

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

Stephen D. Landon, 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.	2005	Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
B.S.	2002	Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan

Professional Record:

2007 – Present	Set Designer, Black Hills Playhouse, Rapid City, South Dakota
2005 – Present	Assistant Professor of Theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Michigan-Flint
2004 – 2007	Set Designer, UW-Madison Summer Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Landon has developed and taught a broad range of courses in theatre and set design, and was also a pioneering instructor in the University's new general education program, where he has taught a "First Year Experience" course to incoming freshmen. Student and colleague responses are strongly favorable. Professor Landon is a regular participant in pedagogical sessions. His growth as a teacher bodes well for his department's future.

Research – As a set designer, Professor Landon's creative work needs to be highly visible, exceptionally functional, and seamlessly integrated with costumes, actors and, of course, the play itself. In addition to extensive set design for campus productions, Professor Landon has performed design work for the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the regional Black Hills Repertory Theatre in South Dakota. External reviewers praise the quality and originality of his designs.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Professional Exhibits*

KCACTF Region III Festival, Saginaw, Michigan, Design Exposition Participant, *Into the Woods*, January 2010.

KCACTF Region III Festival, Saginaw, Michigan, Design Exposition Participant, *How I Learned to Drive* and *Metamorphoses*, January 2009.

KCACTF Region III Festival, Saginaw, Michigan, Festival Production, Set Design, *How I Learned to Drive*, January 2009.

Albert and Victoria Museum, London, England. *World Beach Project*, Summer 2008.

KCACTF Region III, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Design Exposition Participant, *Howl and Mother Courage and Her Children*, January 2007.

FLAK Detroit-Critical Mass Retrospective, Museum of New Art (MONA), Pontiac, Michigan, *Mother Courage* Set Model and Digital Presentation, October 2006.

KCACTF Region III, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, Design Exposition Participant, Set Design, *SubUrbia*, January 2006.

Service – Professor Landon’s service is exceptionally strong at Department, College and University levels. He is a vital member of the Department, has served on our Commencement Committee, on a Higher Learning Commission sub-committee, and utilized his architectural skills in the Kearsley Streetscape project, a reconnection of Flint’s downtown with the Flint Cultural Center. In 2009 Professor Landon became vice-chair of Design and Technology for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A):

“In addition to academic theatre, Stephen Landon maintains his industry professional work through summer design work at the Black Hills Playhouse, a long-established summer stock theatre in South Dakota. I have only seen photos of his work there but they evidence a consistent high quality of work. While the Black Hills Playhouse has only a regional reputation, it is a good one. Such outside work by Professor Landon is regarded in academic theatre as solid professional development that keeps him abreast of current trends in the industry for which he is developing his students.”

Reviewer (B):

“I find a sense of design economy in all of his work: everything visible is there for a good reason, and that the designs appear to support the actors and action of the plays first, followed up with thoughtful approaches to décor and special effects.”

Reviewer (C):

“Overall, I have no reservations in stating that Mr. Landon appears to be a first-rate academic theatre professional. ... His design work for both U of M-Flint and his outside professional assignments indicate that he is producing at a very high level.”

Reviewer (D):

“His professional credits with the Black Hills Play House are strong external creative outlets.”

Reviewer (E):

“He has produced numerous designs that appear to have been successful and well received. ... A review of his portfolio shows that he takes his work seriously and he is a skilled designer displaying a particular tendency toward two-dimensional work that is rich in imagery and detail.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Landon is an excellent teacher, a fine creative artist and a committed citizen of the University and the Flint community. He is a strong candidate and we therefore unanimously recommend Stephen D. Landon for promotion to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

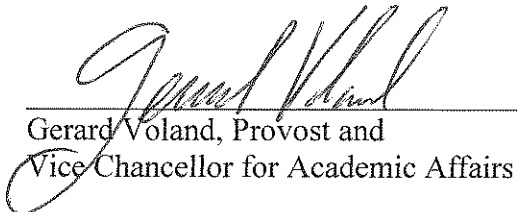
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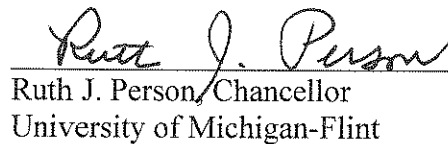
D. J. Trela, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Gerard Voland, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Ruth J. Person, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2011