Oakland Dance Theatre and
Oakland University Repertory Dance Company

with guest choreographers:
Lauren Anderson
Shannon Gillen
Stephanie Pizzo

ANNUAL FALL
DANCE CONCERT

Liz Riga
Director, Oakland Dance Theatre

Teresa Muller
Director, Oakland University Repertory Dance Company

Christa Koerner
Costume Supervisor

Kerro Knox 3
Lighting Supervisor

Amanda Pordon
Stage Manager

Friday, November 18 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 19 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 20 at 2 p.m.
Seligman Performing Arts Center | Detroit Country Day School

Oakland University | School of Music, Theatre and Dance
Les filles dominent le monde
Choreography: Lauren Anderson after Marius Petipa
Rehearsal Director: Elizabeth Kattner
Music: Sleeping Beauty-Lilac Fairy by Tchaikovsky, Run the World (girls) by Beyoncé
Lighting: Colin Franz
Costumes: Christa Koerner

Standing in Line
Choreography: Teresa Muller
Music: Metric by Apparat and Ellen Allien
Lighting: Kaila Pickett-Kincannon
Costumes: Liv Kunkle
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Megan Makulski, Brianna Muawad, Abigail Simmons

*This piece was inspired by the first months of the current pandemic when stores - specifically grocery stores - required customers to wait in outdoor lines before entering their stores, in order to keep head counts low, and provide space for social distancing. The urgency to get in line before the next person, the weaving of human bodies moving from one spray painted circle on the sidewalk to the next, all created anxiety induced choreography.

Moments when waiting. Moments for leaving. Moments of meeting.
Choreography: Kaitlin Arena
Music: Dawn Chorus by Thom Yorke, After Sarah by Kyle Dixon & Michael Stein
Lighting: Colin Franz
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Lillie DeGain, Iyobosasere Enabulele, Jada Givens, Abigail Graham, Sarah Holcomb, De’Miah Johnson, Claire McCowan, Theresa O’Connor, Loren Pia, Morgan Pinkam, Lea Purrett, Theresa Sommers, Elise Spears, Anna Taravella, April Thweatt
Crazy Love
Choreography: Gregory Patterson
Music: *Like Someone in Love* by Bill Evans; *I've Got Your Number*, by Cy Coleman; *Unchain My Heart*, by Bobby Sharp, songs sung by Nancy Wilson
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Katie Farris, Jada Givens, Abigail Graham, Angela Lowry, Alison Penix, Cailey Powell, Anna Saje, Aliyah Spears, Isabella Winarski

INTERMISSION

SWIFTS
Choreography: Shannon Gillen in collaboration with the dancers
Music: Edited by Shannon Gillen with excerpts from Wolfmother, Machinefabrik and found sound
Lighting: Colin Franz
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Tristen Cook, Sarah Holcomb, Megan Makulski, Alison Penix, Morgan Pinkham, Lea Purrett, Sean Ryan, Abigail Simmons, Aliyah Spears, Anna Taravella, April Thweatt

*SPECIAL THANKS TO LIZ, TERESA AND THE FABULOUS STUDENTS FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND Grit.*

Swifts spend a third of their lives in the air and travel the distance to the moon and back five times in their lifetime

Tourist
Choreography: Liz Riga in collaboration with the dancers
Music: *Home* by LCD Soundsystem
Lighting: Daejha Smith and Dede Gibson-Phillips
Costumes: Christa Koerner
No Matter What; Come What May
Choreography: Mary Murphy
Music: *Let's Stay Together* by Al Green, *Let's Face the Music and Dance* by Seth MacFarlane & Composed by Irving Berlin
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Alison Penix, Morgan Pinkham, Sean Ryan, Anna Taravella

Aura
Choreography: Stephanie Pizzo
Music: *Origin* and *Fragment* by Emptyset
Lighting: Kerro Knox 3
Costumes: Christa Koerner
Dancers: Jada Givens, Sarah Holcomb, Abigail Simmons, Theresa Sommers, Anna Taravella, April Thweatt

Oakland Dance Theatre
Luke Bartholomew, Lillie DeGain, Kaitlyn DeVault, Iyobosasere Enabulele
Katie Farris, Jada Givens, Abigail Graham, Sarah Holcomb
De’Miah Johnson, Angela Lowry, Claire McCowan, Theresa O’Connor
Jaeden Paul, Alison Penix, Loren Pia, Morgan Pinkham, Cailey Powell
Lea Purrett, Reese Renton, Jenna Ross, Sean Ryan, Anna Saje
Kimbery Sexton, Theresa Sommers, Aliyah Spears, Elise Spears
Anna Taravella, April Thweatt, Isabella Winarski

Repertory Dance Company
Tristen Cook, Megan Makulski, Brianna Muawad, Abigail Simmons
Native Houstonian Lauren Anderson danced with Houston Ballet from 1983 to 2006, performing leading roles in all the great classical ballets, appearing across the world to critical acclaim, and in the process, becoming one of Houston Ballet's most beloved stars. She trained exclusively at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy from the age of seven. She joined Houston Ballet in 1983 as a Corps de Ballet, 1987 was promoted to Soloist and in 1990 became the first African-American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet – and was one of the few African-American ballerinas at the head of a major ballet company anywhere in the world.

Ms. Anderson danced leading roles in all the classics. She created the title role in Ben Stevenson's Cleopatra, and her performance as Cleopatra received accolades from international critics. Anna Kisselgoff, dance critic for The New York Times compared her to the great Italian actress Eleanora Duse, and Christine Temin of The Boston Globe pronounced her "a powerhouse in interpreting the role that Stevenson created on her." Ms. Anderson has performed across the globe as a guest artist.

In 1990, Ms. Anderson received The Special Jury Award in the USA International Ballet Competition and in 1996, the International Critics award in Chile. In April 1999, she was featured on the cover of Dance Magazine. She's been featured in the People magazine and Pointe, as well as on the television programs "A&E Breakfast with the Arts," "CBS News Sunday Morning," and the game show, "To Tell the Truth." She has been honored by The Martin Luther King Foundation, Coalition of 100 Black Women, YWCA, by the Urban League, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Delta Gamma Foundation, Texas Woman's Chamber of Commerce, National Council of Jewish Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Houston City Council, Texas Legislature, and the United States Congress and the list goes on. In 2000, Ms. Anderson was chosen to be an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has received 2017 Texas Medal of Arts Award for contribution to the dance world. Most recently, Ms. Anderson received the Barbara Jordan, Breaking Barriers award from the Harris County Democratic Party. In January 2007, Ms. Anderson assumed her new role in Houston Ballet's education department where she conducts master classes at area schools, and lectures to students on dance and her historic career. She also teaches Master classes at conservatory dance academies around the world. Her pointe shoes are on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Her greatest production to date is her son Lawrence Turner, who is not a dancer but a musician!

Kaitlin Arena began her dance training at the at Spotlight Dance Works in Chesterfield, MI under the direction of Liz Schmidt-Mazurkiewicz at age seven. In May of 2021, Kaitlin graduated from Oakland University, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She has trained at intensives such as LA Contemporary Dance, Gibney Company, and studied dance abroad in Berlin, Germany at the Tanzfabrik and the Freie Universität in May and April of 2018. During her time at Spotlight, Kaitlin had the honor of performing works and training under Sonya Tayeh, Lauren Adams, Adam McGaw, Meg Paul, and more. At the university, she trained under Thayer Jonutz, Ali Woerner, Gregory Patterson, Stephanie Pizzo, Liz Riga, Christina Tasco, and Jennifer Harge. Kaitlin also had the opportunity to work with guest choreographers Millicent Hodson and Kenneth Archer, DIAVOLO, Dusan Tyněk, Zvi Gotheiner, and more through being in the Repertory Company at OU. Kaitlin received the Maggie Allesse Choreography Award through Oakland University in 2021 for her self-produced show, The Things We Feel. She has recently set works on Brenau
University Dance Program and Eisenhower Dance Detroit Youth Ensemble, that was selected to perform at Midstate Regional Dance America. She is currently a company member with Take Root, under artistic direction of Ali Woerner and an instructor at Spotlight Dance Works. To add on to her movement studies, Kaitlin spent the last year studying towards and is now a Certified Pilates instructor at Reforming Foundation Pilates and Wellness in Rochester, MI.

Shannon Gillen is the artistic director of VIM VIGOR (US). Her creative work has been commissioned across the USA, Canada, Central America, South America and Europe. Projects include commissions by L.A. Dance Project, fashion label PHELAN for NY Fashion Week, DANCEworks at the Lobero Theatre, Hubbard Street 2, Gibney Dance Company, Over het lij in the Netherlands, Jacob's Pillow Festival, ICA in Boston, Ruvuelo in Chile, Boston Dance Theater, Mainfranken Theater Würzburg, Arts Umbrella in Vancouver, the International Solo-Tanz Theater Festival in Stuttgart, the TIF theater in Kassel, de Dansleurs in NL, as a THINK BIG choreographer-in-residence at Staatsoper Hannover and at Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton where she was a choreographer in residence; notable festivals and venues where her work has been seen include Springboard Danse Festival in Montreal, New York Live Arts, Prisma Festival in Panama, Judson Church, PULSE Art Fair/Art Basel, Bryant Park, NYC’s River to River Festival, Perry Mansfield, and The Joyce. New work will be presented in 2023 at the Arthur Miller Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan before being presented at b12 this summer. Dedicated to educating and learning from the next generation of artists, Gillen is an Associate Professor of Dance at The University of Michigan and choreographs for many higher education institutions each year. VIM VIGOR serves as a physical dance theater education platform in the USA, with annual winter and summer programming. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and earned her MFA from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU.

Teresa Muller, a Michigan native, received her B.F.A. from Marygrove College in Detroit. Since graduating in 2010, Teresa has performed with multiple professional companies such as Dayton Contemporary Dance 2nd Company, Ad Deum Dance Company, Psophonia Dance, Pure Existence Dance, and Contexture Dance Detroit. Teresa has presented works at multiple Detroit Dance Races, The Detroit Dance City Festival & the Midwest RAD Festival, as well as performed works for the Brighton Dance Festival & Motor City Choreographers Collective. She has also held choreographic residencies at Marygrove College and Oakland University. In the spring of 2017, Teresa completed her M.F.A. in Dance at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. She was awarded the opportunity to choreograph for the 2016 Masters Performance Workshop at Tisch Dance, as well as present work at the 14th Street YMCA. Her time at NYU allowed her to train with a multitude of artists including Ori Flomin, Loni Landon, Bobbi Jean Smith, and Diane Madden of the Trisha Brown Dance Company. Since moving back to Metro Detroit, Teresa has performed and toured with Detroit based dance company Kristi Faulkner Dance, and DDCdances. She is also a founding member of both Collective Sweat Detroit (artists holding space for dance in Detroit) and Detroit Dance Exchange (a choreographic showcase). Currently, Teresa is a Special Lecturer in Dance at Oakland University and performs with the University’s resident company, Take Root Dance.

Mary Murphy earned her BFA in Dance with Special Studies in Ballet, K-12 Teaching Certification in Dance Education and Psychology from Western Michigan University and her MAT in Dance Education from Marygrove College. Mary has studied with Jurgen Schneider formerly of the American Ballet Theatre and with Alonzo King of the Alonzo King Lines Ballet. She has also studied with modern dance choreographers Erick Hawkins and Alwin Nikolais. She has choreographed over 70 musical theatre productions for grade schools, high schools, community colleges, community theatres and universities. She has served as the Director of Dance for the University Liggett Schools in Grosse Pointe, MI and as The Director of Dance for Livonia Public School’s Creative and Performing Arts Program (CAPA) for 22 years. She has taught and
created curriculum for all levels of ballet, jazz, modern dance, tap and musical theatre and has choreographed and staged numerous concert works. Mary has taught master classes in dance at Michigan State University, Henry Ford Community College, Michigan Youth Arts Festival and various private studios. She currently is a Special Lecture of Dance Education and Field Coordinator for the Dance Department at Oakland University. She is an instructor at The Dance Centre in South Lyon, MI and choreographer for The Farmington Barn Players in Farmington, MI. She is a member of the National Dance Education Organization, the Michigan Dance Council and the American Psychological Association. Mary serves as the MDC Dance Division and Honors Dance Ensemble Coordinator for Michigan Youth Dance Festival. She is also a founding member of the MDC Secondary Dance Education Cohort. Mary was awarded the 2010 Michigan Dance Educator of the Year.

**Gregory Patterson** is an Associate Professor and Chair of Oakland University's Dance Department. A faculty member since 1991, he has taught courses in Jazz, Modern, Pilates, Musical Theater, Dance History and Dance Production, as well as choreograph musicals for the Theatre Department. In addition to being a certified Pilates instructor, Mr. Patterson was also founder and artistic director of Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Company for 13 years. With a MFA in Dance Performance from the University of Michigan, Mr. Patterson has had a noteworthy career with over 35 years of performing, teaching and choreographing as an international artist. His professional experience has included dancing with Harbinger Dance Company, Ann Arbor Dance Works, Rigmarole Dance Company, and Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. Mr. Patterson also performed as a guest artist with both the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the Doug Elkins Dance Company of New York. Throughout his career, Mr. Patterson has taught at numerous college dance festivals and workshops, and has choreographed for universities, high schools, studios and dance companies. His work has been performed by Western Michigan University, Bowling Green State University, Hope College, Morgan State University, and Alma College, as well as the Michigan Opera Theatre, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble and Bal-Chi Dance Company of Chicago to name a few. Mr. Patterson has traveled to Greece to teach, choreograph and perform with the Detroit Mercy/Oakland University Classical Greek Theatre Summer Study Program, which is the only American university-sponsored program of its kind. In 2018, Mr. Patterson travelled with 13 of his own students to Berlin Germany to participate dance department's Study Abroad program. He will return to Germany in Spring 2023 to again teach in the Study Abroad program. His signature piece “Who’s the Boss”, was performed in Russia as part of an Eisenhower Dance Ensemble appearance with the Pushkin Ballet.

Mr. Patterson has received the Maggie Allesee Choreography Award and in the same year, his work was chosen for the Leo Choreography competition at the Jazz Dance World Congress in Buffalo, NY. He has received several Faculty Fellowships through Oakland University to pursue research, produce concerts and travel. Mr. Patterson was named a Travis Professor, which recognizes faculty members from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance for outstanding achievements in teaching, research and professional service. The Travis Professorship Award supported his dance company's New York debut at the Citibank Ailey Theatre in New York, NY.

Mr. Patterson currently serves on the Board of Directors of both the Michigan Dance Council and Eisenhower Dance Detroit.

Eisenhower Dance Detroit Artistic Director, **Stephanie Pizzo**, joined the company as a founding member in 1991. At various points in her dance career with EDD, she served as Resident Choreographer, Associate Artistic Director, and Co-Artistic Director. Ms. Pizzo now leads the company into her 6th season as Artistic Director. She focuses on collaborating with the highest quality national and international artists and creating
strong ties within the metro Detroit community through the art of dance. Her recent dance for film work, *The Five Tangos*, inspired by the music of Astor Piazzolla and created in collaboration with the Detroit Institute of Art and Zazu Creative Studio, featured each contemporary tango danced in an iconic Detroit location. Ms. Pizzo also believes in educational programming and youth mentorship as key tools to develop community connection. She works to use the art of contemporary dance both as a means to present beautiful, athletic, and engaging repertory and as a vehicle to reflect on and explore issues of social significance. She has set her choreography at Illinois State University, Texas A & M University, and Wesleyan University, along with having staged numerous works by Laurie Eisenhower on companies and universities throughout the United States. Her work has been presented in Tel Aviv as part of Eisenhower Dance Detroit’s production of *The Light Show*, at international dance festivals in Poland, and most recently on the Inside/Out Stage at Jacob’s Pillow. A native of Clinton Township, Michigan, Ms. Pizzo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Oakland University. In 2009, she received a Distinguished Alumni or “MaTilDa” award from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. She served as a special lecturer in dance at Oakland University for 12 years. Ms. Pizzo set new choreography for Texas Christian University and Texas A & M University in February, 2022.

**Liz Riga** received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Liz ventured to New York City in 2001, where she attended New York University Tisch School of the Arts and received a Master of Fine Arts in Dance. Liz worked extensively with Keigwin + Company, creating, performing, touring, and teaching as an original member of the company. Liz has had the honor of performing at the Joyce Theater, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Works in Process at the Guggenheim, the Opening Gala at Jacob’s Pillow, and New York City Center, to name a few. She has taught master classes at various schools across the United States, including the University of Michigan, New York University, and North Carolina School of the Arts.