

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

Jessica M. Hahn, associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A. 1992           Carnegie Mellon University  
B.A. 1970            University of Illinois

Professional Record:

2007 – present      Head of Design and Production, Department of Theatre & Drama,  
University of Michigan  
1997 – present      Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan  
1994 – 2001         Head of Design, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of  
Michigan  
1994 – 1997         Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan  
1992 – 1994         Assistant Professor, Costume Designer, University of Wisconsin  
1989                 Visiting Professor, Costume Design, University of Wisconsin  
1984 – 1986         Adjunct Professor, Costume Design, DePaul University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hahn's extensive knowledge and wide experience enable her to teach effectively in any area of costume design, costume history, or theatre design theory. These courses encompass a vast amount of information, and they draw a wide range of students at differing levels of interest and experience. Professor Hahn sets high standards for her students; they are given artistic freedom, but are carefully supervised and supported throughout their educational experience. Professor Hahn's students describe her as enthusiastic, talented, and hard-working. She encourages student interaction with professional theatre companies, and she often invites professional directors into the classroom to critique students' projects. Professor Hahn also encourages her students to participate in the American College Theatre Festival, and she has received grant funding to support attendance. She is a solid, talented, and dedicated teacher who is a strong advocate for her students. Professor Hahn's student feedback is generally positive, and many students voice appreciation for their superior training as professionals in a highly competitive field.

Professional Activities: Professor Hahn has enjoyed a rich and diverse career as a professional costume designer, with hundreds of design credits at major professional theatres and dance companies. She has a deep understanding of historic artifacts, and possesses the knowledge base

and flexibility to design for a vast range of settings in both classical and modern theatre. Professor Hahn has designed for numerous plays, musicals, dances and operas in prestigious venues around the country, and she has received prominent awards and honors for her design work in Chicago and elsewhere. At the University of Michigan, she designs costumes for two to four productions per year. This is highly commendable given her full teaching load and service responsibilities. In addition, Professor Hahn has recently designed costumes for the Virginia Stage Company, and has exhibited her costume design work at different venues on the University of Michigan campus as well as the Kent State University Museum.

Service: In addition to her numerous mentoring and advising activities, Professor Hahn provides a generous amount of service to the School and the University. She has assumed a leadership role in the Department as head of design and production, serving two terms. In this position, she is primarily responsible for curricular matters and production assignments for the students. She has served on seven faculty search committees, including the recent chair selection advisory committee. From 2000 through 2008, Professor Hahn served on the Provost's Council on Student Honors. This faculty council coordinated the recruitment of students for prestigious scholarships such as Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell. Professor Hahn has invested substantial energy working with the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) and the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology by presenting her own work, participating on panels, and involving her students. More recently, Professor Hahn has presented costume exhibits at the Walgreen Drama Center, Duderstadt Gallery, Pierpont Commons, and the Ann Arbor Public Library. She has successfully gained grant support for the study of costume conservation, and for her students to attend research trips and attend the annual ACTF Design Exhibition.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Hahn had extensive professional experience in her field before deciding to also teach, and she continues to maintain her abilities in this area. I feel this is a great combination, a professor who is effective in the classroom and continues to be respected as a practitioner in her field."

Reviewer B: "Professor Hahn entered the academic world, having already built an impressive career as a professional costume designer. She has maintained her active design agenda, while shifting her focus to work that allows her to prioritize her teaching, advising, and mentoring of her student designers. She is a dedicated teacher who continually seeks out ways to improve the educational and experience of her students, and to connect them to the larger theatre community."

Reviewer C: "For me the achievements of Professor Hahn are fully evident. She has committed herself to this program and the education of artists. She continues to experiment and expand her own personal artistic voice. She is resourceful in developing new modes of research. She continues to represent the University on the national scene."

Reviewer D: "The syllabi for the curriculum she teaches indicate that Professor Hahn provides not only a solid foundation for designers and technicians, but also the courses are designed to challenge and nurture the student's development throughout their academic career and beyond."

Reviewer E: "She seems to maintain the difficult balance between the professional and academic worlds in addition to being head of the program at Michigan. Her extensive professional contributions illustrate a good variety of design work for plays, musicals, dances and opera in addition to industry related designs, which she draws upon in her academic course preparation and pedagogy."

Reviewer F: "Jessica Hahn has had a long, noteworthy professional career encompassing several decades. She has worked with illustrious directors at quality theatres. She gained early recognition by being nominated and receiving several Joseph Jefferson Awards."

Reviewer G: "Professor Hahn's creative work is very solid. Her renderings display a skillful command of the graphic tools. She presents clear, appropriate designs and appears to maintain the integrity of the design as it moves off the page and onto the stage."

Reviewer H: "Her professional history is truly impressive: she has worked with some of the leading theatres in the country and some of its most distinguished directors. She has a first-class theatrical intellect, which I'm sure is as much an asset to her students as it is to her professional co-workers."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Jessica Hahn's exemplary accomplishments in costume design are well known and enthusiastically acknowledged in the wider theatrical world. This experience flows naturally into the classroom, helping prepare students for work in a number of design fields. Professor Hahn has received strong support from her colleagues and is a vital member of the School and the Department. It is with great enthusiasm and the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that we recommend Jessica M. Hahn for promotion to professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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