

KST PRESENTS

FRESHWORKS

JUSTIN KELLY & ARIEL /
BAD FORM: A SCRATCH SYMPHONY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 6 - 7, 2022
8:00PM

KST PRESENTS: SPRING 2022 WELCOME HOME



**“When I think of home/ I think of a place where there’s love overflowing/
I wish I was home/ I wish I was back there with the things I been
knowing” – “Home,” The Wiz, music lyrics by Charlie Smalls**

Following Dorothy’s (Diana Ross in The Wiz) adventures through the Land of Oz, a fantastical NYC, she finally discovers her “world full of love...like home” and is transported back to Harlem with help from Glinda the Good Witch (Lena Horne). This final scene from The Wiz reminds me that it takes a “brand new day,” a journey through self discovery to teach us to love and find our home.

What does home mean to you? Is it a place, a feeling, a community? During the pandemic, we all spent a lot of time in our apartments and houses, but that doesn’t necessarily mean we were at home. To me, art and the theater has always provided that journey to home. A place where I can fully, freely express myself and be with others who love and appreciate the authentic me. Over the years, Kelly Strayhorn Theater has had the great privilege of being an artistic home to so many, from internationally acclaimed performers to neighborhood kids taking their first ballet class at KST’s Alloy Studios.

KST has been my home too. I started here as an intern back in 2009 and even after I left Pittsburgh, I always cherished the friends and memories made here. I knew there was just something special about this place. Home has a funny way of calling us back, doesn’t it?

Now as Executive Director, I want KST to continue to be a home for all of us. Whether you feel more at home on the stage or sitting in the audience, this is for you!

This spring, we are excited to introduce our new pricing policy: **Pay What Moves You**, an accessible scale of ticket prices. Over the last few years, we heard feedback from artists and audiences alike—our ticket prices needed to better reflect the value and importance of art, as well as supporting artists to live well and thrive. **Pay What Moves You** encourages audiences to choose an equitable price that best fits their budget, while also still fairly compensating artists. It is also your opportunity to affirm the value of art! Go for the top tier if you can afford to! It helps us keep the first tier affordable for those who need it.

Welcome home to Kelly Strayhorn Theater with a season of beautiful, challenging, and contemporary performances that speak to our current moment. You may cry, you’ll definitely dance, and most importantly, you will feel reconnected to this powerful collective of friends.

Joseph D. Hall
JOSEPH HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**TO SEE MORE OF THE SPRING SEASON,
VISIT [KELLY-STRAYHORN.ORG/SPRING-2022](https://www.kelly-strayhorn.org/spring-2022)**

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

JUSTIN KELLY & ARIEL XIU

BAD FORM: A SCRATCH SYMPHONY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 6 - 7

ABOUT THE SHOW

What makes a noise count as music? What makes a movement count as dance? Who made the rules, who are they for, and why should we follow them? Join percussionist **Justin Kelly** and dancer **Ariel** / in ***Bad Form: A Scratch Symphony*** as they examine these questions through rhythm, movement, improvisation, free jazz, turntablism, post-modern dance and embodied ritual. This new work attempts to find ways around the rigidities of traditional forms and structures and is an ongoing investigation exploring the life contained within objects and places that become overlooked in our everyday world.

SHOW CREDITS

BB Kenda, Participatory Volunteer

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SPECIAL THANKS

This project is an extension and amplification of the ongoing dialogues happening between our network of kind, compassionate, brilliant, talented friends, family, allies and co-conspirators. Too many to mention, but if we have ever jammed together, this goes out to you. We hope you are able to see yourself somewhere in the work. Thank you.

- Justin & Ariel

ABOUT FRESHWORKS

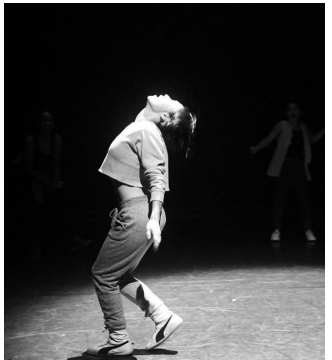
Freshworks is KST's creative residency for Pittsburgh based artists and collaborators. The program provides artists with financial resources, studio space, production staff, lighting and sound design, professional development, and encouragement for creative risk taking. through interdisciplinary collaborations in contemporary dance, theater, music, and multimedia. Artists present a 30-minute work in progress showing followed by a Q&A with the audience.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Justin Kelly is a percussionist, DJ, and event producer exploring rhythm, movement, celebratory ritual, and improvisation. His background as a classically trained percussionist has morphed into a musical practice centered around improvised rhythm making in the contexts of jazz, electronic music, and experimental music. Hailing from the Washington, D.C. area, Justin lives in Pittsburgh where he regularly performs and produces forward-thinking events that seek to foster community and spark imagination. *(Photo Credit: Mark Talkington)*



Ariel / is an independent performing artist and educator working in dance/film/theatre and is a maker of transdisciplinary artworks and choreographies. They made an appearance in Tribeca Film Festival award-winning short Black Ghost Son and has worked with companies including Allure, Makeup Forever, Brunch Theatre (NYC), Vangeline Butoh Theatre (NYC), Attack Theatre, and PearlArts Studio Extensions.



Notable venues where they have performed and displayed works include SPACE Gallery, The Space Upstairs, GPAC Center, Baryshnikov Dance Center, Alloy Studios, and New Hazlett Theatre. Born in the Hawaiian Kingdom and raised between Raymaytush (Northern California) and Osage land (Pittsburgh, PA), Ariel grew up in a home that practiced TCM, which distilled an awareness of being part of a provocative legacy of intel and experience directly at odds with Western societal infrastructures. This greatly informs their creative process where ancestral modalities for wellness, memory-keeping, and liberation are archived via performance/celebration.

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 September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

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