

Anna Taravella

3130 Fallen Oaks Ct. Apt. 302, Rochester Hills, MI 48309
annataravella30@gmail.com | (586)854-3701

EDUCATION

Oakland University (Auburn Hills, MI) (2020-present)
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Dance Honors
Chair: Gregory Patterson

- Modern - Ali Woerner, Liz Riga, Teresa Muller, Thayer Jonutz
- Ballet - Christina Tasco, Eliza Jones, Stephanie Pizzo
- Pilates - Gregory Patterson
- Choreography - Ali Woerner, Teresa Muller, Liz Riga

TRAINING

Spotlight Dance Works Pre Professional Summer Intensive (Chesterfield, MI) (2015-2023)
Attended a two week intensive and trained with Liz Schmidt, Meg Paul, Adam McGaw, Ethan Colangelo, Lauren Adams, and various Spotlight Dance Works Faculty members.

American College Dance Association Regional Conference (Athens, OH) (2022)
Attended the East Central Conference at Ohio University.

Acrobatic Arts Teaching Certification (2021)
Certified to teach levels 1-6 in the Acrobatic Arts syllabus.

Spotlight Dance Works (Chesterfield, MI) (2014-2020)
Pre Professional Company
Director: Liz Schmidt

- Modern/Contemporary - Liz Schmidt, Adam McGaw
- Ballet - Meg Paul, Nicole Meredith
- Jazz - Francesca Garippa, Jill Cassidy
- Tap - Francesca Garippa
- Pilates - Shelby Bensinger, Jennifer Meeks

Worked with Various International Choreographers (2015-2020)
Performed pieces choreographed by Sonya Tayeh, Lauren Adams, Brooke Pierotti, Liz Schmidt, Adam McGaw, Matt Luck, Danny Lawn, and Jeremy Arnold.

Contemporary: Now (Frisco, TX) (2019)
Attended a one week intensive and trained with Jenn Freeman, Alexandra Wells, Peter Chu, Adam Barruch, and Loni Landon and performed a work created by Loni Landon.

The Summer Dance Sessions (Charlton, MA) (2017)

Attended a one week intensive and trained with Sonya Tayeh, Brooke Pierotti, Maddi Burg, Chris Jacobsen, and Monique Smith.

Motor City Tap Fest (Detroit, MI) (2017)

Complexions Contemporary Ballet Summer Intensive (Detroit, MI) (2016)

Attended a two week intensive on partial scholarship and trained with Dwight Rhoden, Desmond Richardson, Meg Paul, and various Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company Members.

PERFORMANCE

Take Root (Rochester Hills, MI) (2023-present)

Student Apprentice
Director: Ali Woerner

Oakland Dance Theatre (Oakland University - Rochester Hills, MI) (2020-2023)

Oakland Dance Theatre is Oakland University's primary student dance performance company. As Oakland Dance Theatre company members, dancers work with various choreographers and perform their works. Some students also receive the opportunity to choreograph on other Oakland Dance Theatre dancers.

Company Member
Directors: Liz Riga and Christina Tasco

Transit

choreographed by Ali Woerner
Varner Recital Hall (April 2023)

****INSERT GROOVY TITLE HERE****

choreographed by Tristen Cook
Varner Recital Hall (April 2023)

What is Control?

choreographed by Tristen Cook
Varner Recital Hall (April 2023)

Aura

choreographed by Stephanie Pizzo
Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

SWIFTS

choreographed by Shannon Gillen
Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

Les filles dominent le monde

choreographed by Lauren Anderson
Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

No Matter What; Come What May

choreographed by Mary Murphy
Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

Moments when waiting. Moments for leaving. Moments of meeting.

choreographed by Kaitlin Arena
Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

No Sound

choreographed by Madisyn Boussie
Varner Hall Courtyard Outdoor Stage (April 2021)

Not, but Still

choreographed by Ali Woerner
Dance on Film in collaboration with Take Root (October 2020)

Love Revolution

choreographed by Christina Tasco
Varner Hall Courtyard Outdoor Stage (October 2020)

Repertory Dance Company (Oakland University - Rochester Hills, MI) (2021-2022)

Repertory Dance Company is Oakland University's pre-professional dance company. Repertory Dance Company members are selected on an invite-only basis. In addition to creating their own pieces for performances, Repertory Dance Company also works with guest choreographers to learn pieces to perform in Oakland University dance concerts. Repertory Dance Company also participates in many outreach events at local high schools and festivals.

Company Member

Director: Thayer Jonutz

Trapped In Dark Spaces

choreographed by Gregory Patterson
Seligman Performing Arts Center (April 2022)

Step Lightly

choreographed by Thayer Jonutz and Repertory Dance Company Members
Oakland University Engineering Center (March 2022)
Seligman Performing Arts Center (April 2022)

Habitus

choreographed by Thayer Jonutz
Farmington Hills High School - Oakland Dance Festival (October 2021)
Varner Studio Theater (December 2021)
Oakland University Engineering Center (March 2022)

Mishima

choreographed by Thayer Jonutz
Varner Studio Theater (December 2021)

Bodies In Protest

choreographed by Repertory Dance Company Members
Oakland University Elliot Tower (October 2021)

Choreography 3 Showings (Oakland University - Rochester Hills, MI) (2022)

Performed works as final exams for Choreography 3 class at Oakland University in an end-of-semester show.

Venue: Seligman Performing Arts Center (November 2022)

trusting trying trusting

choreographed by Anna Taravella

There is Always More

choreographed by Tristen Cook

Choreography 2 Showings (Oakland University - Rochester Hills, MI) (2022)

Performed works as final exams for Choreography 2 class at Oakland University in an end-of-semester show.

Venue: Seligman Performing Arts Center (April 2022)

Resumption

choreographed by Anna Taravella

Conversation 458

choreographed by Anna Taravella and Tristen Cook

Suplexing a Two-Car Garage

choreographed by Sean Ryan

Groovy Smoothie

choreographed by James Nickel

The Things We Feel choreographed by Kaitlin Arena (2021)

Performed with other Oakland University dancers and alumni in a show choreographed and produced by senior BFA student Kaitlin Arena as a part of the Oakland University Outside The Box Outdoor Performing Arts Festival

Venue: Varner Hall Courtyard Outdoor Stage. (May 2021)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Competitive Pieces - Spotlight Dance Works (2020-present)

Choreographed more than 30 award-winning competitive pieces in the styles of jazz, tap, contemporary, and lyrical for performances at regional dance competitions. These pieces have included solos, duets, trios, small groups, and large groups of up to 20 dancers with dancers ranging between the ages of 5 and 17.

Held Matters - Oakland Dance Theater (Oakland University) (2023)

Venue: Varner Recital Hall (Rochester Hills, MI)

Music: Ólafur Arnalds

Performed by: 6 members of Oakland Dance Theatre

trusting trying trusting - Choreography 3 (Oakland University) (2022)

Venue: Seligman Performing Arts Center (Beverly Hills, MI)

Music: Rachel's

Performed by: Anna Taravella and Tristen Cook

I Don't Feel Like Dancin' - Choreography 3 (Oakland University) (2022)

Dance on film choreographed, filmed, and edited by Anna Taravella

Music: Scissor Sisters

Performed by: 5 students of Spotlight Dance Works

Resumption - Choreography 2 (Oakland University) (2022)
Venue: Seligman Performing Arts Center (Beverly Hills, MI)
Music: The Westerlies
Performed by: Anna Taravella

Conversation 458 - Choreography 2 (Oakland University) (2022)
Venue: Seligman Performing Arts Center (Beverly Hills, MI)
Music: Emile Mosseri
Performed by: Anna Taravella and Tristen Cook

EMPLOYMENT

Spotlight Dance Works (Chesterfield, MI) (2018-present)
Pre Professional and Recreational Instructor
Teaching acro, ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap classes to recreational and competitive students ages 2-18.

Spotlight Dance Works (Chesterfield, MI) (2020-present)
Administrative Assistant
Responsible for various administrative duties including scheduling, planning events, organizing performances, communicating with customers, and designing advertisements.

Assistant Choreographer (2018-present)
Assisting Liz Schmidt and Adam McGaw in setting new works internationally.

VIP Dance Competition (2021-present)
Selling merchandise, communicating with dancers and studio owners, organizing awards, monitoring judges' critique recordings, and working backstage.

Next Level Dance Center (Troy, MI) (2022-2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught acro, ballet, tap, and contemporary classes to competitive dancers ages 5-18.

Kercheval Dance (Grosse Pointe, MI) (2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught acro and contemporary classes to competitive dancers ages 9-18.

Central City Dance (Canton, MI) (2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught jazz classes to competitive dancers ages 11-18.

West Michigan Dance Center (Kalamazoo, MI) (2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught contemporary classes to competitive dancers ages 9-18.

Milford Dance Academy (Milford, MI) (2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught tap and jazz classes to competitive dancers ages 6-12.

The 8th Count Dance Studio (Keego Harbor, MI) (2023)
Guest Teacher
Taught tap and acro classes to competitive dancers ages 6-12.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Platinum Presidential Scholar Award - Oakland University (2020-present)
Awarded for academic excellence.

Dance Scholarship - Oakland University (2022)
Awarded for hard work and dedication to the dance program.

NHSDA Award Honorable Mention - National Dance Education Organization (2020)
Awarded for excellence in artistic merit, leadership, and academic achievement.

Co-Valedictorian - L'Anse Creuse High School North (2016-2020)

Outstanding Senior Scholarship - Frederick V. Pankow Center (2020)

Commended Student - National Merit Scholarship Corporation (2019)

Summer Intensive Scholarship - Complexions Contemporary Ballet (2016-2018)