

STAYCEE
PEARL
dance project

SOY
SOS

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



ABOUT

STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos (SPdp&SS) exists to interpret and mirror culture and community through dance and dance centered multimedia experiences. With diverse casting and programming, SPdp&SS explores innovative conceptual possibilities while participating in meaningful collaboration. Under the leadership of Choreographer Staycee Pearl and Sound Designer Herman 'Soy Sos' Pearl, SPdp&SS produces programming around compelling concepts and themes often inspired by social/political world issues. SPdp&SS also occasionally examines the works of celebrated legendary and contemporary artists of the African Diaspora.

HISTORY:

STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos started as an informal incubator in 2009 with its first concert PUPA. From 2009 - 2013, SPdp&SS was resident dance company of the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. SPdp&SS ended this formative residency with the premiere of ...on being..., an investigation of race, gender, and personal identity in relation to conversations around Post-Blackness. Since these early works, SPdp&SS has created several evening-length works, including *ABBEY: In The Red*, a work inspired by the unique Jazz vocals of Abbey Lincoln and the civil rights movement she helped give voice to, *sym*, inspired by Octavia Butler's final novel, *Fledgeling*, and *sol.*, a celebration of the soul music of the late 50s to mid 70s.

SPdp&SS is the resident dance company of PearlArts, a Pittsburgh-based arts organization founded by Herman and Staycee Pearl in 2012. PearlArts serves the community with movement classes, public events, sound experiences, and artist residencies. PearlArts is the home of PearlDiving Movement Residency: a month-long residency for artists making dance centered multimedia works. This unique experience provides a generous stipend, work and live space, and a variety of resources to support the work of both local and national artists.



BIOGRAPHIES

Staycee R. Pearl received her initial dance training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. After relocating to Pittsburgh, she served a six-year tenure as Artistic Director of Xpressions Contemporary Dance Company and choreographed Nathan Davis' jazz operas: *Just Above My Head*, *Carmen Jones*, and *Lost in the Stars*, all produced by the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh. Ms. Pearl graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with honors in Studio Arts/Africana Studies. In 2009, STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos (SPdp&SS) debuted at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, and served as resident dance company for the theater for three years. Staycee's visual arts exhibitions include STACKS, featuring works inspired by Romare Bearden, and Fe Gallery's My Mythos, curated by Ingrid LaFleur featuring artists making Afrofuturistic works. Staycee and her husband/creative partner Herman Pearl proudly opened their dance/art/sound space, PearlArts Studios, in April of 2012. In February of 2013, SPdp&SS premiered *...on being...*, an evening-length piece that remained on Creative Capital's ON OUR RADAR for one year. As a guest teaching artist for the University of Pittsburgh Theatre Arts Department, Staycee choreographed the acclaimed musical production, *In the Heights* (Lin Manuel-Miranda) in 2014. Mrs. Pearl continues to create new works including *sym. sol.*, and was awarded New England Foundation for the Arts/National Dance Project and the National Performance Network support for her newest work, *CIRCLES: going in* (Fall 2021 premiere at the August Wilson Center in downtown Pittsburgh). Staycee and Herman enjoy collaborating with other dance, sound, and visual artists and they are 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, and Tuff Sound Apprenticeship Program.



Herman Pearl (Soy Sos) is head engineer and owner of Tuff Sound Recording, as well as sound designer and co-founder of PearlArts Studios | STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos, a sound and creative movement company he formed with his wife, Staycee Pearl. 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 including Donald Byrd and Kyle Abraham. 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. With DJ MKL, Herman created 3 Generations Walking and MKL vs. Soy Sos, a deep house music-centered collective that produced approximately 30 releases with worldwide distribution and acclaim between 1998 and 2006. In 1997, Pearl and longtime collaborator Christiane D founded the band Soma Mestizo, which produced 8 albums and performed over 500 shows. With reggae group Chill Factor International/CFI Massive, Pearl acted as co-founder, member, manager, and producer between 1986 and 1999, during which the band performed at nearly 1,000 engagements and released six records. His full-scale sound installation, "Named/Unnamed," was featured at 937 Gallery for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and Three Rivers Arts Festival. He continues to develop live performance ensembles, remix projects, and multimedia art installations.

CIRCLES: going in



Premiere: October 28-30, 2021, August Wilson African American Cultural Center

Staycee R. Pearl / Lead Artist

Herman B. Pearl / Sound Designer/Engineer

Jessica Marino Mitcham / Dancer

LaTrea Derome / Dancer

Chandler Bingham / Dancer

Ethan Gwynn / Dancer

Black Joy. Fem. Cycles of Life and Love.

CIRCLES: going in, is a full-length dance work celebrating #BlackGirlMagic. Layering dance, visual arts, and a live original score, 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. *CIRCLES: going in* is amplified by an original soundtrack created by Herman "Soy Sos" Pearl in collaboration with club artists.

CIRCLES: going in



Touring 2022-2023 | NDP Funding Available

[Click Here for Trailer](#)

Touring Cast: 5 Dancers, 1 DJ/Sound Engineer

Administrative/Tech: 1 Artistic Director, 1 Stage Manager

Running Time: 60 Minutes (no intermission)

Option to include *FLOWERZ* for a total running time: 85 minutes (includes a 10 min. intermission).

CIRCLES: going in is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Joyce Theater, and NPN. More information: www.npnweb.org. CIRCLES 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.

FLOWERZ



Premiere: November 2016, Ace Hotel, Pittsburgh
Staycee R. Pearl / Lead Artist & Choreographer
Herman B. Pearl / Sound Designer & Engineer
Adam Paul / Video Designer & editor
Scott Nelson/Lighting designer

[Click Here for Trailer](#)

FLOWERZ is a dance and sound performance venturing back to when both Staycee and Herman Pearl spent years involved in the New York house music scene. Herman worked on the production side while Staycee spent much of her free time from the dance studio in the clubs and loft parties of that era. Through exploration and celebration, STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos takes audiences through an evening-in-the-life of party goers. Originally created as a 50 minute work for 7 dancers, the company is touring a 15 minute version of *FLOWERZ* that can accompany *CIRCLES* as part of an evening of dance with intermission.

Touring Cast: 5 dancers
Administrative/Tech: 1 Artistic Director, 1 Stage Manager
Running Time: 15 minutes

FLOWERZ was made possible by the generous support of the Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, the Heinz Small Arts Initiative.

CIRCLES: reclamation



Accompanying Visual Art Exhibition

Featured Artists:
Staycee R. Pearl
Bekezela Mguni
Kitoko Chargois
sarah huny young

[Click Here for Trailer of T2/350](#)

Immerse yourself in the accompanying *CIRCLES: reclamation* art exhibit featuring Black visual artists which includes Staycee's dance film *T2/350*. Works draw from their shared explorations of Blackness and self-reclamation.

Presenting organizations may include the accompanying visual art and video exhibit in conjunction with performances of *CIRCLES: going in*. Contact sandyg@pentacle.org for details.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos offer aesthetic training workshops and engagement activities specifically developed for: Youth Grades 1 - 12, University Dance Departments, Non-Dancers & Local Communities and Adults. Offerings include:

- Lecture/Demonstrations
- Contemporary Technique Classes for: Beginning / Intermediate/ Advanced Dancers
- Sound Design for Dance
- *CIRCLES* Workshop
- *CIRCLES* Book Club
- Aesthetic Training Workshops for Youth Grades 1-12
- Youth Empowerment Summit
- School time Performances. *Study Guide Available*
- Pre- & Post Performance Discussion

[Click HERE for descriptions of in-person and virtual offerings.](#)



PRESS QUOTES

Pittsburg Dance Troupes Get Virtual National Stage Courtesy of Kennedy Center- 90.5 WESA

Wife-Husband team continue big year by producing weeklong dance festival - Pittsburgh City Paper

Dance Review: On Being by Staycee Pearl dance project - Coal Hill Review

"Pearl's choices usually bring a mix of past and present. Within a phrase of her movement, one may see a big, technical leap reminiscent of her time at the Alvin Ailey school. And in the next second, her dancers may sink to the floor with the release styles more prevalent today." -Adrienne Totino, *Coal Hill Review*



For booking inquiries:

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<https://www.pentacle.org/the-roster/>

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CONTACT