

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

William H. Irwin, 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	University of Florida
B.A.	2001	University of Michigan - Flint

Professional Record:

2009 – Present	Assistant Professor of Theatre, University of Michigan-Flint
2006 – 2009	Lecturer I of Theatre, University of Michigan-Flint
2006	Instructor of Theatre, National High School Institute Summer Intensive at Northwestern University
2004 – 2006	Adjunct Professor of Theatre, Aquinas College
2002 – 2004	Academic Advisor for Music, Art, Theatre, and Dance, University of Florida
2001 – 2004	Adjunct Professor/Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Florida
1999 – 2001	Outreach Drama Instructor, Flint School of Performing Arts

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Irwin has successfully taught a wide range of courses in Theatre and Dance during his appointment at the University of Michigan-Flint. His teaching has evolved from introductory classes in theatre stressing movement and elective skill areas (stage combat and acting for camera) to the primary instructor of advanced acting courses. In each of these classes Professor Irwin concentrates on crucial teaching and evaluative processes of the performance students. One measure of the success of Professor Irwin's teaching is the rapid growth in the number of students who are confident enough to compete for roles in the Department's Irene Ryan Acting Competition for which he serves as the primary gatekeeper.

Creative Work– Professor Irwin has developed a considerable body of creative work in international, national and local venues. The most prestigious work was with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art followed by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. His work is primarily performed as director or actor in these and other venues. His professional performances as director or actor are consistently high quality and he has received significant recognition.

Recent Creative Work:

*Acting*

Irwin, William, the role of Narrator/Old Man. "James and the Giant Peach," by Roald Dahl, performed at the Flint Youth Theater, 2013.

Irwin, William, the role of Lord Buckingham. "Richard III," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2012.

Irwin, William, the role of King Ferdinand. "Love's Labour's Lost," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2012.\*^

Irwin, William, the roles of Bottom and Launce. "Shakespeare: The Clown," by William Shakespeare, performed at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Linbury Studio, 2012.

Irwin, William, the role of Cleante. "Tartuffe," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2011.\*\*

Irwin, William, the role of Don Pedro. "Much Ado About Nothing," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2011.\*\*\*

Irwin, William, the roles of Iago and Angelo. "Shakespeare: Love and War," by William Shakespeare, performed at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Linbury Studio, 2010.

Irwin, William, the role of Jacques. "As You Like It," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2009.

Irwin, William, the role of Stephano. "The Tempest," by William Shakespeare, performed at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, 2009.

\* 2013 Wilde Award Winner, Best of the Bard

^ 2013 Wilde Award Nominee, Best Performance

\*\* 2012 Wilde Award Winner, Best Comedy

\*\*\* 2012 Wilde Award Winner, Best of the Bard

#### *Directing*

Irwin, William, "The God of Carnage," by Yasmina Reza, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2014.

Irwin, William, "Good People," by David Lindsay-Abaire, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2013.

Irwin, William, "Menaechmus Brothers," by Titus Maccius Plautus, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2012.

Irwin, William, "The Underpants," by Steve Martin, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2012.

Irwin, William, "Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street," by Stephen Adly Guirgis, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2011.

Irwin, William, "The Drowsy Chaperone," by Bob Martin, Don McKellar, Lisa Lambert, and Greg Morrison, at Michigan State University, Kennedy Center American College Theater – Regional Festival, 2011.

Irwin, William, "The Drowsy Chaperone," by Bob Martin, Don McKellar, Lisa Lambert, and Greg Morrison, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2010.

Irwin, William, Bay View Musical Review, Bay View Fine Arts Association.

Irwin, William, "Red Herring," by Michael Hollinger, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2010.

Irwin, William, "Elegies: A Song Cycle," by William Finn, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2009.

Irwin, William, "Into the Woods," by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2009.

Service – Professor Irwin has been deeply engaged in effective service to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and UM-Flint generally. He is a board member of the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching (TCLT) and has served as chair of the Search Committee for a new director for TCLT. He also serves on the LEO Major Review Committee, and on the Administrative Services Committee. At the departmental level he has been a full participant in all activities of that unit including advisor to the Honor Society and as part of the Scholarship Allocation Committee. Professor Irwin is a dedicated citizen of the department, CAS and UM-Flint.

## External Reviewers:

### Reviewer (A):

"Mr. Irwin's body of professional work stands above many theatre academics working at universities that are relatively isolated from large professional theatre markets. He has important professional credits that are regularly reviewed by professional critics and his appointment as an Artistic Associate at MSF puts him in an elite group of actor/academicians."

### Reviewer (B):

"Impact of work is often evaluated based on the dissemination of the work. Mr. Irwin's performances reach local (university), state (Michigan Shakespeare Festival), regional (KC/ACTF, Region III), national (KCACTF in Washington DC), and international (LAMDA) audiences. He has a very strong State and Regional impact and is building a National profile. His work at LAMDA indicates potential for continued international experience."

### Reviewer (C):

"In examining the online submission of work that Mr. Irwin has compiled, I must confess it is impressive. Of particular note is his affiliation with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival as a performer and as an Artistic Associate. Again, all of the peer reviews submitted by Mr. Irwin for this work were very positive."

### Reviewer (D):

"I consider Mr. Irwin's on-stage performance credits at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, as well as his direction of the KC/ACTF regionally-recognized production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, to be outstanding."

### Reviewer (E):

"It is evident to me, having reviewed materials relevant to William Irwin's acting career, that he is well regarded by his professional peers at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and that he actively seeks professional development through workshop opportunities."

### Reviewer (F):

"Professor Irwin has demonstrated the ability to maintain his creative activity on a professional level during his time at the University of Michigan-Flint through his list of 'artistic' achievements and therefore, establishing great credibility for his students to respect. His focus on his craft and the need to maintain and improve upon his considerable talents can only serve to inspire his students and peers."

### Reviewer (G):

"Professor Irwin competes most favorably with his fellow theatre professors in numerous universities. It is my opinion that his services would be sought after by many theatre programs and, therefore, he is a valuable asset to the Flint Theatre Department."

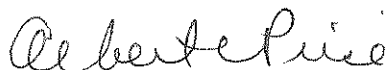
### Reviewer (H):

"Lastly, it is Bill's belief, action, follow-through, and vision that make him a standout among standouts in the discipline. I have no doubt that he will continue to elevate your program. He challenges and explores all aspects of theatre while simultaneously empowering those around him to do the same."

Summary of Recommendation:

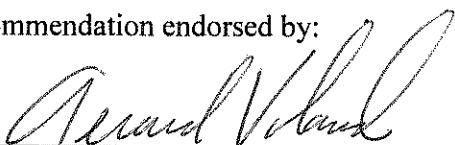
Professor Irwin is an excellent teacher who engages in professional performance/creative venues of high quality. I fully concur with the determination of the Executive Committee and enthusiastically support the recommendation that William H. Irwin be promoted to associate professor of theatre, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

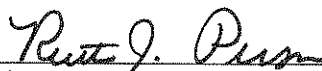


Albert C. Price, Interim Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Gerard Voland, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2014