

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

Amy G. Chavasse, associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A.	1994	University of Washington
B.F.A.	1985	North Carolina School of the Arts

Professional Record:

2011 – present	Associate Professor of Dance, University of Michigan
2006 – 2011	Assistant Professor of Dance, University of Michigan
2000 – 2006	Artist in Residence, Middlebury College
2004	Guest Artist, Bennington College
1999 – 2000	Visiting Assistant Professor, Arizona State University
1998 – 1999	Guest Artist, University of North Carolina – Greensboro
1996, 1997, 1998	Visiting Assistant Professor and Guest Artist, Virginia Commonwealth University
1996	Guest Artist, North Carolina State University
1996	Adjunct Faculty, Duke University
1996	Guest Choreographer, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC
1995 – 1996	Adjunct Faculty, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
1995	Guest Artist, North Carolina School of the Arts
1993	Guest Artist, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Kirov Academy, Washington, D.C.
1993	Guest Choreographer and Guest Faculty, Montgomery College
1990 – 1993	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington
1989	Guest Artist, George Washington University
1985 – 1986	Faculty, The Dance Palace, Washington, D.C.
1982	Teaching Assistant, University of California-Irvine

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Regarded as one of the most respected and innovative teachers in the department, Professor Chavasse's ongoing commitment and devotion to the students is palpable. She artfully integrates many current movement vocabularies into her technique class, and her materials are always well-constructed, challenging, creative and beautifully executed. Professor Chavasse's interdisciplinary teaching takes the form of courses like the renowned Creative Process course where she collaborates with students and faculty from Engineering, Art and Design and Architecture and Urban Planning. Professor Chavasse has done extremely well in maintaining

and strengthening the currency and esthetic diversity of the department's programs. Professor Chavasse encourages her students to take artistic risks, to explore new modes of producing dance materials, to stretch their imaginations, and to be curious. Her teaching is physically rigorous and also includes substantial reading and writing assignments. Professor Chavasse continuously revises course materials to keep current, and is a generous mentor for students. As the director of graduate studies for the Department of Dance, she is an active recruiter and thesis advisor for many of the graduate students. Professor Chavasse is a tireless and fearless advocate for the students, social issues and equity, and for change within the field of dance itself.

Professional Activities: Professor Chavasse is exceptionally creative in building and producing works for national, international, and regional performances often incorporating social or political issues. Professor Chavasse's work has been presented throughout the U.S., and with the North Carolina Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out. Internationally, she has taught and had her work produced in Trinidad; Cienfuegos and Havana, Cuba; Kaunas and Vilnius, Lithuania; Vienna, Austria; Cali, Colombia; and Buenos Aires. She is dedicated to establishing international connections for her own creative projects and for her students. Professor Chavasse has danced in many companies and independent projects in North Carolina, Washington DC, and New York City, as well as with Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, and Bill Young and Dancers. Professor Chavasse's performances are powerful, rich, dramatic and dynamically executed; her choreographic work is intelligent, thought-provoking, and engaging. These are the attributes of an artist who is passionate about her work and courageous in expressing it. She has been a guest artist/visiting faculty member at numerous institutions including Middlebury College, Arizona State, Virginia Commonwealth, UNC-Greensboro, North Carolina School of the Arts, George Washington, Bennington College, University of Calgary, and Cornish College of the Arts.

Service: Professor Chavasse is an active and contributing member of the department, the school and the profession. She has been an active participant on several faculty search committees, and is currently a member of a faculty mentoring committee as part of the ADVANCE Launch Program. For years, Professor Chavasse has taken the lead on coordinating the tour for the undergraduates and graduate students to the American College Dance Association (ACDA) regional and national conferences. She also served for several years as an elected national board member of the ACDA. This past year, she accompanied and coached several students to the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Beckett, Massachusetts, a nationally prominent and historic festival, where the students performed a duet they created and adjudicated at the regional ACDA festival. This work was one of only five selected to be performed from numerous regional entries. Professor Chavasse is a regular attendee and teacher at conferences and festivals both locally and nationally.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Her depth of intellectual curiosity, of artistic energy and accomplishment, her openness to incorporating a variety of approaches into her own work and to experiment and explore creatively all make her an exemplary colleague, teacher, and mentor."

Reviewer B: “Chavasse’s research is clearly locally, regionally, and internationally significant. Without hesitation, I would describe the quality, quantity, focus, and impact of her creative work as excellent. She is clearly committed to nurturing the next generation and sharing her connections with talented students.”

Reviewer C: “Chavasse is an invaluable resource for students to experience both the creativity and the rigors of contemporary dance. She has been involved in helping to hone a curriculum that is vibrant, modern-thinking, embraces technology, and mentors both choreographic and collaborative exchanges across the fine arts. She has helped to forge a wonderful resurgence of artistic endeavor and excellence, staying in close touch with students and the other faculty.”

Reviewer D: “Chavasse is still probing and pushing at the edges of what is possible in Dance Theatre; this is important research and contributes to the evolution of modern dance. Her work breathes and enjoys itself and it is great news that this artist/thinker is influencing students. It reassures me that there will be people going into positions of leadership who know how to collaborate and respond to each other and the world around them.”

Reviewer E: “Chavasse has maintained an extremely high quantity of creative research projects in reputable national and international venues. Her international reach has also created graduate and undergraduate experiences. She will ask anything and go anywhere; and her big appetite has sustained a long, productive career that shows no signs of slowing.”

Reviewer F: “Her national and international credits speak to her relevancy in the current contemporary dance field; her creative research trajectory offers a breadth of choreographic vision that also challenges students as dance artists. She is a consummate collaborator whose individual contributions are also evident and clearly articulated. One of her great strengths is her ability to bridge professional and academic practice for undergraduate and graduate students.”

Reviewer G: “Professor Chavasse demonstrates that she is a deep thinker, a gifted artist, and a consummate colleague. Her work is high quality, adventurous and well-crafted. She has demonstrated an interest and commitment to staying at the forefront of the field in critical ways that bode well for your institution, department and the students who choose to study at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer H: “The range of collaborative connections that she has made, both within the U.S.A. and abroad, have provided a rich and broad pallet for her own work and also for the benefit of the students she teaches. Chavasse clearly and elegantly articulates her passion for a constructivist approach to the education of dance students—providing an environment for them to be challenged and supported, whilst developing a capacity for their artistic individuality to thrive.”

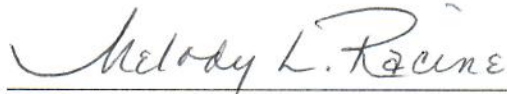
Reviewer I: “It is apparent that Chavasse has remained interested and inspired throughout her career and travels, and this is undoubtedly a huge benefit to her students. Her international work is particularly impressive.”

Reviewer J: "As an artist/researcher/education, Professor Chavasse is at the top of her peer group. She is clearly a gifted teacher and researcher, leader in her field and open to new ideas, and someone who will continue to serve well her school and department through the years."

Reviewer K: "It is my impression that for Chavasse, her teaching, artistry, research, and service are truly intertwined. She tackles all this work with gusto and the highest professional standard. Her innate curiosity and commitment to inquiry she is never complacent, but always involved and looking for connections, for possibilities, for opportunities for growth and learning."

Internal Review: Professor Chavasse is a challenging, creative and inspiring teacher. Student feedback uniformly reference her excellent mentorship and passion for dance. She has received strong and encouraging support from her department and colleagues who consider her extraordinarily collaborative and receptive to new ideas. The Executive Committee's review of Professor Chavasse for promotion was positive and supportive.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Chavasse is an outstanding teacher, performer, and choreographer in the field of modern dance. She has received strong and uniformly positive support from her colleagues as well as the external reviewers. She has proven herself to be an extremely valuable asset to the department and the school, and we are fortunate to have her as a member of our faculty. It is with great enthusiasm and the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Amy G. Chavasse for promotion to professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



Melody L. Racine

Interim Dean

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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