

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Annette A. Masson, 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.	1991	Boston University
B.E.	1978	University of Saskatchewan

Professional Record:

1998 – present	Associate Professor of Theatre & Drama, University of Michigan
1992 – 1998	Assistant Professor of Theatre & Drama, University of Michigan
1999	Guest Artist, The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
1994 – 1996	Visiting Professor, Michigan State University
1989 – 1992	Lecturer, Boston University
1990 – 1992	Faculty, American Repertory Theatre, Harvard University
1984 – 1989	Associate Director, The Drama Studio, London at Berkeley
1987 – 1988	Guest Artist, The Drama Studio London, England

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Masson is considered an innovative, challenging, and dedicated teacher. She teaches a wide and impressive array of courses for students with varying levels of expertise. She has developed and taught over fifteen courses on such topics as basic voice techniques, advanced dialects, Shakespeare, and public speaking. Her classes are considered “tough” among students in the program and, as such, reflect the department’s excellence and rigor in teaching. Professor Masson’s students hold her in high regard, reporting with frequency on student evaluations that she is both knowledgeable and inspirational. Going beyond her basic teaching requirements, Professor Masson attends every rehearsal for theatrical performances put on by University Productions in order to coach the actors on dialects employed in the play being staged. As a result of working with her, students involved in theatre and drama productions tend to deliver their lines and physically command the stage at a level on par with professional actors.

Creative Activities: Over the course of her distinguished academic and professional career, Professor Masson has served as vocal and dialect coach for dozens of performances at the university and beyond and is a widely sought-after lecturer in her area of expertise. In addition, she has developed several novel approaches to producing and manipulating sounds with the human voice. Much of her work in vocal training has been guided by deep familiarity with an approach known as the LoVetri Method, which combines traditional voice science and vocal training with elements of yoga, movement, dance, acting, and speech training. Incorporating aspects of this technique, Professor Masson has developed a series of courses on public speaking and presentation skills that she will offer this year to UM students and faculty through the Center for Entrepreneurship. She has also helped to train UM athletes by applying her vast knowledge

of stage combat and public speaking to an athletic context. In a similar vein, she was involved in the development of a training course for the U-M Medical Education Scholars Program, which is aimed at teaching doctors how to present their work to the public, and she is presently collaborating with the Office of University Development on a training program focused on the art of public speaking. This last-named project is funded by the Office of University Development along with the Education Scholars Program and the Knight Wallace Journalist Fellowship Program. Reflecting a different area of creative endeavor, Professor Masson currently serves as editor of the International Dialects of English Archive (IDEA), an online archive of global dialects tied to languages spoken in countries as varied as Iceland and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Professor Masson's own research into dialects prompted her, in 2007, to spearhead a production of Nilo Cruz's *Lorca in a Green Dress* in collaboration with Saint Mary's College of California. Following a successful run in Ann Arbor, the production was staged at the DISK Theatre and the Apostrof Festival in Prague. Mirroring this trajectory was Professor Masson's work on the 2013 production of John Cariani's *Almost Maine*, which, after being staged at U-M, was presented at the Toronto Fringe Festival with great success.

Service: Professor Masson has amassed an impressive record of service at the university level and within her profession. She is currently serving her second term as head of the BFA performance program in her department, a task that entails not only general oversight but also organizing workshops and overseeing, among other activities, recruitment events, auditions, and merit scholarship assessment. Her first term in this role involved an ambitious restructuring and reorganization of the BFA theatre performance curriculum. In addition, Professor Masson has been a member of several faculty search committees and has also served on the school's Faculty Research Committee. Since 2007, she has been the president of the National Society of Arts and Letters (Michigan Chapter), and she is also a member of the professional organization known as the Voice and Speech Teachers of America.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Masson's materials demonstrate evidence that she is a dedicated and impactful teacher, a generous collaborator, an accomplished administrator, and a visible presence as a voice and speech expert at the University of Michigan. She creates opportunities for other teachers as well as her students, who appreciate her as teacher and mentor."

Reviewer B: "Everything she does as teacher, administrator, and artist seem directly imagined in order to advance her students, her department, her college, and the standards for teachers of voice and speech throughout Michigan and the country. There seems to be no request to share her skills with other departments and other faculty she has not accepted."

Reviewer C: "Professor Masson's professional accomplishments effectively combine scholarship and teaching to provide outstanding opportunities for students. She has continued to contribute actively to the field of performance and theatre all the while honing her skills as a master voice and speech expert. Professor Masson is a leader in her peer group of voice professionals."

Reviewer D: "Professor Masson's professional accomplishments are multifaceted, innovative, and collaborative. Underlying all of her professional work is a sense of philanthropy—of doing

the work in order to benefit others. Her time spent on university committees exemplifies the underlying selflessness and altruism of her work as well.”

Reviewer E: “She is truly a professional artist engaged in distinctive service to her art, her students, her colleagues, and her community. Her continued work as a voice/text coach, participation in national conferences, university governance, and commitment to teaching makes her an incredibly valued faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Drama at the University of Michigan.”

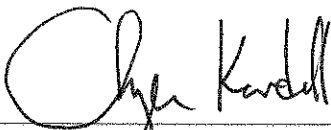
Reviewer F: “She is far out in front of most of her voice/movement colleagues, in that she is a professional singer and singing teacher, as well as an actor and voice/movement specialist. Her openness to continued exploration, collaboration, and learning also identifies her as a leader in the field and someone who works easily across genres and disciplines.”

Internal Review:

Professor Masson is a paragon of collegiality, hard work, and cooperation. In a field with an unusual professional profile and expectations, she has contributed at the highest level, essentially setting the standard. She has taken on important leadership roles in the department, served admirably on numerous committees, and offers a plethora of vocal workshops and special courses within the School and across the university. She is considered a creative force and a respected teacher among her peers. Her rich experience combined with vast knowledge of her field make her one of the “go to” faculty members in the department and the profession.

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Masson brings unique and creative approaches to pedagogy. Her enthusiasm for teaching naturally overlaps into her professional activities, and she has succeeded in developing novel ways to impart her knowledge to students and colleagues. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Annette A. Masson 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  
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music  
and Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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