

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

Donald M. Tulip, assistant professor of theatre and drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre & Dance [also associate professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design].

Academic Degrees:

1982 – 1984 Attended École Jacques Lecoq
1977 – 1980 Attended University of London, Goldsmiths' College. Dance & Art

Professional Record:

2015 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music,
Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2011 – present Associate Professor, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and
Design, University of Michigan
2002 – 2015 Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of
Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1999 – 2002 Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Drama, School of Music, Theatre &
Dance, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Tulip is an outstanding and versatile teacher of acting, directing, movement, and physical theatre. He has served as the head of the Theatre Directing program within the Department of Theatre and Drama for 15 years, and teaches students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Theatre, Bachelor of Theatre Arts, Interarts Performance, Design and Production, Musical Theatre, Dance, and Performing Arts Technology majors. He strives to introduce students to a wide range of theatrical experiences and philosophies while also working to ensure that students develop deep and engaged understandings of the formal theatrical training systems. In particular, his highly innovative course Creating Original Theatre provides a non-traditional performance class and collaborative arena for students. In addition to his work in the classroom, he directs student productions, both on the school's mainstages and in other venues, as well. Working with students on productions that are presented publicly is a vital element of the educational process and provides students with an experiential learning environment that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. Since his appointment as assistant professor in 2015, Professor Tulip has directed eleven mainstage productions across a broad stylistic range. He also regularly directs a "studio show" for the Musical Theatre department, a testament to his versatility as a director.

Professor Tulip has been proactive in creating international opportunities for theatre students. Emerging from his own interest and creative research on contemporary Polish theatre, in 2017, he took a student cast and crew to Warsaw to present work at International Theatre School Festival, and in 2018, directed a production at the Arthur Miller Theatre in collaboration with visiting students from the AST National Academy of Theatre Arts, Kraków. He has a long record of dedicated service to his students, including as supervisor of senior theses and advisor for all students in the BFA directing concentration. Recent advisees have gone on to work on Broadway, and with important theatres, companies and cultural institutions such as the Kennedy Center for the Arts, the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre, Pilobolus, Opera Saratoga, and others. He fully incorporates the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion into his teaching practice, and is continuously adapting his teaching practice to serve the developmental needs of students, and the

evolving demands and conditions of the professional world that they will enter. His student evaluations are excellent, and narrative comments reveal great respect, admiration, and affection for Professor Tulip.

Professional Activities: Professor Tulip is an innovative artist who has created a distinctive identity in post-dramatic performance. He has pursued artistic activity in experimental theatre, as a clown, in voice, in dance, in devised theatre, and as a director, and is an internationally respected practitioner of various forms of experimental performance and theater, with an affinity for the actor-based theatrical practices commonly seen in European theatre. His artistic direction is intentionally broad and exploratory and has led to many singular collaborations, many involving multi-media and improvisation.

Some of his recent professional activity includes work as a vocal artist in *Transit* and *Morphing Lines* with the Berlin-based dance troupe TanzTangente; as a clown in his original work, *Sestina Mia* in Detroit; in the dance theatre piece *Deux Dogtooth* with SMTD colleague Amy Chavasse, with performances in New York and Uppsala, Sweden; and as a vocal artist in *Remember Me*, with SMTD percussionist Michael Gould and TanzTangente, with performances in Berlin (Kunsthau Dahlem), Lexington, Indianapolis (at PASIC, the largest annual professional gathering of percussionists, worldwide), and Houston. In the creation of these works, Professor Tulip has collaborated with a remarkable range of international artists, including performance artist Marion Tränkle (Eindhoven University of Technology), German hip-hop duo Mejah Black, Swedish vibraphonist Anders Åstrand, dramaturg Teresa Kovacs (Indiana University), Suki Clements and Taryn Vander Hoop (founders of New York-based Summation Dance), Polish dramaturg Patrycja Kowańska, and Polish dancer and choreographer Dominika Knapik. Professor Tulip has also done important work with community theatre and community outreach as a founding member of the Anishinaabe Theatre Exchange, a collaboration between the Sault Ste. Marie and Bay Mills tribes of the Ojibway and Chippewa, Lake Superior State University, and the University of Michigan. Professor Tulip brings to his art an important dimension of inquiry and dedication to an active and evolving theatre practice and is an important contributor to the international world of experimental theatre.

Service: Professor Tulip has served as the head of directing concentration in the Department of Theatre and Drama since 2004. In this role, he interviews applicants to the program and serves as advisor for all directing students. He also works with students in the program to identify summer projects and internships. He co-chaired the committee charged with creating the Interarts Performance BFA degree, the first joint degree program in the university, offered by the Stamps School of Art and Design and SMTD. He has also served as a steering committee member of the UM Center for World Performance Studies, and was a member of the UM Third Century Student Learning Advisory Committee. Within his department, he has served on numerous faculty search committees, and the advising and classroom/curriculum scheduling committees. Professor Tulip is a willing and energetic contributor to the life of his department, the school, and the university, and has an excellent overall record of service.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I am particularly impressed with Mr. Tulip’s continued research and collaboration with international theatre makers. Physical theatre is a decidedly international sport...His recent work in Berlin and Poland are particular examples of someone continuing to be curious and interested in furthering development as an artist and teacher. For me, that puts him in the top tier of his peer group of theatre artists that are teaching and pursuing ‘non-traditional’ theatre careers.”

Reviewer B: “He has many professional credits and therefore can, and has, served as a connector between the University and the wider professional world...Professor Tulip is a rare individual in American theatre.”

Reviewer C: “This is the kind of work that is hard for people outside of the field to evaluate, because it so often flies under the radar of the major industry awards, grants, and presenters. [Professor Tulip] has produced a body of work of consistently high quality over a long period of time, and has sustained artistic

relationships with strong organizations and collaborators. And he has played at notable venues in many different locations in the US and Europe, which says a lot more than would a career with one or two 'hits.'...He is the kind of Professor any conscientious school would want to keep.”

Reviewer D: “Through his choices, he demonstrates for his students a different path for building a career. One that is an entrepreneurial approach rather than the standard agent to gig approach. And, in these times, with the future of our profession unknown due to the pandemic and finally addressing centuries of systemic racism and white supremacy, it is the spirit of the entrepreneur that will reshape and redefine the theatre.”

Reviewer E: “A standout in the dossier is Professor Tulip’s work as a founding member of the Anishinaabe Theatre Exchange. This kind of community-based work, which expands the very sense of ones’ own ‘community’ to cross numerous institutional and identity lines, is crucial to the development of truly contemporary theatre and performance, and shows great potential to be a model for new ways of working in an inclusive culture...I am impressed with his determination to expand the cultural context of the performance work experienced by his students.”

Reviewer F: “I conclude that he is an extremely skilled, professional, creative and innovative theatre artist, a respected and inspired educator...His extensive international research and interdisciplinary works, most notably After Unica, show him to be on the cutting edge of physical theatre performance. He has successfully secured funding for projects, hosted international exchanges and maintained a consistent career as a director, performer and vocal artist which, in addition to a full teaching load, is an impressive task indeed.”

Reviewer G: “Professor Tulip’s work defies the standard categories of either naturalism or formalism. As a result, his portfolio showcases remarkable versatility and places him in the highest artistic ranks among his peers...find his original work, which combines vocal arts, music, and visual arts to be extremely compelling. In my view, that is a major reason his projects are sought after by international presenters and collaborators. In fact, one of Professor Tulip’s outstanding accomplishments is his global presence. Very few American theater artists manage to have international visibility.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tulip has established himself as a vibrant and important presence in the international community of experimental theatre artists. He is a vital contributor to the Department of Theatre and Drama as a classroom teacher, director, advisor and mentor, and has made significant contributions in service to the school and the university. It is with the enthusiastic support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I strongly recommend Donald M. Tulip for promotion to the rank of associate 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