

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

Daniel Cantor, associate professor of theatre and drama, without tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of theatre and drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A.	1997	American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco, CA
Certificate in Acting	1995	American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco, CA
B.A.	1989	Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Professional Record:

2013 - present	Associate Professor of Theatre & Drama, University of Michigan
2006 - 2013	Assistant Professor of Acting, Northwestern University
2004 - 2006	Visiting Assistant Professor, Wesleyan University
2003 - 2006	Adjunct Professor of Acting, Pace University
2002 - 2006	Acting Faculty, American Musical and Dramatic Academy
2000 - 2006	Teacher and Coach, Cantor Studios
1990 - 1993	Instructor, National Shakespeare Company

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Cantor teaches acting and directing, and directs a number of very successful productions. He was recruited to help devise ways to update the department's curriculum and implement new ideas and teaching methodologies to meet the changing demands of our students; he has done that and much more. He collaborates exceedingly well with colleagues, staff and students; this is a key component of production work in any milieu, but especially in an educational learning environment. Professor Cantor brings a unique blend of experience with differing acting styles - comedy, period styles, contemporary realism, postmodernism and many styles of dramatic performance. His versatility in subject matter makes him an invaluable member of the departments and an extraordinary teacher. His classroom is described as energizing, demanding, supportive and challenging. He continually receives positive and enthusiastic feedback from his current students, as well as from those who have joined the profession following their time at Michigan.

Professional Activities: Professor Cantor has worked for and continues to be sought after by the highest-level regional theatres in the country. Nationally, he has worked in San Francisco at the acclaimed American Conservatory Theatre (where he was nominated for a Bay Area Critics Circle Award for best actor), Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and the National Shakespeare Company to name a few. In Chicago, he has worked for all of the major theatre companies including the Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Steppenwolf, Drury Lane Theatre and the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He has also appeared Off Broadway in several premieres, most notably in Picasso at the Lapin Agile, as Pablo Picasso in the very successful play by Steve Martin. Since his arrival at Michigan, Professor Cantor has continued to add to his profile with a title role in the world premiere of Paulus by the internationally acclaimed Israeli playwright Motti Lerner at Silk Road Rising Theatre, and as Fountainhead in Water by the Spoonful by Quira Hudes at the Court Theatre. This past year, he was a recurring character in the web series Matching Pursuit; directed Prospect High: Brooklyn for the Pioneer Theater Guild in Ann Arbor, in conjunction with the Roundabout Theater in New York City.

Professor Cantor has appeared in numerous independent films including, The Auteur Theory on Showtime, Alchemy on ABC, and Justice on IFC. Various guest spots, including episodes on Law and Order (acting with Sam Waterston and Linus Roache), Law and Order: Criminal Intent (with Vincent D'Onofrio), Law and Order: Special Victims Unit, and The Sopranos acting with Michael Imperioli. He has appeared in numerous national TV commercials for Federal Express, American Express, Pizza Hut, Comedy Central, and Compaq Computers. Also, with Compaq Computers he made over 15 industrial films, as well as industrials for Pfizer, AT&T, and Bank of America. He has received positive reviews in national papers, such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle* among others.

Service: Since Professor Cantor's arrival at Michigan, his level of service has continued to grow in meaningful ways. For the school, has served a two-year term on the SMTD Council of Departmental Representatives Committee. Professor Cantor was a contributing member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee examining numerous issues pertaining to faculty, students and the curriculum; the work of this committee has become an integral part of the school and university's DEI initiative. In 2013, Professor Cantor was appointed head of performance within the Department of Theatre and Drama. He is a sought-after mentor and advisor to a host of students who appreciate his varied and prominent experience in acting and directing. Professor Cantor maintains membership in numerous professional organizations including the Screen Actors Guild, the Association of Theater in Higher Education, the Independent Film Project, and the Theater Communication Group. He was recently invited by Northwestern University Press to review and edit an important contribution to the discipline - Standing in Space: The Six Viewpoints Manual by Mary Overlie.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "It cannot be emphasized enough that Professor Cantor has had a vibrant and varied career in which he has worked steadily - nearly constantly - as a professional actor at a high level and in numerous significant venues - be they theatre, television, or film production companies. Cantor's CV demonstrates a steady stream of professional work performed at the highest level with some of our most esteemed and respected artists. One can infer from this that not only is Cantor talented and skilled, but that he is an amiable and professional colleague with whom many are willing and eager to work repeatedly."

Reviewer B: "*Outstanding* is an appropriate word to apply to many of Professor Cantor's creative endeavors as an actor. Professor Cantor's career as an actor has seen him in performance at no fewer than five theaters that have won the Tony Award for regional theatres. It is my opinion that Professor Cantor is the single most accomplished candidate I have come across in my years as an external reviewer."

Reviewer C: "I have had occasion to review the resumes of many actors who wanted to become teachers and many teachers who had acting backgrounds and I must say that it is unusual to have solid credentials in both the professional world and that of academe; Mr. Cantor possesses both. He has participated in innumerable talkbacks at the many venues where he has performed and, as a director, puts an emphasis on non-traditional casting intent on expanding possibilities for both actors of color and the LBGT community."

Reviewer D: "It is clear that his creative, teaching, and service records are of the highest caliber. He is an accomplished teacher who is highly regarded by faculty peers and students, as evidenced by his remarkable teaching record. I can say with confidence that Dan's work ranks him on par, if not well

above, others in his peer group. He is an inspired artist, educator and leader, and one who is both confident and humble.”

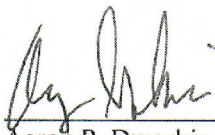
Reviewer E: “Cantor’s on-camera work in New York and elsewhere is incredibly valuable in preparing students for a profession where actors must be ready to address every kind of acting challenge. His teaching philosophy has the kind of expanded outlook that is the hallmark of a truly great teacher - a sound pedagogy combined with a real openness to what each individual student has to say.”

Reviewer F: “As an actor, Dan is without a doubt one of the most gifted and versatile men now working in the Chicago professional theater, a community that contains a number of extremely talented performers. His love of his art is palpable, and his discipline admirable; I can think of no better example for young actors to learn from and emulate. I find Dan Cantor to be a rare figure in our field: a consummate and dedicated artist in his own right, who brings equal artistry and dedication to his role as a professor.”

Reviewer G: “Professor Cantor’s acting work provides evidence of a national reputation, including recurring employment at prestigious national and regional theatre companies. Professor Cantor is entrusted with directing student productions that demand an extraordinary level of collaboration and artistry, especially when working with nascent designers, and this is an important distinction - he understands how to develop young theatre artists.”

Internal Review: The school’s Executive Committee’s review of Professor Cantor’s case revealed a uniform and strongly positive belief that this versatile and accomplished artist and teacher be awarded tenure. He has brought tangible strength to the department and the students adore him. His teaching also brings historical background and significance which helps the students not only know the how, but the why. The committee also remarked at his ability to sustain first-class performing activities, as well as maintain a full teaching schedule. He is a well-rounded and remarkable actor who has also developed a transformative record of meaningful change in the department.

Summary of Recommendation: The school and the Department of Theatre and Drama are very enthusiastic about Professor Cantor’s continued presence and work with our students. He is a valuable resource for our students and has vast experience in conservatory-type training which has proven to be very successful in the classroom. He has been a catalyst for positive change and growth in the department and we are delighted that he has chosen to make the university his home. It with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Daniel Cantor for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of theatre and drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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