and the trauma we have endured with our bodies. Centering **movement** and **fiber arts**, the gutsy, fluffy *unstitch* invites you to FEEL.

### ARTIST'S NOTE

welcome to *unstitch*! i am so happy you've joined us today!

*unstitch* comes from a place of feeling torn apart. of not having control over what happens to your body and your psyche. desire for control. wanting to find someone who understands. trying to shape these feelings into something beautiful without ignoring their ugliness.

there's an analogy i've heard a couple of times that coming out as trans and choosing to be truthful about it is like being a newborn again. that it resets your aging and you have to relearn everything you ever thought you knew. in some ways, i'm 21 years old, in others im 9, in others yet, i'm still a newborn. i have a hard time holding all of that. this project continued the process of my aging. it let me ruminate on the feelings that exist inside my 21-year-old-9-year-old-newborn body. it didn't let me push away what other people have to say about my 21-year-old-9-year-old-newborn body. it lended me control. it took that control away. it steeped this life in metaphor.

i had the honor of working with really beautiful, gracious people throughout this process that understood in varying degrees what was being hidden and what was being spoken. that took the bus with me. or waited for my often-times-late bus to arrive. thank you for your patience and your work. your presence in meetings and rehearsals was the best gift these past two months. you make my heart burst.

all my love,  
anna king skeels

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Anna King Skeels** (they/them) is a playwright, actor, and big nerd originally from Baltimore, Maryland, and currently living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a recent grad of Point Park University Theatre Arts. With an objective of using theatre as a tool for social justice, they create work with the intent to empower marginalized individuals. Skeels believes that community liberation and healing is possible through theatrical strategy. A psychological movement enthusiast, Skeels is always looking for a chance to make your theatre experience as queer as possible and take every opportunity they can to celebrate fat and trans bodies.



**Simone Hunt** (she/her) is theater artist originally hailing from Tampa, FL, and a recent graduate of Point Park. Some of her notable credits include: Lighting; *Rabbit Hole* (David Lindsay-Abaire) Directing; *NightNight* (Lucas Heath), and *A Trip to the Store* (Cam Webb) at the RLM One Acts Festival, Dramaturgy; *Kentucky* (Leah Nanaimo-Winkler) at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and *One Log Bridge* (Yan Pang) at the New Hazlett Theatre, where she was also an AD. Instagram: @simonemhunt



**Mouse Stoye** (she/her) is a Point Park theatre production design major with a focus in props and scenic painting. She has previously worked as a student scenic artist for *Cinderella*, as well as a props artisan for *Sense and Sensibility* and *Almost Equal To* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. She has also worked on student run shows in roles like props charge for *She Kills Monsters* (Bridges Theatre Company) and scenic charge for *Lady Killers* (Bridges Theatre Company).



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Annie Morehead** (they/them) is a Non-Binary theater artist, currently in their Junior year as a Theatre Arts Major at Point Park University. Along with performing, they have worked as a Stage Combat Captain/Choreographer, Weaponsmith, Composer, Instrumentalist, Writer, and Deviser! Their favorite Pokémon is Shuckle, but



they are also very partial to Darkrai. They would like to thank their friends and family for being the best support system in the world, and they hope you enjoy the show! SYFFO!

**Iliana Tomasa Sharp** (she/her) - Choreographer - is an artist based in Pittsburgh, PA, studying at Point Park University. Along with her work in choreography, she is an intimacy coordinator, director, and writer for the stage and screen. Point Park Credits include: Choreographer, ≈ *[Almost Equal To]*, (Pittsburgh Playhouse), Choreographer, *The Winter's Tale*, (Pittsburgh Playhouse), Intimacy Coordination, *Rabbit Hole*, (Ghost Light Theatre Company), Director, *Latinx Cabaret 2023*, (Bridges Theatre Company/Latinx Student Association). Regional credits include: Choreographer, *Being Beings*, (NACHMO, Pittsburgh 2024). She would like to thank the creative team of *unstitch* for making this process a wonderful experience.



# SPECIAL THANKS

super special thank yous to:

Bradleigh Bell  
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Katie Mikula-Wineman  
Sheila McKenna  
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Simone's Mini-Van

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