Oakland Dance Theatre
and
Oakland University Repertory Dance Company
present
Annual Winter Dance Concert

With Guest Choreographers:
Craig Miller
and
Take Root

Gregory Patterson, ODT Director
Elizabeth Riga, ODT Director
Thayer Jonutz, RDC Director
Christa Koerner, Costume Supervisor
Supervisor Kerro Knox 3, Lighting Supervisor
Matt Taylor, Lighting Advisor

Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 8 p.m.
Seligman Performing Arts Center

Oakland University resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. The land was ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit and makes up southeast Michigan.

In recognizing the history and respecting the sovereignty of Michigan’s Indian Nations, Oakland University honors the heritage of Indigenous communities and their significant role in shaping the course of this region. Further, we recognize the wrongs done to those forcibly removed from their Homelands and commit to fostering an environment of inclusion that is responsive to the needs of First Peoples through our words, policies, and actions.

The preservation and perpetuation of customs and traditions of Indigenous nations are essential to our shared cultural heritage. A deep understanding of Native peoples’ past and present informs the teaching, research, and community engagement of the university in its ongoing effort to elevate the dignity of all people and serve as shared stewards of the land.
PROGRAM

**Airplanes and Elevators**  
Choreography: Ali Woerner and Thayer Jonutz  
Restaged and Re-constructed by Ali Woerner  
Rehearsal Assistants: Vivian Costello and Andrew Detlof  
Music: Original composition by Jon Anderson  
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3  
Costumes: Christa Koerner  
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Sarah Holcomb, Riley McClain, Rebecca Otmanowski, April Thweatt, Abigail Simmons, Morgan Pinkham  

**Airplanes and Elevators premiered at The Cube/Orchestra Hall, Detroit 2019. Take Root is company-in-residence at Oakland University under the direction of Ali Woerner.**

**Sinking into sand**  
Choreography: Lea Purrett  
Music: On Oath by Andy Stott  
Lighting: Eileen Brennan  
Costumes: Lea Purrett  
Dancers: Kaitlyn DeVault, Olivia Dorman, Megan Makulski, Brianna Muawad, Loren Pia

**Do That Somewhere Else**  
Choreography: Laurel Ryan  
Music: Girls @ by Joey Purp ft. Chance the Rapper, Elastic by Joey Purp  
Lighting: Amanda Pordon  
Costumes: Laurel Ryan  
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Lilie DeGain, Katie Farris, Juliet Geck, Sarah Holcomb, Emily Kloc, Angela Lowry, Jane Lyszak, Theresa O’Connor, Sean Ryan

**Alejandro**  
Choreography: Sarah Holcomb  
Music: Alejandro by Lady Gaga  
Lighting: Joseph Kocenda  
Costumes: Sarah Holcomb  
Dancers: Olivia Dorman, Guadalupe Gaytan, Claire McCowan, Morgan Pinkham, Emily Reschke, Izzy Winarski

**Above Water**  
Choreography: Iyobosasere Enabulele  
Music: Ok Ok Pt.2 by Kanye West  
Lighting: Jane Lyszak  
Costumes: Iyobosasere Enabulele  
Dancers: Lexi Benton, Jada Givens, Destinee Modock, Brianna Muawad, Lexi Radjewski, Kimberly Sexton, April Thweatt
Step Lightly
Choreography: Repertory Dance Company dancers
Music: Step Lightly by Michael Wall
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Anna Taravella, Iyobosasere Enabulele, Lea Purrett, Madison Boussie

**The movement vocabulary came from solos that Thayer Jonutz created in collaboration with the dancers for the Habitus production that took place at the OU Engineering Building March 25th, 26th. The dancers condensed the material and with the help of Riley McClain and Rebecca Otmanowski, crafted a new work set to different music.**

In This Shirt
Choreography: Morgan Pinkham
Music: In This Shirt by The Irrepressibles
Lighting: Jaden Leverett
Costumes: Morgan Pinkham
Dancers: Sarah Holcomb, Izzy Winarski, Destinee Modock, April Thweatt, Kimberly Sexton, Abigail Simmons, Laurel Ryan

**Has there ever been someone or something in your life whom you were forced to say goodbye to unexpectedly? Whether this person passed away or a fight caused this relationship to end, you were not ready for this bond to dissipate. Everyone has something they have lost that they were not yet ready to lose. The shirt in this piece represents a memory or an object that allows you to feel close to this person or time in your life again. The world keeps spinning despite your pain, so we often rely on these objects and the company of others to feel safe and loved.**

INTERMISSION

Trapped in Dark Spaces
Choreography: Greg Patterson
Music: Daughters of Mary by Mark Isham, Solitude by Judas Priest, Black is the Color of my True Love’s Hair by Nina Simone
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Dancers: Anna Taravella, Iyobosasere Enabulele, Lea Purrett, Madison Boussie, Rebecca Otmanowski, Riley McClain

Sentirse Descarado (Feeling Sassy)
Choreography: Loren Pia
Music: Feeling Good by Michael Buble
Lighting: River Tomalka
Costumes: Loren Pia
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Guadalupe Gaytan, Jada Givens, Alison Penix, Theresa Sommers
The Ballad of Me and My Brain
Choreography: Rissa Smith
Music: The Ballad of Me and My Brain by The 1975
Lighting: Eden Cope
Costumes: Rissa Smith
Dancers: Kaitlin DeVault, Emily Kloc, Angela Lowry, Jane Lyszak, Morgan Pinkham, Laurel Ryan, Sean Ryan

The Process
Choreography: Theresa Sommers
Music: Palemote by Slow Meadow
Lighting: Eden Cope
Costumes: Theresa Sommers
Dancers: Lexi Benton, Megan Makulski, Claire McCowan, Theresa O’Connor, Alison Penix, Lexi Radjewski, Emily Reschke, Abigail Simmons

“Us, No, We, What?...OK.”
Choreography: Thayer Jonutz
Music: Sea of Love by Cat Power, You Are Giving Me Some Other Love by Penny and the Quarters, Raven’s Song by Aaron Ambry
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Rebecca Otmanowski and Riley McClain

3x3x3=3
Choreography: Craig Miller
Music: Holiday (Erol Alkan Rework) edit by Confidence Man, Rise by WILLOW & Jahnavi Harrison, Vivaldi Storm by 2 Cellos
Lighting: Jane Lyszak & River Tomalka
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Olivia Dorman, Sarah Holcomb, Destinee Modock, Alison Penix, Morgan Pinkham, Lea Purrett, Sean Ryan, Kimberly Sexton, Abigail Simmons, Theresa Sommers, April Thweatt

Oakland Dance Theatre
Lexi Benton, Tristen Cook, Lilie DeGain, Kaitlin DeVault, Olivia Dorman, Katie Farris, Guadalupe Gaytan, Juliet Geck, Jada Givens, Sarah Holcomb, Emily Kloc, Angela Lowry, Jane Lyszak, Megan Makulski, Claire McCowan, Destinee Modock, Brianna Muawad, Theresa O’Connor, Alison Penix, Loren Pia, Morgan Pinkham, Lexi Radjewski, Emily Reschke, Laurel Ryan, Sean Ryan, Kimberly Sexton, Abigail Simmons, Rissa Smith, Theresa Sommers, April Thweatt

Repertory Dance Company
Madisyn Boussie, Iyobosasere Enabulele, Riley McClain, Becca Otmanowski, Lea Purrett, Anna Taravella
Choreographer Biographies

**Iyobosasere Enabulele** was born in Detroit, Michigan and is currently in her third year at Oakland University. Iyobosasere started taking dance classes her freshman year at Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology, where she also choreographed several pieces for the annual showcases. It wasn’t until Iyobosasere turned 16 that she was able to begin taking technique classes at Body Rhythms Dance Theater. Since then her goal has been to receive her BFA in Dance Performance and eventually dance professionally. Although Iyobosasere’s passion is dancing, she also has another aspiration, which is helping people in the medical field. She will be pursuing a bachelors in nursing after completing her degree in dance. Her inspiration for the piece “Above Water” came from a duet that she created for an assignment in her Choreography III class. Since Iyobosasere never got to perform the duet, she decided to expand on the idea and create a group piece that you will all be seeing today!

**Sarah Holcomb** is a current Junior at Oakland University and a BFA Dance Major. She started her dance journey in Grayling Michigan at Ausable Dance Center at the age of nine, where she started competing at the age of twelve until high school graduation. She also furthered her education while still in high school at The Rock School for Dance Education, as well as the Joffrey Ballet School. After college, Sarah aspires to dance professionally for a company, as well as teach and give back to the dance community as much as possible.

**Thayer Jonutz** is an independent dance artist who has been choreographing and performing for almost 30 years. In his early day’s gymnastics, hip-hop and Polynesian dance along with the traditional Ballet and Jazz dance established the base of his expression. After earning a BA in Modern Dance from Brigham Young University he performed with one of the oldest Repertory Modern Dance companies, Repertory Dance Theatre for five seasons. It was there that historical works by Ted Shawn, John Butler, Helen Tamiris, Laura Dean and many others imprinted a love for honoring the past. Thayer’s journey to Michigan began at the University of Michigan where he gained an MFA in Choreography and Performance. Upon graduating Thayer accepted a position as a professor of dance at Oakland University where he has been educating for the last 12 years. In 2013 he cofounded Take Root which has performed in many venues throughout Michigan and internationally including Germany, South Korea and Costa Rica. Since resigning from Take Root in 2020 Thayer is excited to use all of his dance history to create and impact the community with his diverse artistic vision.

**Craig Miller** began his training in the Fine Arts Academy at Southfield-Lathrup High School and Motor City Dance Factory. He attended Oakland University as a Merit Scholarship student, earning a B.A. in Dance Performance. He has trained with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet, and the Ailey School summer intensives. Craig was an apprentice for Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, a member of the Michigan Dance Project, Inside Chicago Dance, Esoteric Dance Project, Dance in the Parks, The Seldoms, and Chicago Repertory Ballet. He has performed works by Louis Falco, Amy Marshall, Laurie Eisenhower, Sean Curran, Robert Moses, Joel Hall, Harrison McEldowney, Autumn Eckman, Alonzo King, Randy Duncan, Monique Haley, Kristina Isabelle, Robyn Mineko Williams, and Joshua Blake Carter to name a few. He has performed with the Civic Ballet of Chicago’s production of “The Nutcracker”, a Guest Artist with Chicago Dance Crash, and starred in Jacobi Alvarez’s dance for the camera “Glamour Baby” which has been presented in many festivals across the country. Acting credit: “Scottsboro Boys” (Porchlight Music Theater, “Mr. Tambo” U/S). Choreography credits include: “Little Me” (Porchlight Music Theater), “Billy Elliot” (Porchlight Music Theater, Co-Choreographer, Broadway World Award- Best Choreography), “The Color Purple” (Mercury Theater Chicago, Assoc. Choreographer; Broadway World Award-Best Choreography), “Ain’t Misbehavin’
Porchlight Music Theater, Asst. Choreographer; Joseph Jefferson Award Winner for Best Production of a musical review) "Rent" (Artist’s Giving Back World AIDS Day performance), and Carl Neilsen’s “Maskarade” (Vox3 Collective, Choreographer). His work has also been presented at Dance Chicago, Dance Chance, Chicago Freelance Dance, and Oakland University. Craig is a Paffpontee © certified teacher at the 25-hour level. He was the Founding Director of The Keystone Academy through the partnership of The Ruth Page Center for the Arts and the Union League Boys & Girls Club.

**Gregory A. Patterson** is an Associate Professor and Chair of Dance at Oakland University, and the Artistic Director of Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Co. Mr. Patterson received his B.A. from Bowling Green State University and his M.F.A. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Mr. Patterson has been a member of Harbinger Dance Company, Ann Arbor Dance Works, and Eisenhower Dance Ensemble (EDE), and has also performed as a guest artist with both the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Doug Elkins Dance Company from New York. Mr. Patterson has received the Maggie Allesee Choreography Award, the Travis Professorship from Oakland University and has traveled extensively to perform and teach in Study Abroad programs. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Dance Council and Eisenhower Dance Detroit.

**Loren Pia** is Junior at Oakland University. She is studying for her Bachelor’s Degree in Dance. Loren plans to find a job at a dance studio after she graduates college to save enough money to eventually open her own dance studio.

**Morgan Pinkham** is a junior BFA Dance Major also earning her certification in Dance Education. She currently studies as a student apprentice with Take Root Dance Company. Throughout college she has worked as an intern for Brighton Dance Festival and Art Lab J Dance Company. Morgan began her training at the age of three and started competitively dancing at the age of twelve under the direction of Sherry’s Academy of Dance. At age sixteen, she joined the pre-professional company at Dance Nation Studio where she trained until high school graduation. After college, Morgan hopes to continue dancing in the professional industry and one day move to New York City to continue pursuing her dreams. Later in life she hopes to work teaching dance in the high school setting, as well as start her own dance company.

**Lea Purrett** is a Junior getting her BFA in Dance performance. She comes from a competitive background, gaining her dance training over 12 years at Drop Everything and Dance Studios. She came to Oakland in 2019 and has gained a lot of knowledge from her professors here. In the future, she hopes to dance with contemporary/modern companies and choreograph pieces. She thanks her professors for their knowledge, her family and boyfriend for their support, her cast for being amazing, and the audience for being here to witness this show. She is excited to share her piece with you and to continue to grow at OU!

**Laurel Ryan** is in her last year at Oakland University. After spending a year majoring in Pre-Med, she switched to the SMTD program her sophomore year. Since then she has been learning to create memorable works and hone her personal style. Do That Somewhere Else explores the natural movement of its cast members while acknowledging the difficulty of being truly expressive in a competitive industry. Laurel would love to thank her professors Gregory Patterson, Dr. Elizabeth Kattner, Ali Woerner, Stephanie Pizzo, Christina Tasco, Elizabeth Riga, and Thayer Jonutz along with several guest instructors, for pushing her to new limits throughout the years.
**Rissa Smith** is a current student at Oakland University pursuing a double major involving Dance and Communications. They have been dancing for seventeen years and began classes at three years old. Before Oakland, Rissa trained in the competition dance scene where she competed for ten years. Their hope for the future is to work with music artists as a dancer. Rissa sends a special thank you to her family for their constant love and support.

**Theresa Sommers** is a junior at Oakland University. She is pursuing a BFA in dance performance. In addition, Theresa is in the process of becoming a K-12 certified dance teacher.

**Ali Woerner**, Associate Professor of Dance at Oakland University, Ali received her MFA from the University of Michigan and her BPA from Oklahoma City University. Throughout her diverse career within both commercial (performing as a Radio City Rockette) and contemporary mediums, Ali has performed and taught all over the world; including Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Berlin and Korea. In 2013, Ali joined forces with fellow OU Professor, Thayer Jonutz and co-founded the non-profit professional contemporary modern dance company, Take Root. Take Root is “company-in-residence” at Oakland University and tours nationally and internationally, performing and teaching within diverse communities. Ali and Thayer have been invited to teach master classes and lecture demonstrations for the American College Dance Association, Michigan Dance Council, National Dance Education Organization, 21st Century Arts and Arts Education Conference. Ali serves as a guest on the Review Board for the Journal of Dance Education. Ali is the Director and Founder of Take Root’s Dance for Parkinson’s Disease Program. The DPD Program offers four weekly classes for those living with Parkinson’s Disease and their caregivers/spouses throughout Metro Detroit including Oakland University, The Older Person’s Commission/Rochester, St. Joseph’s Mercy Oakland/Pontiac and One Ford Place/Detroit. The DPD Program also provides in-services and demonstrations to physical therapists, symposiums and support groups throughout Michigan. Ali won the title of Oakland County Executive’s 2016 Elite 40 under 40 for her work with Dance for Parkinson’s Disease and was nominated for a 2016 Governor’s Fitness Award. www.takerootdance.com

**Stage Personnel**

Stage Manager: Mason Gaida
Costume Construction: Lilija Shuger, Liv Kunkle, Colin Franz, Eileen Brennan, Mimi Denstaedt, Cayla Stus, Phillip Christiansen, Madeline Daunt, Katie Lengyel