

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

Christianne Myers, assistant professor of performing arts, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A. 1994 New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
B.F.A. 1992 Pace University (summa cum laude)

Professional Record:

2012 – present Assistant Professor of Performing Arts, tenure-track,
Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan
2002 – 2012 Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, clinical-track,
Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002 Designer, Barkley-Kalpak Assoc. Production Company
2001 Adjunct Faculty, Pace University
1997 Fabric Painter, Joni Johns' Studio for Disney's *The Lion King*
1993 – 1994 Costume Shop Manager for Theatreworks/USA
1992 – 1993 Stitcher at Allan Albert Productions Costume Shop and
Donna Langman's Costume Shop for various musicals and theatres
1992 – 1993 Professional Internship with The American Conservatory Theatre
1991 Professional Internship with The Circle Repertory Company

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Myers' typical annual teaching load includes teaching three courses and designing three productions for the university. She teaches the first design class for all incoming design students and is responsible for laying the foundation for the essential craft and conceptual skills that these students will take into their upper-level design courses. Professor Myers empowers students by giving them opportunities to design costumes on each of her productions. In essence, this means an abundance of additional work for her, but it also provides invaluable experience for the students. Thus the impact of her teaching is felt not only with regard to the incoming design students for whom her courses are critical in moving effectively through the curriculum but also more broadly in that her students play a pivotal role in helping put on the school's mainstage productions throughout the year. Her general approach to teaching is to engage students to become collaborators in all areas of the arts. As evident in student evaluations of her teaching, students hold her in high regard even as she is considered demanding, a quality that students say is tempered by her openness, respectfulness, and patience. Professor Myers has expressed an interest in expanding opportunities for the students in costume design and technology, including digital learning, dance, opera, puppetry, projection, and also designing for television and film.

Professional Activities: One of the most active and professionally engaged faculty in the department, Professor Myers usually designs three productions a year for university Productions, in addition to her teaching load. Outside the university, she maintains a regional presence through her repeated professional engagements at local and regional venues such as the Purple Rose Theatre, Opera Memphis, and Florentine Opera. Her continuing relationship with these prestigious organizations is truly a reflection of the high regard in which her work is held. She is widely considered one of the best practitioners in her field, whether in regard to the more practical components of her work (working with producers, directors, fellow designers, cast members and staff) or the more creative aspects of design (initial research, renderings, and the execution of the costumes). Beyond her design work for stage and within the academy, she has also done design work for film, including for an HBO and Cinemax movie, "The Office Party," and for a Shoreland Production film titled "Ordinary Sinner." Her work demands that she excel in the realms of both communication and collaboration, and also that she is flexible enough to meet the varying demands of crew, cast, venue, and budget. Professor Myers is a highly original and productive artist, consistently devising costumes that are bold, imaginative, well-researched, and of the highest quality.

Service: Professor Myers has admirably served her department and the School in a variety of ways. One of her most visible and lasting efforts was the creation of a joint degree program between the Department of Theatre and Drama and the Stamps School of Art and Design. She developed the original proposal for the curriculum and piloted versions of this proposal through to its final approval by the university Regents. In addition, she interviewed applicants for the first cohort of students and served on a committee to further refine the program's curriculum. The InterArts program that resulted is a success and can serve as a model for future joint degree programs. Professor Myers continues to serve on the InterArts Advisory Committee as well as serve as the official SMTD academic advisor for InterArts students. Professor Myers' service also included a masterful puppetry performance as part of the Department of Theatre and Drama's 100th anniversary celebration; many faculty and reviewers consider this work some of her most innovative and creative work to date. Professor Myers also works collaboratively with the University Musical Society on outreach activities and workshops. She has also edited a departmental e-newsletter, served as a member on several staff and faculty search committees, and has served as alternate for the School's representative to the University Faculty Senate.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "As a professional designer, [P]rofessor Myers has amassed a considerable and impressive resume of work. A look through her portfolio of sketches and photos makes it clear she is a clever and talented designer. Her creative activity record is strong and of high quality with connections to important venues and artists around the country."

Reviewer B: "Ms. Myers appears to be very strong in all three areas of research/creative activity, teaching and service. She shows signs of being not only knowledgeable and skillful in her field as artist and educator, but also enthusiastic about her work, a good and caring communicator, collaborator, and overall good citizen. In addition, she shows signs of continuing to grow and develop which speaks well for the future."

Reviewer C: “Professor Myers has a diverse and impressive portfolio. She is an emerging voice in her discipline and will continue to develop her professional persona over time. She is developing a presence in the appropriate professional organizations related to her field. She is known as someone to watch in professional organizations and seems poised to continue to develop as a professor and an artist.”

Reviewer D: “In addition to her substantial academic responsibilities, Ms. Myers has maintained quite an active professional career without any evidence of having taken shortcuts in her collaborations. She has built on her relationships, and clearly welcomes explorations that progress the definitions of her work. Do whatever it takes to keep her energy and artistry on your campus.”

Reviewer E: “Christianne’s work shows great depth, masterful artistry, and a keen sensitivity to the needs of students and community. Her service to the university and community is notable, and her teaching equally exciting. Christianne Myers is an exceptional artist. Her work in and out of the classroom sets a high standard and is preparing her students for success in a challenging and competitive profession. Her own design work is certainly on par with some of the best working designers today and her contributions to the artistic world and to the community at large are outstanding.”

Reviewer F: “Christianne Myers is without any doubt a very talented and professional costume designer and theatre artist. Christianne Myers represents an excellent combination of studio art skill, artistic imagination, intellectual and creative curiosity and total command of the craft. It takes guts, talent and persistence to strive to advance our art form, and Christianne Myers is doing exactly that.”


Reviewer G: “Ms. Myers’ professional work is extremely impressive. Her teaching resume is equally prolific and impressive. Her work with the students at the University of Michigan covers many areas of theatrical costume design and technology, and recently she has been able to introduce the students and faculty to puppetry. This opens up an entirely new field of study and production, and serves to broaden the experiences and resumes of both your students and faculty.”

Reviewer H: “Professor Myers is an enthusiastic collaborator, and a giving, successful teacher and mentor. I am very impressed with the exercises she has developed over her years of teaching. She thrives on the challenge of team collaboration; she truly enjoys technical problem solving; she enjoys historical and cultural clothing research; she is disciplined in her paperwork and organization. Her Herculean efforts in the *Sun and Shadows* puppet project are remarkable – maybe her strongest and best work yet.”

Reviewer I: “Professor Myers’ dossier provides evidence of tremendous skill, artistry and accomplishment. She has created an exemplary dossier demonstrating excellence in all of her work – creative endeavors, teaching and service. She compares positively to peers with parallel preparation, experience, and delivery with strengths in aesthetics, artistry, preparation, communication and execution. As a strong, committed, compassionate, joyful artist, she will

make tremendous contributions to the theatre profession and the world no matter where she lands.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Myers is among the most collaborative and productive faculty members in her department. She is an indispensable and treasured colleague who provides meaningful service to the department, the school, and the university. She is a trusted and dedicated teacher whose commitment to students extends beyond the classroom and into the profession. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Christianne Myers for promotion to associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



Aaron P. Dworkin, Dean
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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