

KST PRESENTS

FRESHWORKS | THEATER

MOIRE DEL CARMEN

BAQUINÉ

**Friday & Saturday, October 3 - 4
7:30pm - 9:00pm | with discussion**



KST PRESENTS
FALL 2025

25 YEARS: JOY & RESISTANCE

**"Joy is an act of resistance."
— Toi Derricotte**

For a quarter of a century, Kelly Strayhorn Theater has stood as a beacon in Pittsburgh's East End, a place where generations have come together to imagine, build, and celebrate. We've watched babies become leaders, artists blossom into innovators, and communities unite in the face of change.

We've danced in the streets for marriage equality, marched for Black lives, demanded reproductive justice, and celebrated the election of our first Black President. Through joy and upheaval, we have fortified one another.

As we mark **the milestone of 25 years** in service to our community, we are charged to continue to challenge forces that are a direct threat to our basic rights, our bodies, our futures, especially for Black, queer, and historically resilient folks. KST is a **community in motion** that **embodies joy and resilience beyond the walls of our institution**, showing the way to a future that is abundantly bright with possibility.

Toi Derricotte reminds us: "Joy is an act of resistance." Every laugh, every song, every step on our stage is a refusal to let fear win.

As we look to the coming decades, **we recommit to being a home for creative experimentation, community dialogue, and collective liberation.** Whether you identify as Black, queer or someone who believes in art's power to transform, *you are home with us.*

Our Fall 2025 season is a celebration. Join us and together we can radiate the message: **We are here. We are many. We are joyful.**

With Optimism,

JOSEPH HALL
CO- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MELANIE PAGLIA
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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Piper Clemente, Co-Production Manager

Sarah Gilmer, Programming Manager

Rachel Gunning, Finance & Operations Manager

Joseph Hall, Co-Executive Director

Melike Konur, Director of Advancement

Mingsi Ma, Marketing Specialist

Melanie Paglia, Co-Executive Director

Ben Pryor, Programming Director

J.R. Shaw, Co-Production Manager

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FRESHWORKS | THEATER

MOIRE DEL CARMEN

BAQUINÉ

ABOUT THE WORK

Baquiné is an absurd romp through death and back, written and performed by Puerto Rican trans artist Moire del Carmen. This one-act play follows Moire and her friends as they **grapple with loss, trying to make art while the seductive pull of death threatens to consume them.** With **humor** and **absurdity**, *Baquiné* explores identity, mourning, and the artistic process, as Moire spirals in her attempts to write herself out of sorrow. What happens when grief is met with laughter, love, and the transformative power of art?

Most of all, this play is about Theater.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Moire del Carmen is a multidisciplinary artist and actress from Puerto Rico, whose work blends functionality, craft, costuming, and portraiture. With an MFA in Costume Production from Carnegie Mellon University, she bridges craft and performance, using costuming as a tool to embody and dramatize the experiences of trans women, drawing inspiration from drag culture. She views the manipulation of thread and fabric as an affirmation of her gender identity, while reflecting on the historical undervaluing of “domestic arts.”



Natalya Chorba, a multi talented artist known best for being a local cryptid. She performs where she can, last being seen in the award winning Sweded film *Matilda*. She has several years of experience playing trumpet, including 2 years as part of local May Day Marching Band. You can find her at your local skatepark most Sundays or at various cafes, making chainmail accessories during the week.



Sarah J. Gilmer (she/her) is a Pittsburgh native who began her musical journey as a drummer in church over 15 years ago. She built a career in arts administration, with more than a decade of experience supporting artists and community programs. She currently serves as Programming Manager at Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Outside of work, Sarah founded an independent music series for faith-based singer-songwriters and competes in a Survivor fantasy league.

Rachael Gunning graduated from Bard College with a double major in Written Arts and Classical Voice. She shifted into Arts Management soon after, with a focus in producing, operations, and finance. She recently graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master of Arts Management. She has made Pittsburgh her home base, working at KST. In her free time, she works on improv, voice, and petting dogs.



Ray K. Morgen is a queer, disabled, transdisciplinary theater artist with an MFA in Sound Design from Carnegie Mellon University, where their thesis focused on sound design as a non-normative embodiment practice and relational artform. Their work is rooted in acoustic exploration, embodiment research, trauma-informed practice, and their lived experience of disability.



Pó Rodil is a transdisciplinary artist, and director of La Otra Laboratoria (a performance platform for trans artists in Puerto Rico). Through performance, theatre and visual arts they explore desire, vulnerability and humor. They like to mix what's personal with what's political so to create worlds in which queerness has always a space to shine.



Annabell (AB) Taylor (they/them) is a recent Point Park University alumnus, thrilled to be making their professional Stage Management debut through Kelly Strayhorn Theater! They have over ten years of experience in theatre, from performing onstage and teaching young artists, to recent work with the Pittsburgh Playhouse as a Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Costume Designer and Wardrobe Assistant. AB would like to thank their friends, family, and partner for entertaining their vast array of interests and hobbies over the years; all of the hard work is paying off, and they can't wait for you to see what we've made! Enjoy the show!

SPECIAL THANKS

Kolton Cotton
J.R Shaw
Sarah Gilmer
Moire's Therapist

RESOURCES

If you or anyone you know is thinking about harming themselves, please call this number:

Central Outreach Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

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