Take Root Presents:

Six Word Stories

Friday, May 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 2 p.m.
Outdoor Festival Stage
Thank You!

Take Root would like to thank the following:

Oakland University’s School of Music, Theatre and Dance for their continuous support of Take Root as Professional Company-in-Residence.

Oakland University’s College of Arts and Sciences Office of the Dean and Oakland University’s Research Office.

The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester’s Cupp Family and Friend’s Youth Endowed Fund

Oakland Together Cultural Institution COVID-19 Support Grant

Oakland Together Non-Profit COVID-19 Economic Impact Grant

An “Anonymous Grant” for their support.

Rochester Rotary Charities for their generous support of our Dance for Parkinson’s Disease Program!

Oakland University’s URC Faculty Fellowship Grant, The WDF Employee Matching Gifts Philanthropic Fund, Amazon Smile and PayPal

We appreciate your generosity, your mission to Impact Lives Through Dance and look forward to sharing this performance with you.
Help Us Grow Roots...

Are you interested in *Impacting Lives Through Dance*? Donations of all amounts are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Take Root is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. With your help, Take Root will accomplish our mission of *Impacting Lives Through Dance*!

Visit us online at [www.takerootdance.com/sponsorships](http://www.takerootdance.com/sponsorships) and learn how to donate today!

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**Dance for Parkinson’s Disease**

In October of 2014, Ali Woerner created Take Root’s Dance for Parkinson’s Disease (DPD) Program, teaching monthly classes at Oakland University. Fast forward to 2021 and the DPD Program offers four weekly classes taught by the DPD Program Faculty including; the Older Person’s Commission (OPC)/Rochester, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland/ Pontiac, Henry Ford/ Detroit and Oakland University/Rochester.

Under the direction of Ali Woerner, the DPD Program continues to grow. Oakland University’s School of Health Science’s Physical Therapy Graduate/Undergraduate Program regularly volunteers for Take Root’s classes as part of their courses. Ali guest lectures for the 3rd year Graduate Neuro Interventions course. Ali and Sheri Brown, Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy at OU, continued their collaborative work this year by offering a three-hour master class involving an actual Dance for Parkinson’s Disease class, a lecture based on the dance class and a live zoom interview with Dance for
Parkinson’s Disease dancers within the program. Ali leads in-services for physical therapists at Troy Beaumont Hospital, St. John’s Hospital and MidMichigan Medical Center. She has been a guest speaker for the Parkinson’s Disease Symposium, the Michigan Parkinson’s Facilitator’s Conference, was honored to be selected as Oakland University’s Honors College Third Annual Murphy Creative Intersections Speaker and was a featured presenter for Oakland University’s Sounding Series.

Although COVID-19 brought challenges this year, Take Root continues their outreach by offering regular live zoom classes and recorded classes through their web site as well as in person classes at specific locations.

Take Root is grateful for continued funding, providing teacher training and advanced training for the teachers in Take Root’s DPD Program. Take Root has five teachers trained in Dance for PD and hopes to continue to build our DPD Program, offering classes, workshops, and awareness throughout the area!

For more information on all classes and events, how you can volunteer and to receive our Dance for Parkinson’s Disease monthly newsletter with class schedules and happenings in the area, please visit www.takerootdance.com/danceforpd
Arts Education Impact

Take Root’s mission to *Impact Lives Through Dance* has reached children from many different schools and community centers here in Michigan as well as abroad in Germany. This year Take Root’s Arts Education program continued reaching their young friends, even with the challenges of COVID-19. Take Root sends monthly videos to multiple schools and programs including Oakland Family Services, The Baldwin Center, Harlan Elementary School, Oakland University’s Lowry Center, Detroit Country Day Lower School, S.A.Y. Play/Detroit. Take Root has hosted several live zoom classes with specific schools throughout this past year. They were snowflakes and pieces of gum with over a hundred children at Detroit Country Day Lower School and discovered scientific kinesthetic and potential energy through movement and music with the 4th graders at Harlan Elementary School. Children do not need training with specific steps to participate. It is about making artistic choices with the body and brain. We accomplish these artistic choices by not teaching but rather leading the children through movement games which the children explore within themselves. Take Root’s Arts Education Impact Program is grateful to the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, Cupp Family and Friends Youth Endowment Fund for their continued support of these wonderful initiatives.

For more information, visit:  www.takerootdance.com/arts-education-outreach
Meet Take Root!

Founder/Director/Choreographer:
Ali Woerner
Company Composer/ Musical Director/Performer:
Jon Anderson
Rehearsal Director:
Vivian Costello
Dancers:
Vivian Costello, Andrew Dettloff, Brandon Koepsell, Teresa Muller,
Maddy Petz, Miranda Viars
Guest Percussionist:
Mike List
Professional Apprentices:
Alexa Donnelly, Paulina Donnelly
Company Lighting Designer:
Kerro Knox 3
Company Costume Designer:
Christa Koerner
Media Director:
Sam Paraventi/Minty Photography
Administrative Assistant:
Amanda Fabry
Promotional Designs:
Breeann Birr de Oliveira/BMBO Creations
Interns:
Madi Boussie, Dakota Gerhold, Katie Kirkum, Riley McCain,
Madeline Parker, Grace Zimmerman

Take Root Board Members:
Andrea Green  Christina Papadimitriou  Robby Stewart
Ali Woerner
Our Roots

**Take Root** is Founded and Directed by OU Associate Professor of Dance, Ali Woerner and is "Professional Company -in- Residence" at Oakland University. Take Root has been commissioned to perform their original work at the New Dance for Asia International Festival/Seoul, South Korea, Incheon Yeonsu International Dance Festival/Incheon, Korea, Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Arts / Detroit Institute of Arts, performed at the National Theater of Costa Rica, Uferstudios/Berlin, Germany, The Red Bull House of Art/Detroit, TEDx, The Detroit Dance City Festival, RADfest, The Music Hall Center for Performing Arts/Detroit, Hamlin Park Field House Theater/ Chicago, invited to perform a full length concert as part of opening day of “Dance: American Art 1830-1960” /Detroit Institute of Arts, invited to present for the National Dance Education Organization/Miami, Chicago, San Diego, Ohio Dance Festival, The University of Costa Rica, the American College Dance Festival, the 21st Century Arts and Arts Education Conference.

**Ali Woerner** is currently Associate Professor of Dance at Oakland University and received her MFA from the University of Michigan and her Bachelor of Performing Arts from Oklahoma City University. Throughout her diverse career within both commercial (performing as a Radio City Rockette for six years) and contemporary mediums, Ali has performed and taught all over the world; including Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Berlin and Korea. Ali serves on the Editorial Review Board for the Journal of Dance Education where her articles and book reviews have been published, is the founder and director of *Take Root*’s Dance for Parkinson’s Disease Program, is the recipient of Oakland County Executive’s 2016 Elite 40 Under 40 top honor, recognized by
Oakland University on Founder’s Day for her creative work throughout her career, and nominated for the 2016 Governor’s Fitness Award for an Extraordinary Event. Ali is also a guest lecturer for Oakland University’s Health Sciences Physical Therapy Graduate Program and an annual presenter for Oakland County’s Arts and Culture Session.

Jon Anderson’s music has been described as “haunting,” mixing “electronic beats” with a “cocky mélange of aggression and tongue-in-cheek humor.” He writes a variety of music for traditional acoustic ensembles such as orchestra, band, and chamber groups, as well as less traditional ensembles involving interactive computer music, which frequently incorporates physical movement and dance as structural elements. Having won awards from institutions such as the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the Society of Composers Inc. & ASCAP, and the Pierre Schaefer International Competition of Computer Music, his works have been commissioned and performed by orchestras, ensembles, and soloists throughout the world. In addition to being Take Root’s Musical Director and Composer, Anderson, Associate Professor of Music, teaches music theory and composition at Wayne State University in Detroit.
I. Warm it Up and Write Your Name
Led by Ali Woerner, Take Root Company members and Interns

II. Break it Down, Word for Word
In the fall of 2020, during a conversation with close friends, Woerner asked for abstract words describing how they felt throughout the past year. Woerner made three groups of six words. SixWord Stories is the creation of multiple stories, a conversation of connection, perseverance and vulnerability.

Movement performed by Ali Woerner and Take Root Company Members

III. SixWord Stories
This is the premiere of Take Root’s newest work created and inspired by Ali Woerner.

Music composed and performed by Jon Anderson with special guest, Mike List.

Performed by the entire Take Root Company and Apprentices.
Connect with Us!

Visit our web site:
www.takerootdance.com

“Like” us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/takerootdance

Follow us on Instagram
www.instagram.com/takerootdance

Cell phones should be turned off or set on silent.
There is no intermission in this performance.