

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
Department of Theatre & Drama

Approved by the Regents  
May 20, 2010

Jane (E. J.) Westlake, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1997 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Theatre and Drama  
M.A. 1990 Portland State University, Theatre Arts  
B.I.S. 1985 University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, Bachelor of Individualized Studies:  
Theatre Arts, Business, Economics

Professional Record:

2004-present Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Drama, University of Michigan  
2001-2004 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Drama, University of Michigan  
2001 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University  
2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre Department, Bowling Green State University  
1999-2000 Instructor, Department of Theatre, Auburn University  
1998-1999 Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1999 Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance Department, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Westlake brings an importantly diverse and wide-ranging array of course offerings to the Department of Theatre & Drama. Her cross-disciplinary approach to teaching theatre studies has been exceedingly popular with the students, to judge from their strong and positive feedback. She creates an interactive, comfortable class environment, rich with lively discussion and open communication. The students comment on her accessibility, dedication, and her deep knowledge base.

Research: Professor Westlake's publication record is quite strong in terms both of quantity and diversity. In addition, she has presented a large number of scholarly papers at national and international conferences. Professor Westlake's scholarship focuses primarily on political performances in Central America, and on performance studies as they relate to popular culture and on changes in communities affected by the advance of technology. Her research has taken her to remote parts of Nicaragua, and this past summer to Spain and Portugal to view sacred theatre performances. Professor Westlake's research is engaging and provocative. It raises intriguing questions about political, social, and aesthetic issues. She is on the editorial board of the *Youth Theatre Journal* and is a peer reviewer for *Modern Drama*. Professor Westlake's

background in practical theatre work as a writer and practitioner is reflected in her scholarly contributions. She is an accomplished researcher and scholar, and her work promises further contributions to the field of Latin American theatre and beyond.

Service: Professor Westlake has been exceedingly generous in rendering service to the University and the community. Within the University, she has been a judge for the Hopwood Award competition. She was a featured panelist for the Provost's Seminar on Teaching, and co-director of Performance and Ethnography for the Center for World Performance Studies. She is a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Studies Graduate Certificate Committee, and a member of the Fulbright Campus Review Committee. On a departmental level, her service has been extensive and valuable. She is the vice-chair of the Faculty Council on Graduate Studies and faculty sponsor for the Drama Interest Group. Her stewardship of the Bachelor of Theatre Arts degree program has been exemplary.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "She has created many opportunities for cross-disciplinary dialogue, and contributed much as a dedicated teacher, scholar, administrator, dramaturge, and all-around facilitator of cultural dialogue."

Reviewer B: "In summary, I would consider that Professor Westlake's case, in all four areas of creative work, scholarly work, teaching, and service, compares very favorably with that of other scholars of my acquaintance at this stage in their career, and in a number of aspects, such as the blending of the creative and the scholarly, the commitment to interdisciplinary work, and the interest in pedagogical theory, she is distinctly superior to many."

Reviewer C: "E. J. Westlake is well-published in leading journals and her scholarship is internationally known and valued. She is definitely worthy of tenure and promotion, and based on her current record and future plans, I believe she will remain a productive and engaging scholar at the top of her profession for many years."

Reviewer D: "Professor Westlake is an accomplished scholar who is doing important work in an area that has been neglected for too long—theatre and performance from the early colonial period to the present in Central America."

Reviewer E: "Based on my review of her research material and her teaching portfolio, as well as on my knowledge of her work and collegiality over the past thirteen years, I believe E. J. Westlake to be a fully contributing and valuable member of our discipline."

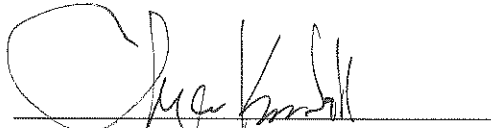
Reviewer F: "Her scholarship has earned several prestigious awards including an NEH Summer Stipend, an ASTR Research Fellowship, and several grants from the institutions where she has taught."

Reviewer G: "All of Westlake's work is engaging, carefully considered and provocative, raising interesting questions about political and social as well as aesthetic issues. She is well versed in the recent developments in postmodern and poststructuralist criticism and brings to bear a wide range of theoretical approaches in her writings."

Reviewer H: "I'm no specialist either in popular performance or in Latin American drama and theatre, but what strikes me as important about Westlake's work is its increasing ability to engage with a wider discussion of the purposes and efficacies of performance; this aspect of her scholarship is, of course, of long standing, and can be seen in a range of work extending beyond the field of Latin American theatre studies."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Westlake is an engaging and committed teacher who enlivens the classroom with an open and effective communication style. She is an active and accomplished scholar, and has received multiple awards and grants on campus, as well as from the NEH. Professor Westlake has rendered generous service to the University and our community, and is a champion of her department and students. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Jane (E.J.) Westlake for promotion to associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kendall", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher W. Kendall  
Dean and Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2010