

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

Linda D. Goodrich, associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Musical Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Musical Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

B.F.A 1985 University of Michigan, Dance

Professional Record:

2017 – present Core Instructor, Director/Choreographer, Music Academy, International, Trentino Italy
2002 – present Associate Professor of Dance, Department of Musical Theatre, University of Michigan
1996 – 2002 Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Musical Theatre, University of Vermont
1994 – 1996 Guest Lecturer of Musical Theatre, New York University, Steinhardt School
1991 – 1992 Jazz Band Director, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, Colorado State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Goodrich is a core member of the teaching faculty in the Musical Theatre department of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, one of the most highly recognized professional training programs in the United States. She teaches all levels of dance, junior performance, and senior acting classes. In addition, she directs and choreographs several on-campus productions annually for public performances in Ann Arbor. She guides and directs students participating in senior showcases in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Both Professor Goodrich's teaching and choreography are informed by her work as a professional repeteur for major works by Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Harold Prince and Ron Field, among many others. Her deep knowledge of dance history is reflected in teaching materials for her History of Classical Ballet course, which stretches from the intricacies of Baroque dance through contemporary masterworks by Balanchine and Robbins. Her acting courses emphasize deep background work for developing every character, and several students remark that this depth of personal engagement is the cornerstone of her teaching. Her syllabi are detailed and clear and the stated expectations are high.

Professor Goodrich is and has been an exceptional teacher and mentor for several generations of theatre professionals. She skillfully embeds industry standards and expectations garnered from her own experience into her courses and blends a historical foundation with a fluency in contemporary theatre and cutting-edge trends. The relevance and impact of her teaching is manifest in the fact that Professor Goodrich's students have gone on to spectacular success in the profession.

Professional Activities: Since her last promotion, Professor Goodrich has directed and/or choreographed 30 educational productions and 37 professional productions. Each production involved

coordination of large ensembles and developmental research work with designers and technicians. Professor Goodrich brings expertise in multiple historical performance styles to each professional staging. Her work represents the best of creative scholarship as she draws from multiple sources to collaborate with a team of artists on each show.

Notably, Professor Goodrich was the first female musical director at the Walnut Street Theatre of Philadelphia, “the oldest continually active theatre in the English-speaking world.” Her productions cover an incredible range of periods and subjects, from classics like *Oklahoma!*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *On the Town*, *South Pacific*, *The Producers*, *Sweet Charity* and *West Side Story* to new blockbusters like *The Little Mermaid*, *Seussical*, *Mary Poppins*, *Catch Me if You Can*, *A Christmas Story* and *Matilda*. Since being promoted to associate professor, she has directed and/or choreographed productions in important regional theaters around the US, including the Sacramento Music Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, the Goodspeed Opera House (CT), TheatreWorks (CA), North Shore Music Theatre (MA), The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Radio City Music Hall, among others. All of the external reviewers commented on both the sheer number of productions and on the number of times she has been asked back to theatres, proving that she is not only a talented director/choreographer but one that people enjoy working with and trust will create work of the highest quality.

As additional evidence of Professor Goodrich’s standing in the field, she is in high demand as a master teacher and clinician. She has presented at New York University, University of Arizona, Music Academy International (Italy), Broadway Dance Centre (Tokyo), Amsterdam Dance Centre (Netherlands), Vineyard Arts Project, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera Academy, Lou Conte Dance Studio (Chicago), River North Dance Studio (Chicago), Ruth Page Center for the Arts (Chicago), and Academy of Music and Movement – MOMENTA (Oak Park, IL). Professor Goodrich has an outstanding record of sustained and professionally significant creative work.

Service: Professor Goodrich actively fulfills service obligations for her department, the school and for the profession. Within the department, she functions as the head of the dance area and plays a crucial role during audition season as the primary dance adjudicator. Typically, the department evaluates over 1400 auditionees for 22 spots in the freshman class, giving each applicant an initial screening, and then inviting a group to campus for an in-person audition. Professor Goodrich has also served multiple terms on the SMTD Executive Committee and as departmental representative to the school’s undergraduate curriculum committee, the Council of Departmental Representatives. She has been an alternate Ombudsman, a LAUNCH Committee Member, and participated on search committees in Theatre & Drama and Musical Theatre. As part of her advising duties, she helped launch Michigan Performance Outreach Workshop (MPOW) in 2012. This student organization works with Detroit youth to help “foster creative expression, build self-esteem, and strengthen the community.”

National service includes her work as a reader for the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, and her membership on the Contract Negotiations Committee of the Society of Directors and Choreographers from 2015 to 2017. Locally, Professor Goodrich is the mentor and advisor for *The Color Cabaret* since 2014, an event that features students of color and for *The Girly Show*, a benefit concert in support of women’s issues. From 1996 to 2014, she was the artistic advisor for the Detroit chapter of the Association of American Asian and Pacific Islanders. Given the time-intensive nature of teaching in the discipline, and her sustained involvement in the professional world, Professor Goodrich’s commitment to service is well beyond expectations.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I can always spot a Linda Goodrich dancer in the dance calls...She knows how to make those who may think they are non-dancers move as if they were incredible dancers...I would suggest you hold on to her as long as you can.”

Reviewer B: “The frequency with which she returns to each theatre indicates a high level of professionalism and skill. Prof. Goodrich’s membership in Actors Equity Association, The American Film, Television and Radio Artists, and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers reflects her excellent standing with her peers throughout the entertainment industry...Prof. Goodrich has held the position of repetiteur on three of the most choreographically iconic musicals of all-time: Sweet Charity, West Side Story, and Cabaret.”

Reviewer C: “Her energy, not to mention her stellar abilities in time management – four professional productions in 2018 alone, in California, Pennsylvania, and Kansas; AND three educational-theater productions also in 2018, in Ann Arbor and Italy – boggles my mind...The impressive places where Goodrich has conducted workshops and master classes – at New York University and elsewhere in the United States, as well as abroad – attest to her international reputation. It’s a rare performer with direct professional links to Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse who also knows how to teach.”

Reviewer D: “Linda is known all across our business as a director, choreographer and teacher of the highest order. Her career has spanned the globe and her students have gone on to incredible success and can be found dominating the fields of theater, film and television throughout the world.”

Reviewer E: “I don’t know if I can decide which of Professor Goodrich’s professional accomplishments is more outstanding. The fact that she is consistently asked back to theatres and has worked at many of them numerous times is a testament to her creativity, work ethic, and product. She is clearly well-thought-of in the industry...Not all artists can teach and not all teachers are good at creating productions. In Professor Goodrich, the University of Michigan has all of those qualities in one human...”

Reviewer F: “I have looked at her include syllabi closely, and based on my reading, would love to have taken a course or two from her myself...Her credits as a choreographer and director are, simply put, first rate, and the amount of work she has done, especially considering her teaching obligations, is substantial. Several of her credits are accompanied by professional reviews and letters of thanks, and most of those cite *her* work in particular for its artistry. This is as close as we in the arts can get, I believe, to quantifiable proof of excellence in creative activity...She has worked in New York and L.A. repeatedly over the years, and, at least in my own school, this would be considered the gold standard on a resume that is already golden.”

Reviewer G: “Her choreography is not only exciting to watch, but it is always connected to the unique personality of a character, the emotional needs of the scene and she always considers the dance ability of the actor. This kind of detailed focus is a must when teaching choreography to student actors and dancers.”

Reviewer H: “She works across the country consistently as a director/choreographer for theatres with excellent reputations and she is asked back to work with them regularly...With so many director/choreographers to choose from it is a testament to the quality of the work that Linda Goodrich produces that she is re-hired on such a regular basis, as those who ‘don’t deliver the goods’ aren’t re-hired out of pity.”

Reviewer I: “Professor Goodrich’s research and creative activity reflects a quantity and quality reserved for the highest achievers in the Musical Theatre profession...She seems equally comfortable in the canonical musicals as well as the development of new and cutting-edge storytelling. Anyone who can direct and choreograph a production of *Bat Boy*, for instance, does not easily then choreograph and create new dance arrangements for a reimagining of a piece like *High Button Shoes*. Professor Goodrich does this seamlessly and with great professional acclaim...Given the racial justice conversations in our country this year, her faculty mentorship and advising of *The Color Cabaret* beginning in 2014 exemplifies her commitment and vision as an educator.”

Reviewer J: “Quite simply put: *very few* professional and/or academic musical theatre artists can come close to the profoundly consistent and prolific *quantity* found in Linda Goodrich’s Promotion Dossier. She lists seventy-nine professional productions and forty educational productions. By the time George Abbott (AKA ‘Mister Broadway’) passed away at the age of 106, he had written, produced, and performed in a total of one hundred and twenty shows. Linda currently has one hundred and ten. Linda is a long way from turning 106 years of age...I can say without any question, that there is not one person who can match the professional and academic theatre career that Linda Goodrich presents in this dossier.”

Reviewer K: “The reach of a great teacher like Linda has a ripple effect; her presence will be felt for generations to come...She has few peers when it comes to her commitment, her rigor, and her ease with all styles; the contemporary works of Pasek and Paul along with the Golden Age musicals...She is a prize.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Goodrich is a deeply respected member of the SMTD faculty who mentors and guides students to produce compelling professional work. She is a highly regarded and productive director and choreographer who works at the top level of the profession. She has exhibited a strong commitment to service, both within the institution and in her discipline. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I enthusiastically recommend and support Linda D. Goodrich for promotion to professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Musical Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



David Gier
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music
and Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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