

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

Mark Madama, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Musical Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Musical Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

B.A. 1976 Montclair State University

Professional Record:

2008 – present Associate Professor of Music, Department of Musical Theatre, University of Michigan
2002 – 2008 Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Musical Theatre, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Musical Theatre, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Madama teaches the core, required sophomore performance class in the Musical Theatre Bachelor of Fine Arts curriculum, conducts individual coaching sessions, and directs productions. Since his promotion in 2008, Professor Madama has directed 12 mainstage departmental productions, and made major contributions to the Senior Showcase and other important public events. By all measures, he is an extraordinarily successful teacher in a program that is considered one of the finest in the country. Professor Madama is highly regarded for his knowledge of the craft, and for his ability to foster in each student their capacity to communicate and the develop “clear, practical technique” that prepares them to succeed in the professional world and grow and develop throughout their careers. The approach to musical theatre performance that Professor Madama has developed is admired both within, and beyond Michigan.

Professor Madama continues to evolve and adapt his teaching methodology and materials to respond to changes in the industry, and specifically, emergent and heightened concerns about diversity, equity and inclusion. Student comments are effusive, and express gratitude for the commitment and care Professor Madama brings to every facet of his work.

Evidence from internal and external evaluators indicate that Professor Madama has been an exceptional advocate and mentor for several generations of theatre professionals. His students have won multiple commercial industry recognitions including Tony, Obie, Drama Desk, Daytime Emmy and Golden Globe awards. Since 2014, 481 of Professor Madama’s former students have appeared in 181 Broadway Shows or National Tours. Few teachers could boast of such an impact on the upper echelons of the performing arts world. Professor Madama is unquestionably one of SMTD’s most effective and revered teachers, whose impact is felt throughout the profession.

Professional Activities: Professor Madama has remained active as a director, and sustained his long association with Music Theatre Wichita, where he is a director in residence. The theatre is one of the nation’s most successful not-for-profit summer stock institutions. He has also been contracted to direct at other professional theatres, including the LEX Theatre Company (Lexington, KY), Kansas City

(MO) Starlight, New London Barn Theatre (NH) and the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (cancelled due to COVID-19), and has mounted 37 regional productions since his last promotion. Professor Madama has also been very active as a musical theatre educator, and his work in this domain, as an invited presenter around the country, should be considered evidence of his national stature in the field.

Service: Professor Madama has a very strong record of departmental and SMTD service. As for all Musical Theatre faculty, Professor Madama invests considerable time in the recruitment of new students and plays an integral role in evaluating the 1400-plus applicants to the program each year. Professor Madama makes unique contributions in attracting those students to apply through his national presence as a musical theatre clinician at various training programs, summer institutes, camps, and private studios. His sessions reach hundreds of aspiring musical theatre artists and prospective students around the country each year. In 2019, for example, Professor Madama presented sessions in 17 cities. He has contributed to SMTD's own MPulse program, and also presented at sessions sponsored by ArtsBridge (Chicago, San Francisco, Minneapolis), Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute, North Carolina Theatre School of the Performing Arts, and many others. He further supports the department by offering audience talkbacks, attending donor events, maintaining alumni relationships, and creating content for the department's social media channels. In service to the community of non-SMTD students interested in musical theatre, Professor Madama has served as an advisor to MUSKET and Basement Arts, both vibrant and important organizations in the UM student arts scene.

Professor Madama has contributed to formal departmental and school governance through his participation in the Council of Departmental Representatives (the SMTD undergraduate curriculum committee), faculty LAUNCH committees, the school's Grievance Committee, and, since his last promotion, four faculty search committees.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I consider Professor Madama to simply be one of the best music theatre directors and teachers in the country. While maintaining a professional directing career is a full time job, to do so while helping to grow one of the most prestigious musical theatre programs in the country is remarkable."

Reviewer B: "Professor Madama's CV outlines a well-established career as a professional director for notable venues such as the Music Theatre Wichita, the Kansas City Starlight Theatre, and the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera. As a regularly returning artist with these organizations, Professor Madama has garnered an impressive tally of creative projects. His ongoing relationships with these theatres indicate a stellar reputation in the industry."

Reviewer C: "The video presented in the file from Music Theatre Wichita showed well executed, creatively staged, and engaging scenes from a number of large musicals. An indication of his stature as a director is that he has worked for several theatres multiple times. Clearly his talent as a director is recognized by multiple professional theatres...However, the biggest tribute to his teaching are the number of former students who are working in the profession. This is indeed impressive and speaks highly of his instruction."

Reviewer D: "He has directed 11 productions at his university program and another 21 at professional theatres, mainly Music Theatre Wichita, where he has worked for decades. As part of the conservatory program, directing one show a year would be normal, but he has exceeded that by directing and

choreographing a healthy dose of other performances that fit under teaching and service as well as Senior Showcases.”

Reviewer E: “Professor Madama has impacted the artform of Musical Theatre. There are not many educators whose reputation could stand up to such a claim. Indeed, the sheer volume of industry leading alumni whom Madama has mentored is staggering. There is no debate in ‘the business’ about the consistent, and nearly unparalleled success of U of M’s Musical Theatre alumni. This is due, in large part, to the rigorous and expansive practice and scholarship that Professor Madama imparts on his students.”

Reviewer F: “Professor Madama is a master teacher of music theatre technique for performers and that he has established a national reputation for producing actors who perform at the highest levels and at the most important venues in North America. Indeed, it can be argued that the universally recognized excellence of the Music Theatre program at Michigan is predicated on the quality of teaching and the truly amazing record of alumni achievement demonstrated by Mr. Madama.”

Reviewer G: “Assoc. Prof. Madama has received, and continues to receive, exceptional reviews from theatre critics for his stage direction. In 2015, Madama won the award for Best Director for Hairspray at MTW from the BroadwayWorld.com regional awards competition. This demonstrates a continuation of excellence in the field, as qualified by his peers.”

Reviewer H: “Mark Madama is an extraordinary teacher, clearly and carefully demonstrated in his classier by the success of his students, the clarity and organization of his syllabi, the student evaluations, and other examples. A long enviable career of successful professional stage direction augmented by awards, nominations, and publications demonstrate the commitment of a working artist/teacher who continues to give back to his university, the program, to the community and to the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Madama is one of SMTD’s finest teachers, whose influence reaches deeply into the profession. Through formal and informal means, he has played an instrumental role in creating a learning environment for musical theatre at Michigan that is second to none. He is nationally recognized for his knowledge of and impact on the profession as a master teacher and director. He has an exceptional record of service to his department, the School, and the profession. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I enthusiastically recommend and support Mark Madama for promotion to professor of music, 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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