

Promotion Recommendation
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Amy G. Chavasse, assistant professor of dance, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance.

Academic Degrees:

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| M.F.A. | 1994 | University of Washington |
| B.F.A. | 1985 | North Carolina School of the Arts |

Professional Record:

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| 2006 – present | Assistant Professor of Dance, University of Michigan |
| 2000 – 2006 | Artist in Residence, Middlebury College |
| 2004 | Guest Artist, Bennington College |
| 1999 – 2000 | Visiting Assistant Professor, Arizona State University |
| 1998 – 1999 | Guest Artist, University of North Carolina – Greensboro |
| 1996, 1997, 1998 | Visiting Assistant Professor and Guest Artist, Virginia Commonwealth University |
| 1996 | Guest Artist, North Carolina State University |
| 1996 | Adjunct Faculty, Duke University |
| 1996 | Guest Choreographer, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC |
| 1995 – 1996 | Adjunct Faculty, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill |
| 1995 | Guest Artist, North Carolina School of the Arts |
| 1993 | Guest Artist, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Kirov Academy, Washington, D.C. |
| 1993 | Guest Choreographer and Guest Faculty, Montgomery College |
| 1990 – 1993 | Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington |
| 1989 | Guest Artist, George Washington University |
| 1985 – 1986 | Faculty, The Dance Palace, Washington, D.C. |
| 1982 | Teaching Assistant, University of California-Irvine |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Chavasse's education and strong dance training have helped to make her a successful teacher, performer, researcher, and choreographer in contemporary dance. She has studied and performed with masters of the field, and this experience is conveyed to our students in meaningful and creative ways. Students describe Professor Chavasse as dynamic, demanding, inspirational, and committed. Student evaluations also reveal that she is deeply admired and respected, and many praise her excellent coaching and tireless mentoring. Professor Chavasse encourages her students to take artistic risks, to explore new modes of producing dance materials, to stretch their imaginations and physical limits, to ask questions, and to be active

participants in their educational experience. As an indicator of Professor Chavasse's exceptional teaching abilities and artistic influence, two of the students she mentored were chosen by the department to exhibit performance and choreographic works at the American College Dance Festival regional conference this past year. After the conference, these same students were selected to perform in the national concert in Washington, D.C. Professor Chavasse is a widely sought-after and respected master teacher, who has been invited to competitive national and international residencies at the American Dance Festival and Pro Danza Italia Festival in Italy.

Professional Activities: Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Michigan, Professor Chavasse had already established a rich and well-regarded career as a performer and choreographer, both nationally and internationally. She has performed and presented her works in such respected dance venues as Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Festival, Dance New Amsterdam of New York, Bronx Academy of Art and Dance, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2009, Professor Chavasse received significant recognition for her re-staging of the 1986 masterpiece *Impact* by Laura Dean, of whose renowned company Professor Chavasse had been a member. This work was supported by a major grant from the American Masterpieces program of the National Endowment for the Arts. Professor Chavasse continues to display her talents with performances at the Betty Pease Studio Theatre in Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Dance Works at the Duderstadt Video Studio, and Movement Research at Judson Church in New York. Professor Chavasse's international experiences (South America, Europe and the Caribbean) have confronted her with complex social and political issues, which in turn are incorporated into her choreography. Professor Chavasse's performances are powerful, rich, dramatic and dynamically executed; her choreographic work is intelligent, thought-provoking, and engaging. These are the attributes of an artist who is passionate about her work and courageous in expressing it.

Service: The majority of Professor Chavasse's service contributions are student-centered and reflect her commitment to continuing artistic growth. She is an avid participant in such University events such as the annual Collage Concert, graduation concerts, and scholarship concerts, not to mention her involvement with the Arts in Michigan and Arts Engine initiatives. Within the Dance Department, Professor Chavasse is a B.F.A. thesis advisor, has developed a new Yoga for Dancers course (open to non-Dance majors as well), and is heavily involved in outreach programs with Detroit Public Schools and the main in-state recruitment event, the Oakland Dance Festival. Professor Chavasse is also developing a reputation for procuring grant funding to further her students' educational experience. On the national scene, Professor Chavasse's service as an elected representative on the National Board of the American College Dance Festival is extremely valuable in fostering departmental visibility and leadership in the discipline. Whatever service responsibilities Professor Chavasse takes on receive the benefit of her insight, leadership, and unstinting advocacy for the arts.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Overall, I find Ms. Chavasse to be a prolific and innovative choreographer and a teacher who is a positive and intelligent role model for students. I have found reviewing her work to be stimulating and thought-provoking."

Reviewer B: “Equally inherent in Amy’s work is her sometimes nuanced, and at other times in-your-face ability to question and challenge social, political, and other salient issues. The impact that these wide-ranging and exploratory experiences have had on Amy’s professional development has helped her naturally evolve into a very versatile instructor, artist, and researcher; in turn, they also have broadened the educational experiences that her students receive.”

Reviewer C: “The ethos which she adopts with regard to the holistic nature of dance training and profession and the development of artistic practice, as displayed in her curriculum details, is very clear. It reflects a conscientious artist with a deep passion and belief in her field. She has a clear voice that is an artistic one as opposed to one which is purely academic.”

Reviewer D: “Amy Chavasse’s promotion dossier demonstrates a very high level of university and professional dance achievement. Her choreographic research record, as well as her continued professional national and international activities are clear indications of her contributions to the University of Michigan Department of Dance.”

Reviewer E: “She belongs to an important new breed of dance instructors, well suited for the future, who do not privilege one style or historical moment, but rather show the spectrum available and offer tools to find oneself inside of this. What is exciting about Amy is that the elements of creative work, teaching and community awareness seem to be naturally intermingled in her. It seems that process and product co-exist in equal measure in Amy, which makes her a truly progressive educator.”

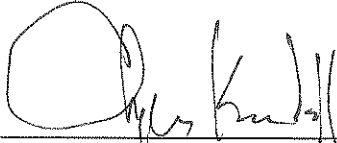
Reviewer F: “There is a passion and genuineness in what this seasoned professional does; whether it be in her efforts as a performer, choreographer, teacher, or artistic director, the degree of her engagement is out of an obvious love of the art and the way the form can enrich life—not the artist.”

Reviewer G: “Her understanding of the demands of the field and her willingness and ability to engage with colleagues on and off campus, add depth and perspective to the classes she teaches. Her considerable strength as a dance artist makes her a wonderful model for her students, demonstrating the possibilities that result from educating both mind and body, and her belief in dance as a preparation for life cannot help but translate to her students.”

Reviewer H: “Chavasse’s work with the students showed clearly how she holds them to a professional standard. It was a glistening example of her ability to coach, communicate and inspire. She makes a fine example of a professional performance artist who brings their ideology and skill successfully and energetically into the academy, with great resulting benefit to their students.”

Reviewer I: “She is committed to a style of teaching that focuses on finding personal voice and history within a collaborative teaching/learning environment. This is new and exciting work in many dance education environments and is on the cutting edge of present pedagogical scholarship.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Amy Chavasse is an outstanding teacher, performer, and choreographer in the field of modern dance. She has received strong and uniformly positive support from her colleagues as well as the external reviewers. She has proven herself to be an extremely valuable asset to the department and the School, and we are fortunate to have her as a member of our faculty. It is with great enthusiasm and the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Amy G. Chavasse for promotion to associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Kendall". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

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

May 2011