

Oakland Dance Theatre

Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Varner Hall Courtyard

Title: *In Company*

Choreography: Elizabeth Riga in collaboration with the performers

Drums: Michael Shimmin

Costumes: Christa Koerner and Dancers

Dancers: Kaitlin Arena, Madisyn Boussie, Juliet Geck, Brittany Guzynski, Sarah Holcomb, Amaya Hoskins, Katie Kirkum, Danae Lewis-Hicks, Jane Lyszak, Riley McClain, Ainsley Middleton, Destinee Modock, Janie Nickel, Morgan Pinkham, Lea Purrett, Rebecca Otmanowski, Maddie Parker, Laurel Ryan, Sean Ryan, Marissa Smith, Anna Taravella, Grace Whan

Title: *It is Time*

Choreographer: Christina Tasco in collaboration with the performers

Music: *Love Revolution* and *Faith of a Child* by Lenny Kravitz

Costumes: Christa Koerner and Dancers

Dancers: Hannah Adkins, Tristen Cook, Iyobosa Enabulele, Juliet Geck, Brianna Muawad, Lauren Pia, Lea Purrett, Lexi Radjewski, Waverly Ritchie, Theresa Sommers, Anna Taravella, Izzy Winarski

Title: *Lean In*

Choreography: Stephanie Pizzo

Music: *Natural Technology* by End Train

Eisenhower Dance Detroit: Kaitlin Arena, Emy Bezbatchesko, Tara Charvat, Andrew Cribbett, Lillie Hamilton, Alex Hlavaty, Amaya Hoskins, Tyler Kerbel, Claire Little, Brooke Mainland, Kelsey Lewinski, Michael Teasley III
Oakland Dance Theatre: Madisyn Boussie, Sarah Holcomb, Katie Kirkum, Danae Lewis-Hicks, Ainsley Middleton, Janie Nickel, Madeline Parker, Morgan Pinkham, Laurel Ryan, Marissa Smith, Grace Zimmerman

About the Choreographers

Christina Tasco is a special lecturer at Oakland University where she has been on faculty since 2002. Tasco teaches a variety of technique and academic classes in addition to co-directing Oakland Dance Theater. Christina danced professionally with Eisenhower Dance Detroit (EDD) from 1997-2004. During her time with EDD, Christina accepted the position of Director of Education and Outreach for the organization, where she managed the company's Rochester based studio and helped to open and direct two additional locations in Birmingham and West Bloomfield. Today, Christina continues to work for EDD as the finance manager. Throughout her career, Tasco has taught numerous master classes and creative movement residencies across the state and country. She has choreographed for a variety of studios, high schools, Universities and special events. Christina received both her Bachelor of Health Science and Masters of Exercise Science from Oakland University. Her master's research project, The Effects of Quadriceps and Hamstring Strength and Flexibility on Anterior Pelvic Tilt in Dancers, was accepted for presentation at the American College of Sports Medicine's annual conference where it then received the "Most Outstanding Masters Thesis Presentation" award. At the University, Christina was blessed with the Most Inspiration Professor award in both 2014 and 2015 and was nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award in 2016. In 2018, Christina attained the Order of the Plume for igniting "inspiration within the students."

Stephanie Pizzo is celebrating her fourth season as Artistic Director of Eisenhower Dance Detroit. She was a founding member of the company, as well as, at various points, Resident Choreographer, Assistant Director, Associate Director and Co-Artistic Director. She has helped lead the company for the past 28 years and is now assuming the artistic helm. Pizzo's mission is to collaborate with the highest quality national and international artists, and she plans to focus on creating strong ties within the Detroit Metro area community through the art of dance. She has set her own choreography at Illinois State University, Texas A & M University and Wesleyan University, as well as staged works by Laurie Eisenhower on numerous companies and universities throughout the United States. Most recently, she presented her work in Tel Aviv, Israel as part of Eisenhower Dance's production of The Light Show and at many international dance festivals in Poland. Stephanie Pizzo is a native of Clinton Township, Michigan and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Oakland University. In 2009, she received a Distinguished Alumni or "MaTiIDa" award from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Currently, she is a special lecturer in dance at Oakland University and is embarking on her 30th season with Eisenhower Dance Detroit.

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. Liz moved to Michigan with her family and began teaching at Oakland University in the fall of 2017.