

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

B.F.A. Dance Seniors Present...

EPILOGUE

Senior Recital 2022

Senior Concert Advisor: Ali Woerner
Lighting Design Advisor: Kerro Knox 3

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Detroit Country Day School Theatre

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.

EPILOGUE

Not Then, Not Now, Not Ever

Choreography: Madisyn Boussie

Dancers: Jane Lyszak, Megan Makulski, Morgan Pinkham, Lea Purrett, Kimberly Sexton, Isabella Winarski

Music: “Them”- by Nils Frahm, “Experience”- by Ludovico Einaudi

Costume Design: Madisyn Boussie

Lighting Design: Kerro Knox 3

**This work premiered at the American College Dance Association East –Central Region at Ohio University,
March 2022.

The Dream of Life

Choreography: Madisyn Boussie

Dancer: Madisyn Boussie

Music: “Threnody”- by Goldmund, “Dream of Life”- by Alan Watts

Costume Design: Madisyn Boussie & Christa Koerner

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

Splat

Choreography: Laurel Ryan

Dancers: Guadalupe Gaytan, Jada Givens, Riley McClain, Sean Ryan, Rissa Smith

Music: “Greatest Hits”- by Waterparks, “Ice Bath”- by Waterparks

Costume Design: Laurel Ryan & Christa Koerner

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

Take That as You Will

Choreography: Laurel Ryan

Dancer: Laurel Ryan

Music: “Toms Diner”- by Giant Rocks

Costume Design: Laurel Ryan

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

Sonder

Choreography: Grace Whan

Dancers: Olivia Dorman, Iyobosasere Enabulele, Guadalupe Gaytan, Ainsley Middleton, Morgan Pinkham

Music: "Peaches"- by FINNEAS, "Life"- by Ludovico Einaudi

Costume Design: Grace Whan

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

(n.) The realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.

Light

Choreography: Grace Whan

Dancer: Grace Whan

Music: "Epilogue"- by Olafur Arnolds

Costume Design: Grace Whan

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

Choreographer Notes: As a student I've had my light suppressed many times. I've also found places where my light can shine. Each moment, whether dark or light, has played a part in helping me discover who God created me to be. The most important thing I've learned through my college journey is to fix my eyes on Jesus. This piece is about that. About light and dark, joy and sorrow, Jesus and the world.

The Number of Tomorrow's Last

Choreography: Riley McClain

Dancers: Tristan Cook, Sarah Holcomb, Rebecca Otmanowski, Lea Purrett, Laurel Ryan

Music: "Vaccine"- by Perila, "Undertow"- by Son Lux

Costume Design: Christa Koerner

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

**This work premiered at the American College Dance Association East –Central Region at Ohio University, March, 2022.

And We'll Meet in The Inbetween

Choreography: Riley McClain

Dancer: Riley McClain

Music: "Liminal States" – by Patricia

Costume Design: Riley McClain

Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

"The off center, in-between state is an ideal situation in which to open our hearts and minds beyond limit."

-Pema Chodron

Blurry Lines

Choreography: Maddie Parker
Dancer: Maddie Parker
Music: “Ljoss” – by Forest Swords
Costume Design: Maddie Parker & Christa Koerner
Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

Away With Myself

Choreography: Maddie Parker
Dancers: Olivia Dorman, James Nickel, Katie Reid, Kimberly Sexton, Rissa Smith, April Thweatt
Music: “Uma”- by Job Roggeveen, “L’Apostrophe”- by Simon P. Castonguay, Tambour, “The Big Ship”- by Brian Eno, “do you know how much i love you” – by Grady
Costume Design: Maddie Parker, Cast, & Christa Koerner
Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan
Choreographer Notes: You don’t get to choose your body or path in life. Sometimes you love yourself, sometimes you fight yourself, but you always must choose yourself.

Abide By

Choreography: Rebecca Otmanowski
Dancer: Rebecca Otmanowski
Music: “Plans We Made” - by Son Lux
Costume Design: Rebecca Otmanowski
Lighting Design: Eileen Brennan

The Rise & Ruin

Choreography: Rebecca Otmanowski
Dancers: Iyobasasere Enabulele, Riley McClain, James Nickel, Lea Purrett, Rissa Smith
Costume Design: Rebecca Otmanowski
Music: “Interlude 1”- by alt-J, “Kid Icarus”- by AbJo
Lighting Design: Kerro Knox 3

“I resurrect myself every day, in every moment that I allow myself to feel and become.” -Glennon Doyle

**This work premiered at the American College Dance Association East –Central Region at Ohio University, March, 2022.

Choreographer Biographies



Madisyn Boussie is in her fourth year at Oakland University and is expected to graduate in April of 2022. Upon graduating, Madisyn will be receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and a Minor in Business. Currently, she is a member of the Oakland University Repertory Dance Company and has trained under the direction of Gregory Patterson, Thayer Jonutz, Ali Woernor, Jennifer Harge, Teresa Muller, Elizabeth Riga, Stephanie Pizzo, Christina Tasco, among others. Prior to being a member of Oakland University's Repertory Dance Company, Madisyn was a three-year member of Oakland Dance Theatre. While completing her undergraduate studies, Madisyn has had the opportunity to perform in both faculty pieces and works created by professional companies in residency at Oakland University, including both Take Root Dance Company and

Eisenhower Dance Detroit.

While obtaining an education from Oakland University, Madisyn has also begun to explore her artistic voice as a choreographer. In April of 2021, her piece entitled, <<<no sound>>>, premiered at Oakland University's Young Choreographers Forum. Most recently, Madisyn's work entitled, Not Now, Not Then, Not Ever, was selected by Oakland University Dance Department faculty to be presented and adjudicated at the American College Dance Association's Regional Dance Conference, where it first premiered at Ohio University in March of 2022.

Alongside completing her undergraduate studies, Madisyn currently serves as the student-body president for Oakland University's Department of Dance, where she has begun to explore her voice as a leader. In addition, Madisyn is currently a founding company member for Diversiform Dance Project, where she trains under the artistic direction of Cindy Raffel and is also a dance instructor at 2nd Street Studio of Dance, located in Rochester Hills, MI. Not only this, but Madisyn is also a student-intern with Take Root Dance Company, a position she obtained in September of 2020. This past summer, in July of 2021, Madisyn also served as an intern at the annual Brighton Dance Festival, where she worked under the direction of Kathy King and had the opportunity to assist and take classes from accredited nation-wide choreographers.

Beyond graduation, Madisyn hopes to dance professionally in a modern-based dance company and eventually obtain a Master's Degree in Dance Performance, so that she is able to teach dance in a university setting.



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. Laurel would love to thank her professors Gregory Patterson, Ali Woerner, Stephanie Pizzo, Elizabeth Riga, and Thayer Jonutz along with several guest instructors, for pushing her to new limits throughout the years.

While dancing at OU, Laurel has also pursued a career in teaching dance. She has instructed at Anita's Elite Dance and Rochester Avon Recreation Authority, and currently teaches advanced ballet at Gone Dancing Studio in Mt. Clemens, MI. Laurel was able to adapt to the Zoom Era of dance teaching in 2020 by codifying

her teaching technique. She found incredible success in setting choreography on both college students and pre-professional students using this method. Laurel's biggest choreographic influences are Ian Eastwood and the Young Lions, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, and Cookies.

Beyond graduation, Laurel intends to continue teaching and dancing in a professional setting.



Grace Whan is currently completing her fourth year of undergraduate studies at Oakland University. Grace originally began her college education at Pace University, located in New York, New York, focusing mainly on commercial dance. When entering her junior year of undergraduate studies, Grace made the decision to transfer to Oakland University, where she has been further exploring concert dance. Grace is expecting to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance from Oakland University in April of 2022. While studying at Oakland University, Grace has been a member of Oakland Dance Theatre and has been cast in both faculty and guest artist pieces, including pieces created by Russel Tanenbaum, Take Root Dance Company, Stephanie Pizzo, and more.

In addition to being a dancer, Grace is also a singer, actress, artist, and professional princess. She loves to be creative and spread light and joy to others through her dancing and other passions. Grace's main goal upon graduation is to continue pursuing God's purpose for her life by using her passions to influence the world in a positive way. She wants you to know you're amazing and she hopes you enjoy the show.



Riley McClain will graduate in December 2022 with her BFA in dance performance. In her four years at Oakland University she has had the opportunity to not only work with the dance department faculty but several guest artists as well, including Take Root, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, DIAVOLO LA, Sandra Torijano, Bailey Allshouse, and more. Riley was a member of Oakland Dance Theater for three years and is currently a member of Oakland's Repertory Dance Company. She is also an intern for Take Root's Dance for Parkinson's disease program.

Riley debuted her choreography in April of 2021 with her piece titled SpaceWalker for ODT's Young Choreographers Forum. Her work The Number of Tomorrow's Lost was chosen to perform at ACDA in March of 2022.

At the end of this year, Riley plans to audition for local modern dance companies while she finishes her degree. Riley's future plans include traveling and dancing for a modern dance company and eventually obtaining an MFA so she can teach in a college setting.



Maddie Parker will graduate in April of 2022 from Oakland University with her BFA in Dance Performance. Over the past year, Maddie has had the honor of training and performing with Eisenhower Dance Detroit as an apprentice. While with EDD, Maddie has been able to work with artists such as Wewolf and Norbert DeLaCruz III and has been able to soak up so much information about what different choreographic and rehearsal processes can look like. While her first love is ballet, Maddie fell in love with modern dance at OU, but also had some interesting

opportunities to perform in other genres like tap and hip hop. During her first three years in the program, Maddie was a member of Oakland Dance theater and was cast in faculty, student, and guest artist pieces. She has worked, trained under, and would like to thank Greg Patterson, Stephanie Pizzo, Christina Tasco, Liz Riga, Dr. Elizabeth Kattner, Ali Woerner, Thayer Jonutz, Teresa Muller, Mary Murphy, and Jennifer Harge. As a junior in the program, Maddie was Vice President of the student board and an intern with Take Root's Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program, as well as a member of the Student Advisory Council for the School of Music Theater and Dance.

Currently, Maddie teaches for the School of Eisenhower Dance Detroit and is the ballet instructor and performance coach with Oakland Rhythmic Gymnastics. In the future, Maddie plans to continue dancing with a modern based dance company, but her ultimate goal is to explore choreography. She would like to get her master's degree, and perhaps teach and choreograph at a collegiate level or pursue choreography or artistic direction of a company.

Finally, Maddie would like to thank her parents and her sister for being her biggest supporters the past four years, and her best dog, Rory, for finding her just at the right time.



Rebecca Otmanowski will be graduating in December 2022 with a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Psychology. Throughout her four years she has had the pleasure of working with many talented faculty and guest artists such as Eisenhower Dance Detroit, Take Root, Sandra Torijano, Russell Tanenbaum, and more. She was a member of Oakland Dance Theater for her first three years and is currently a member of Oakland's Repertory Dance Company under Thayer Jonutz.

Rebecca's work the rise & ruin premiered at the American College Dance Association in March of this year. Her dance on film Morning Coffee was selected to be included in the Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival also in March of this year. She currently teaches and choreographs at Rochester Avon Recreation Authority.

After graduation, Rebecca plans to continue dancing and creating. She would love to dance for a modern based company while still choreographing, exploring movement, and anything else that comes her way.

A special thank you to Ali Woerner, Senior Recital Advisor, and all of the faculty and committee members who helped make this concert a success.