

2019 PRIDE YOUTH  
THEATER ALLIANCE  
CONFERENCE

pittsburgh, pa  
july 25-28

hosted by

**DREAMS** OF HOPE  
QUEER YOUTH ARTS



2018-2019 SEASON

Chasing  
Elevation

CREATED  
& PERFORMED  
BY DREAMS OF HOPE'S  
theatriQ ensemble

THE ALLOY STUDIOS  
5530 PENN AVE.  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15206

MAY 17 8 PM  
MAY 18 2 PM & 8 PM  
MAY 19 2 PM

[WWW.DREAMSOFHOPe.ORG](http://WWW.DREAMSOFHOPe.ORG)

CREATED AND PRODUCED BY

**THEATRIQ**

YOUTH ENSEMBLE

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the KST Alloy Studios, home of the Dreams of Hope *theatriQ* Youth Ensemble. We are delighted to have you with us to enjoy this season's main-stage production – *Chasing Elevation*. Thank you for being here, and for your support. We hope you enjoy the show!

**Seth Rosenberg**

## FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for this year's production, *Chasing Elevation*! We appreciate your presence and support.

Thank you to our ensemble members who are talented, daring, imaginative and bold for creating work that asks us to be thoughtful about the current state of the planet and the role we play in shaping the world we will leave behind for future generations. Immense gratitude to our teaching artist team and guest artists for their generosity, patience, flexibility and commitment.

Apparently the apocalypse isn't that far away...so we either need to get to work or get ready to throw one memorable goodbye party! Don't worry about the global helium shortage though - I've got us on the balloon garlands, we'll have a fabulous send off!

Enjoy the show!!

**Bekezela Mguni**

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS, CONTINUED

|                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Howard Seltman                        | Richard & Sandy Ekstrom         |
| Kelly & Chris Cooke                   | Richard Scheines & Martha Harty |
| Kelly O'Connor & Bob Holland          | Robin Godfrey                   |
| Kenneth Neundorf                      | Roger Zahab                     |
| Kristi Schaefer                       | Rosanne Andrews                 |
| Kristin Mullaney & David Ertz         | Roy & Beth Matway               |
| Larry Karnoff & James McDonald        | Russellyn Carruth               |
| Lea & Patrick Harty                   | Ruth Fauman Fichman             |
| Lora & Ed Dikun                       | Sharon & Mel Pirchesky          |
| Loretta Zook-Stanley                  | Sheri L Owen                    |
| Lyndsey Sickler                       | Stephen Burnett                 |
| Maggie & Bill Oberst                  | Susan Cheney & David Arbeit     |
| Maggie Nefores                        | Suzie Silver                    |
| Marcia Telthorster                    | Thomas Heinricher               |
| Margaret L Craft                      | Tom & Leslie Gill               |
| Marina Golden                         | Vicki Wilkes                    |
| Mark Rubenstein                       | Victoria Greene                 |
| & Claudia Davidson                    | Werner Hough                    |
| Marsha Albright                       | William Jennings Sheridan       |
| Martin & Jean Schmidt                 | & Stevie Sheridan               |
| Mary Louise White & Kathleen O'Malley |                                 |
| Mary Ruth & Ward Kelsey               |                                 |
| Melissa Perkins & Liz Connors         |                                 |
| Michael Harty & Pamela Pacelli        |                                 |
| Michael Scott                         |                                 |
| Mk Zev Davis                          |                                 |
| Nancy Bernstein & Rocky Schoen        |                                 |
| Nina Sowiski & Carolyn Hoffman        |                                 |
| Paul Georg                            |                                 |
| Polly Halfkenny                       |                                 |
| Poppy Cates                           |                                 |
| Rachel Rosnick                        |                                 |
| Randi Starr                           |                                 |
| Rayden Sorock & OË Zelmanovich        |                                 |
| Rebecca King & Seth Rosenberg         |                                 |

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Allen Wolk                  | Elaine Ann Herald              |
| Amy Kersnick                | & J.W. Jordan                  |
| Amy Patterson               | Elaine Bellin & Phyllis Coontz |
| Andrew Ellis                | Eleanor Miller                 |
| Ann Begler                  | Elizabeth Scheines & Ron Elton |
| Annabelle & Jay Joseph      | Elsa Limbach                   |
| Annie Henson                | Eric Cooper                    |
| & Christina Schessler       | & Naomi Weisberg Siegel        |
| Anonymous                   | Fae Gibson                     |
| Audra Cannan                | Gail Amshel                    |
| & Ann Marie Hanzes          | Gary Cravener                  |
| Barbara & Alan Bisno        | Gilbert Debenedetti            |
| Barbara Mentz               | Henry Posner                   |
| Ben Mantica                 | Iris Rosenberg                 |
| Bev Shaw & Tom Bassett      | & Steve Sherman                |
| Bonnie & Gerry Rack-Wildner | Jaclyn Belczyk                 |
| Brenda Graham               | James Huggins & Gary Sadler    |
| & Harriet Schwartz          | Jane Haugh & C. Brammer        |
| Carol & Raymond Coccia      | Janet & Marty Seltman          |
| Chad Elder                  | Janet Kinnane & Conrad Smith   |
| Charles Carlson             | Jasper Klier                   |
| Charlie Day                 | Jeff Bondy & Tamara Stark      |
| Christopher Horwitz         | Jeffrey Pribut                 |
| & Pamela Murray             | Jeffrey Weston                 |
| Christopher Mark            | Jo Weisbrod                    |
| & Mary Denison              | John Burt                      |
| Cindy Cook                  | John Cherry                    |
| Cindy Daro                  | John McGeeney                  |
| Cindy Freeman               | & Linda George                 |
| & David Nemerson            | Judith Albert                  |
| Craig McDonald              | Judith Wilson                  |
| & Dan Catanzaro             | Kathleen Cameron               |
| Dale & Carol Kirkpatrick    | Kathleen Schneider             |
| Derwin & Darlene            | & Patricia Hayes               |
| Durrwachter Rushing         | Kathryn & Sam Hens-Greco       |
| Dolores DeFilipiis          | Kathy McIntyre-Seltman &       |

## FROM OUR ARTISTIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thank you for coming to Chasing Elevation! We are so happy to have you here.

This year, our play has a decidedly darker tone. Maybe darker than any play theatriQ has done before. While devising this show we all sometimes struggled with the less than cheerful content, but we also know that our stories do not always hold happy endings. We don't always get the girl. Not everyone gets out alive. And for those of us who wade through the daily muck of oppression and struggle through the ongoing mire of capitalism, these not-so-happy endings are all too familiar. To ourselves and to our community.

Yes, the world can be dark. But building art together in community, no matter the ending, can shine some light into that darkness. Welcome to the world of Chasing Elevation. Try not to overthink it. It's the apocalypse, after all.

**Ali Hoefnagel**

# DREAMS <sup>OF</sup> HOPE

## QUEER YOUTH ARTS

visit us at [www.dreamsofhope.org](http://www.dreamsofhope.org)

## ABOUT THE SHOW

UPMC presents

### *CHASING ELEVATION*

Created and performed by the theatriQ Ensemble

Year: 2064

Location: New Diaya, the holding place

Chasing Elevation runs approximately 75 minutes  
with no intermission.

There will be a talk back immediately following the performance.

Please note that Chasing Elevation contains strong language that  
parents may consider inappropriate for people under the age of 13.

## THEATRIQ YOUTH ENSEMBLE

|                     |                |                 |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Akira Ormes Strong  | Ivan Del Mar   | Patria Taylor   |
| Ari Martinez        | Josh Begler    | Phoebe Brown    |
| Chris Eagleton      | Kieren Konig   | Phoenix Thomas  |
| Dean Tyler          | Kyrin Lilly    | Red Goblet      |
| Eliza Dorsey        | Lee Richardson | Shayla Esquivel |
| Esai Aliquo- Varela | Noah Bier      | Winston Nunley  |

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Red Goblet | Music

Akira Ormes-Strong | Writing

## INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS

The Allegheny Regional Asset District

The Birmingham Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

BOOM Concept

The Cooper-Siegel Family Foundation

Dollar Bank

The Fine Foundation

The Gouge Family Foundation

The Grable Foundation

The Heinz Endowments

Hillman Family Foundations

Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Kelly Strayhorn Theater

The John J. McDonnell and Margaret T. O'Brien Foundation

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off the WALL Charitable Trust

Opportunity Fund

Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program of the Pennsylvania

Council on the Arts

The A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust Fund of The

Pittsburgh Foundation

The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation

The Brooks Foundation of PNC Charitable Trusts

Silver Lake Films

Vibrant Pittsburgh

## STAFF

Ali Hoefnagel  
*Artistic Program Director*

Bekezela Mguni  
*Educational Program Director*

Seth Rosenberg  
*Executive Director,  
Board Member*

David Warga  
*Office Manager*

## BOARD

Jaclyn M. Belczyk, Esq.  
*Board Secretary*

Robin Godfrey, CPA  
*Board President*

Miracle Jones, JD

Susan Haugh  
*Founder*

Randi Starr  
*Board Treasurer*

## CAST

**Jamie** | Eli Dorsey

**JJ/Ensemble** | Lee Richardson

**Scarlet** | Akira Ormes-Strong

**John/Ensemble** | Phoenix Thomas

**Michael** - Patria Taylor

**Dorri/Ensemble** | Esai Aliquo-Varela

**Mateo** | Winston Nunley

**Ensemble** | Red Goblet & Kyrin Lilly

**Avery** | Josh Begler

## SPECIAL THANKS

BOOM Concepts

Glitterbox Theater

Persad Center

Nicolas P. Gaudreau of Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo

Jasmine Hearn

A. Odell Richardson

Nica Ross

Kelly Strayhorn Theatre Staff

Parents, guardians, and family members  
of the ensemble members

Partnering Educators, school, and community organizations

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Pixie Colbert | Production Manager

Joss Gree | Video Design

Ivan Del Mar | Sound and Music Engineering

Lisa Leiberling | Set Design

## TEACHING ARTISTIS

Ginger Brooks-Takahashi

Ali Hoefnagel

Bekezela Mguni

Breydon Priouleau

A vertical rainbow flag with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The flag is slightly wrinkled, giving it a fabric-like appearance.

**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF A  
GREAT PERFORMANCE.**

UPMC is proud to support Dreams of Hope *theatriQ*.

**UPMC**  
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE