

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre and Dance

Stephanie C. Dean, assistant professor of theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A.	2007	Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond
B.A.	2001	Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts

Professional Record:

2011 – Present	Assistant Professor of Theatre, University of Michigan-Flint
2008	Instructor, Stageworks Theatre Festival, Indian Head, Maryland
2007 – 2011	Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island
2004 – 2007	Adjunct Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond
2004 – 2006	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond
2001 – 2003	Drama Instructor, The Egyptian Theatre Company, Park City, Utah

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – In her 11 distinct courses in theatre, voice and diction, and musical theatre, Professor Dean works to create safe environments in which students can take risks, try out new things, and build on their successes to develop both technique and artistry in performance. She takes a very individualized approach to instruction and constantly seeks to innovate her practice to be the most effective instructor that she can be. She regularly attends and presents at pedagogical conferences and seeks to advance her own practice through professional development such as certification in the Alba Emoting technique, which she brings back to her classrooms and directing activities. Her course evaluations and peer observations suggest she is an effective teacher who builds excellent rapport with her students and who has extensive command of course materials. Her commitment to self-discovery and continuous improvement establishes her as a valuable and effective member of our faculty.

Research – Professor Dean has directed six musicals at the University of Michigan-Flint, served as a voice coach for two UM-Flint productions and four productions at the Flint Youth Theatre; served as an assistant director on a production of “Les Miserables” at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills; and has performed in productions at the Flint Youth Theatre and the DAH Theatre in Belgrade, Serbia, since joining the faculty in 2011. She has also presented numerous panels and workshops on vocal pedagogy at regional and national conferences. Across this broad range of activities – directing, vocal coaching, performance, and pedagogical workshops – Professor Dean has demonstrated a collaborative and sophisticated style that has garnered positive reviews of her work. She is a valued member of her department who brings positive recognition to the department and its students.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Stage Direction

2016	“Next to Normal” (Fall 2016)		University of Michigan-Flint
2016	“The 25 th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”		University of Michigan-Flint
2014	“She Loves Me”		University of Michigan-Flint
2013	“Little Shop of Horrors”		University of Michigan-Flint
2013	“Les Miserable” (Asst. Director)		The Other Mirror Theatre Company
2012	“Urinetown”		University of Michigan-Flint
2012	“Little Women”		University of Michigan-Flint
2011	“Lucky Stiff”		Roger Williams University (Bristol, Rhode Island)

Performance

2012	“The Descent of Inanna”	Ensemble	International Theatre Festival (Sibiu, Romania)
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Staged Readings

2015	“Middletown”	Multiple	Flint Youth Theatre
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Voice/Dialect Coach

2016	“The Tempest”		Flint Youth Theatre
2016	“Stuart Little”		Flint Youth Theatre
2015	“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”		Flint Youth Theatre
2015	“Cat in the Hat”		Flint Youth Theatre
2013	“Good People”		University of Michigan-Flint
2011	“The Women of Lockerbie”		University of Michigan-Flint

Conference Presentations (*Juried*)

- Dean, Stephanie. “Use Your Tools: A Hands On Exploration of Your Voice, Your Look and Your Space.” Lilly Conference, Traverse City, Michigan, 2016.
- Dean, Stephanie. “Using Your Tools: Your Voice, Your Look and Your Space.” Lilly Conference, Traverse City, Michigan, 2015.
- Dean, Stephanie. “The Teacher’s Most Important Tool: The Voice.” Thompson Center of Teaching and Learning, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan, 2015.
- Dean, Stephanie. “Details, Details: Conquering the Audition.” Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival, Region III, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2015.
- Dean, Stephanie. “Conquering the Audition.” Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival, Region III, Saginaw, Michigan, 2014.
- Dean, Stephanie. “What Do I Do With My Hands? Movement in Musical Theatre.” Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival, Region III, Saginaw, Michigan, 2013.
- Dean, Stephanie. “Teaching Music Theory in the Musical Theatre Program.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Washington D.C., 2012 (*Roundtable Panel Member*).
- Dean, Stephanie. “All the Little Things That Go Into a Musical Theatre Audition: Besides the Audition Itself!” Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival Region III, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, 2012.
- Dean, Stephanie. “The Musical Theatre Audition,” Michigan Education Theatre Alliance, Saginaw, Michigan, 2011.

Dean, Stephanie. "Preparing a Musical Theatre Audition." Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival, Region I, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, 2011.

Service – Professor Dean is an active and visible member of her department, college, university, and professional communities. She actively participates alongside colleagues in her department in recruitment and admissions events and she created and maintains the department's musical theatre sheet music library. She has served on several elected committees at the college and university levels including the Curriculum Committee, the General Education Curriculum Committee, and the Academic Assessment Committee. She is an active respondent to high school and university productions and has served for two years as a conference planner for the Musical Theatre/Dance focus group of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference. She has established herself as an active, visible, and valuable member of the faculty at the University of Michigan-Flint and in her professional community.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "All of the reviews and letters provided demonstrate a good quality of expertise in directing... She seems on track and at a similar standing with others who are ready to advance to tenure and associate professorship."

Reviewer (B): "...I believe that Ms. Dean's creative work, as represented in her file, exhibits a range and depth of thought, professionalism, skill and productivity."

Reviewer (C): "...I note an excellent range of types of creative work, including projects as director, vocal coach and actress/devisor... I note largely excellent peer reviews of her productions, as well as praise from collaborators... ...many of these reviews note that she avoids cliché or overgeneralized acting choices in her productions, a frequent pitfall in musical theatre."

Reviewer (D): "One element that stands out in the reviews of Stephanie's work is her ability to present a clear and unified piece of work – whether it is as a vocal coach or as a director... What I can see is someone who appears to be passionate about her work, caring about her students, and eager to create the best production she can in whatever role she is filling."

Reviewer (E): "The strongest review that I read of her work is for her direction of the musical 'Little Women' which is regarded as '... near flawless.'"

Reviewer (F): "...it is clear that she is an extremely talented and dedicated educator, vocal coach and stage director... I am also impressed with Professor Dean's continued quest for professional development..."

Reviewer (G): "...Dean's accomplishments are particularly striking and indeed, would be noteworthy even for someone who wasn't simultaneously carrying a heavy teaching load and performing a great deal of service work... All of Professor Dean's productions as a director at U of M Flint appear well thought out and inventively staged... Her evaluative letters speak consistently of her impressive preparedness..."


Reviewer (H): "I estimate her standing in relation to others in her peer group as very strong... Dean has presented one of the best and most fully documented submissions of creativity and scholarship I've seen from an assistant professor of theatre."

Reviewer (I): "...it seems to me that the amount of productions listed is appropriate for an assistant or associate professor at a campus with a primary focus on teaching."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Dean is a generalist whose expertise in stage direction, vocal coaching, performance, and vocal pedagogy has advanced the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Michigan-Flint. As a teacher, Professor Dean is committed to a pedagogy that emphasizes both technique and development of artistry in performance in a context of safety and self-discovery. Her directing, coaching, and performance activities have been positively evaluated by her peers who note continued growth over time. Lastly, Professor Dean is an active and visible member of her department, college, university, and professional communities, whose service ranges from recruitment activities to service as a respondent to professional organizations for high school and college theatre performances. In sum, Professor Dean has demonstrated the requisite excellence in creative achievement, teaching, and service to her department, college, and professional community worthy of promotion to associate professor, with tenure. With enthusiasm and great pride, I recommend that Stephanie D. Dean be promoted to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

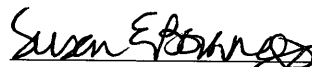


Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

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