

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

Amy E. Hughes, 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 theater and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	The Graduate Center, CUNY, Theatre and Performance
M.F.A.	1999	Brooklyn College, CUNY, Performing Arts Management
B.F.A.	1996	Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, Acting

Professional Record:

2019 – present	Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan
2014 – 2019	Associate Professor of Theater History & Criticism (promoted in 2014; tenured in 2015), Department of Theater, Brooklyn College, CUNY
2009 – 2014	Assistant Professor of Theater History & Criticism, Department of Theater, Brooklyn College, CUNY
2007 – 2009	Instructor and Program Head, MFA in Dramaturgy & Theater Criticism, Department of Theater, Brooklyn College, CUNY
2006 – 2007	Substitute Instructor and Program Head, MFA in Arts Management, Department of Theater, Brooklyn College, CUNY
2004 – 2006	Adjunct Lecturer, Fine and Performing Arts Department, Baruch College, CUNY
2003 – 2004	Adjunct Lecturer, Theatre Department, Hunter College, CUNY

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hughes joined the faculty at SMTD as a well-regarded and experienced teacher. While at Brooklyn College, she designed a new theatre history curriculum that emphasized global histories and productions, and in 2010 received the institution's Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of her exemplary skills in the classroom, and curricular innovations. For the Department of Theatre and Drama, Professor Hughes teaches a range of undergraduate courses in theatre history, theory, and literature and serves as program head of the Bachelor of Theatre Arts program. Professor Hughes has demonstrated her use of innovative and research-based pedagogical strategies in the classroom. She relies heavily on team-based and collaborative learning to thoroughly engage students with the material covered in each of her classes, and these approaches have proven to be highly successful.

She has a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom and this is reflected in her respect for all students, her cultural responsiveness as a teacher, and her inclusive and anti-racist pedagogies. Her syllabi include a globalized curriculum, non-Western forms of theatre, and diverse world perspectives. She consistently receives strong evaluations from students, and in the short time that she has been at the University of Michigan, she has already been nominated for a Golden Apple Award. In her role as an advisor and mentor to students in the Bachelor of Theatre Arts (BTA) degree, she advises 40 or more students and meets individually with them. In her efforts to help prepare students for success in the professional world, she has established a BTA Alumni Mentor Network, and has overseen an overhaul of the BTA curriculum.

Professional Activities:

Professor Hughes is an internationally recognized theatre historian whose work focuses on the ways in which popular entertainment shapes, reflects and responds to U.S. culture. In particular, she has done notable work on nineteenth-century U.S. theatre that has attracted attention from scholars in the fields of History and American Studies. Her first book, Spectacles of Reform: Theater and Activism in Nineteenth-Century America, was published in 2012 through the University of Michigan Press, and received the 2013 Barnard Hewitt Award for Outstanding Research in Theatre History from the American Society for Theatre Research, the top prize in the discipline. She has extended that work through the publication in 2018 of a critical edition, co-edited with Naomi Stubbs, entitled A Player and a Gentleman: The Diary of Harry Watkins, Nineteenth-Century U.S. American Actor (University of Michigan Press), along with a fully searchable, free-to-the-public digital edition, that was the winner of the 2019 Association for Theatre in Higher Education and American Society for Theatre Research Award for Excellence in Digital Theatre and Performance Scholarship. Since her promotion to associate professor in 2015, Professor Hughes has also produced two articles published in peer-reviewed journals, one book chapter, and one invited essay review. She is currently working on a monograph, An Actor's Tale: Theater, Culture, and Everyday Life in Nineteenth-Century, that is under contract with University of Michigan Press and due to be published in 2023.

Active in a number of professional organizations, Professor Hughes has participated as a presenter, chair, and/or workshop facilitator at conferences sponsored by the American Theatre and Drama Society, American Society for Theatre Research, The American Library Association, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Most recently, she has given lectures and talks at Addis Ababa University, the University of Manchester, Rutgers University, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and others. She served as a faculty member at an NEH-sponsored seminar at the University of Georgia on "Digital Technologies in Theatre and Performance Studies."

Service: Professor Hughes came to Michigan with significant administrative and leadership experience, including service as the former deputy department chair and program head at Brooklyn College. Since coming to SMTD in the fall of 2019, Professor Hughes has made valuable contributions in service to her department, the school, and the greater university, and she has sustained her strong profile within professional organizations. Within Theatre and Drama, she serves as the head of theatre studies, program head of the Bachelor of Theatre Arts (BTA) program and is a member of the department's DEI Task Force. She also serves as a faculty advisor for the student group We the People Representing Our Unifying Diversity (PROUD), a polycultural productions company that highlights the intersectionality of identity through interdisciplinary performances and cultural events. As mentioned earlier, she coordinated a proposal for a substantial overhaul of the BTA curriculum and shepherded it through the multi-step approval process.

Within the SMTD, Professor Hughes was chosen to serve as a member of the Enhanced and Resilient Teaching and Learning in Hybrid/Remote Contexts Committee this past summer as the school prepared for fall 2020, and she made invaluable contributions to that group. She has been an active member of the DEI Faculty Action Team and is currently the co-chair of the school's undergraduate curriculum committee, the Council of Departmental Representatives. At the university-level, she was elected to serve a three-year term on the Senate Assembly.

Professor Hughes has also served her profession and discipline in a number of capacities. She was elected as vice president for professional development for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and was elected as a board member for two consecutive four-year terms of the American

Theatre and Drama Society. She has also served on fellowship review panels at the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Professor Hughes is an engaged and generous citizen of the university and profession and has an outstanding record of sustained service at every level.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Her record of service to the profession and her institutions is laudable. It is clear that Dr. Hughes is one of those rare highly organized and competent individuals who can contribute her fair share of service while also maintaining a record of scholarly and pedagogical excellence...Her work has had a sustained national impact and she is clearly a leading expert in our field. Her reputation is excellent and her work influential and award-winning.”

Reviewer B: “She has already established herself as a leading researcher in the field of nineteenth century theatre studies and demonstrated her prowess in leadership roles within the institutions she has served. She is also a strongly committed teacher...Amy Hughes demonstrates exceptional leadership potential, both within her research field and institutionally.”

Reviewer C: “In my opinion, she has become a star in our field...Clearly, she has attained national and international acknowledgement in her discipline...Her writing is erudite, clear and engaging, and her enthusiasm for the topic at hand reaches the reader with inspiring effect...Professor Hughes has rocketed to the top of the discipline through the quality of her work.”

Reviewer D: “...she has served on the Advisory Board of that Society’s journal, the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*...These are among the most important and demanding committees of the major national scholarly organization in our field. In addition, she has regularly been asked to give mentoring workshops for [junior] scholars at meetings of the American Society for Theatre Research and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, which is further evidence of her success and the high regard in which she is held.”

Reviewer E: “I know of nothing like this project [*Diary: Digital Edition*] in American theater history, either in terms of scale (thirteen volumes spanning fifteen years) or scholarly impact. No wonder it received the 2019 ATHE-ASTR Award for Excellence in Digital Theatre and Performance Scholarship...in her very first year at the University of Michigan, Dr. Hughes was nominated for two awards, one recognizing a commitment to social justice and another for teaching. I am not surprised.”

Reviewer F: “Hughes’s contributions have the potential to reach beyond theater studies into social and cultural history...her clear writing, direct argument, and thoughtful interdisciplinarity suggest she must be a compelling classroom presence.”

Reviewer G: “When I evaluated Associate Professor Hughes’s candidacy for appointment at the University of Michigan, I informed the Hiring Committee that they had the opportunity to hire the finest American theatre historian of our generation...In my estimation, Associate Professor Hughes is the number two scholar in the field of pre-1900 American Literature...”

Reviewer H: “Her many invited presentations range from institutes and colloquia to lectures, talks, and workshops, all of them indicative of her renown in the academic world. Too numerous to detail here, they demonstrate her commitment to vital, public scholarship. The awards she has won, recognition garnered, fellowships and grants received (national, CUNY, internal) are a testament to her professional accomplishments and future promise as public intellectual and humanist.”

Reviewer I: “She is highly visible and extremely well-known, and you can see on her CV, with its long lists of invited presentations, workshops, and talks, that she has been very much in demand... this is the profile of a powerful leader, who uses service as a way to build institutional programs, to publicize the latest best practices in the teaching of theater history, and to support her students.”

Summary of Recommendation:

In summary, Professor Hughes is an exceptional teacher who is leading the way in inclusive, culturally responsive teaching for SMTD and the broader profession, and is an essential contributor to the Department of Theatre and Drama’s reputation as a progressive and dynamic place for the study and practice of theatre. She is a highly regarded scholar of 19th-century theatre with a sustained record of publication and presentations and is increasingly called upon as an authority in national and international discussions about pedagogy and the digital humanities. She has demonstrated an exceptionally strong commitment to service, both within the institution and in the larger profession. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I enthusiastically recommend and support Amy E. Hughes for promotion to professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

May 2021