

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2017

Oakland Dance Theatre, OU Repertory Dance Company to present annual fall showcase

Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Dance Company will present their annual fall showcase from Thursday, Nov. 30 through Saturday, Dec. 2 in Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University.

“It will be a fun-filled artistic performance that is not to be missed,” said Gregory Patterson, associate professor of dance and chair of the Department of Dance at Oakland University.

The concert will feature original works choreographed by OU dance faculty, as well as guest artists Darby Wilde, Lauren Edson and Shaun Boyle D’Arcy, along with a combined Eisenhower Dance and Repertory Dance Company work by Stephanie Pizzo.

“The audience will see a variety of dance styles from contemporary to classic jazz and even movement infused with ballet,” Patterson said.

Stephanie Pizzo is a founding member of Eisenhower Dance and currently serves as the company’s artistic director. A native of Clinton Township, Mich., Pizzo holds a Bachelor of Arts in dance from Oakland University. 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. In 2009, she received a Distinguished Alumni or “MaTilDa” award from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University, where she also serves as a special lecturer.

Darby Wilde is an associate professor in the dance program at Illinois State University. She earned her M.F.A. in dance from the University of Michigan after which she performed and toured with Eisenhower Dance for seven years. Darby has worked with guest artists including Colin Connor, Billy Siegenfeld, Mel Wong, Lila York, Bill Evans, and Demetrius Klein. She was also involved in numerous outreach residency programs in elementary/middle schools throughout Michigan.

Lauren Edson, originally from Boise, Idaho, began her training at the Ballet Idaho Academy and Westside Dance Academy. She continued her formal studies at North Carolina School of the Arts and The Julliard School, under the director of the late Benjamin Harkavy. Her choreography has been featured at the American Dance Guild Festival in New York, Idaho Dance Theatre, Ten Tiny Dancer, Aerial Without Limits, Regional Dance America, Northwest Dance Project, NW Fusion Dance Company, Balance Dance, Charged: Conduit, Coriolis Dance Collect, and DROP Dance Collective, among others.

Shaun Boyle D’Arcy received her BFA in dance with honors from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and her MA in choreography with distinction from The Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. She is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York City and has danced with BalletMet, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Cheryl Lavagnino Dance, The Dario Vaccaro Dance Project. She has also performed in the Bard Summerscape Festival, David Dorfman’s Underground at the BAM Nextwave Festival, and in London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay performances in England.

Tickets for the showcase are \$8 for students, and \$14 for the general public.

Varner Hall is located at **371 Varner Drive**.

For more information, visit **oakland.edu/mtd**.

Performance Schedule:



Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Dance Company will present their annual fall showcase from Thursday, Nov. 30 through Saturday, Dec. 2 in Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University.

- Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 at 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.