

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

Vincent A. Mountain, associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre & 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	University of California-San Diego
B.A.	1986	Pennsylvania State University

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan
1994 – 2001	Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan
1989 – 1992	Teaching Assistant, University of California – San Diego
1988 – 1989	Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison
1986 – 1988	Guest Instructor, Pennsylvania State University-York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Mountain is an effective, even inspiring teacher. His presentations are thoughtful, well informed, and sensitive to the demands of other disciplines involved with the complex world of scenic design. Professor Mountain's extensive knowledge base and successful career in scenic design enable him to provide an exemplary educational experience for his students. He is precise and demanding, and yet he challenges his students in constructive ways, insisting that they use their own imagination. The student feedback for Professor Mountain is exceedingly positive; he has earned high rankings in all of the courses he teaches. It has been noted that many of Professor Mountain's students are among the best-trained students in the field of scenic design; many already have proven track records in professional theatres around the country. Professor Mountain's teaching philosophy is of particular interest; he consistently looks for ways to improve his pedagogy, including keeping current with the latest trends in scenic and technical theatre. This is further confirmation of his natural talent for teaching and mentoring.

Professional Activities: Professor Mountain has accumulated an impressive dossier of stage design work at highly regarded professional theatres around the country—including the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Alley Theatre, Meadowbrook, and the Purple Rose Theatre. Also of significance, as a measure of his professional attainment and disciplinary range, was his work as set designer for the national tour of the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*. Professor Mountain has designed for a wide variety of theatrical genres, including plays both contemporary and classical. Professor Mountain's work on Irwin's production of *The Regard of Flight & The Clown Bagatelles* at La Jolla Playhouse was broadcast on PBS, and it is still used in theatre classrooms nationwide. For many years, the University of Michigan has

benefitted from his design work in numerous productions on our campus. His work shows wonderful theatrical imagination and artistic excellence, but also a great deal of variety, ingenuity and flexibility. Professor Mountain has worked with an array of important directors such as Greg Boyd, Guy Sanville, and Maria Mileaf; this is indicative of the excellent artistic relationships that he has developed over the years. Another important measure of his achievement and the level of confidence in his work, is that he is often invited back to work with individual directors and theatre companies. Very recently, Professor Mountain expanded his profile to include scenic design work for television: the ABC network show *Detroit 187*, episodes one through three.

Service: The majority of Professor Mountain's service activities are focused in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Most notably for the department, he was head of the Design and Production Area for seven years, and chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee. He has served the School in any number of capacities: as chair of the department chair advisory committee, member of the InterArts Faculty Advisory Committee, chair of the Theatre Department Chair Search Committee, chair of the costume designer search committee, and member of the Council of Department Representatives (the undergraduate curriculum committee). On the national stage, Professor Mountain's professional affiliations include the American College Theatre Festival Conference, the apprentice program at the Purple Rose Theatre, and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology. Whatever service Professor Mountain engages in, one can be assured that he will be an active, collaborative, and positively contributing participant.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "The design work is of the highest quality and marks a designer who is very accomplished, and clearly able to mount handsome and artistically significant design-work for professional theatres. I believe Professor Mountain has achieved a level of national creative achievement appropriate to the rank of full professor."

Reviewer B: "The candidate presents a very respectable body of work at premiere theatres through the country. This is the laudable record of a successful and highly respected designer. It is particularly significant that Professor Mountain is often invited back to work with individual directors and theatre companies, the truest indication that his work is appreciated."

Reviewer C: "The artistic and dramaturgical excellence of Professor Mountain's work is on par with any design work currently produced on any stage in America. The work is beautifully executed and theatrically interesting."

Reviewer D: "Many designer teachers emphasize a rigid theatrical style to their students. The fact is that this profession is extremely competitive and being limited to a specific style and approach only hurts a young artist trying to break into the profession. Professor Mountain's emphasis on stylistic versatility only serves the young artist, and will help create artists who are flexible and open to collaboration and discovery."

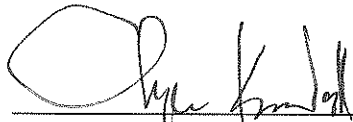
Reviewer E: "He has exhibited tremendous growth as both an artist and as an individual. His rendering, modeling and communication skills are phenomenal. His work is of the highest caliber. Every documented professional production is original and worthy of world-class recognition."

Reviewer F: "A true indicator of Mountain's success as a teacher of design is the impressive list of his students' accomplishments upon graduation. This provided list includes quality starting positions in theatre for recent grads as well as consistent placement of students into top-flight graduate theatre programs. In short, Mountain appears to be a highly effective and successful teacher."

Reviewer G: "It is an encouraging sign that Vince notes his habit of continually questioning his course structure as he seeks to explore more ways of bringing design instruction to undergraduates. This is the mark of a mature teacher fully engaged and dedicated to the process by which young designers are nurtured and made ready for the next step in their education."

Reviewer H: "His statement indicates that he is a highly dedicated and effective teacher, as well as a concerned, involved, and active mentor to his students. He is clearly a gifted designer, and an active and engaged teacher."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Vincent Mountain is an admirable and generous teacher. He is a well-known and exceptional stage designer who is able to flex his artistry to meet the evolving needs of varying theatrical genres. Professor Mountain's exemplary skills in collaboration and communication are greatly appreciated by his department. He has received strong support for this promotion both from his U-M colleagues and external reviewers. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Vincent Mountain for promotion to professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre & 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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