

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

Christianne Myers, associate professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of theater and drama, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A. 1997 Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, Costume Design

B.F.A 1992 Pace University, Design & Production

Professional Record:

2016 – present Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan

2012 – 2016 Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan

2002 – 2012 Clinical Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, Department of Theatre and Drama, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Myers has taught ten different courses for the Design and Production BFA program. As a pedagogue, she encourages risk taking as the wellspring of creative investigation, and creates an atmosphere of respect and inclusivity. She exploits the benefits of theatre as a collaborative medium in ways that prepare her students for working and creating well beyond the classroom with a goal of training artist-citizens who have the skills to be both leaders and valued team members. She serves as an advisor and mentor for students in her department as well as those in the BFA in InterArts Performance, the interdisciplinary undergraduate degree jointly offered by the Stamps School of Art and Design, and SMTD's Departments of Theatre and Drama, Dance and Performing Arts Technology.

Professor Myers' teaching evaluations and student letters provide evidence that she creates a learning environment that is supportive, inclusive, and nurturing, while maintaining high expectations and standards. She encourages "courageous failure" as a necessary part of growth and learning. Many students commented that she was an inspiring teacher, who guided them with clarity and intentionality. Students also recognize and value her professional contributions to the field, and the way that she brings them to bear on her instruction. Her success as a teacher is evidenced by the notable achievements of alumni, including those pursuing higher degrees, those who have received national grants, and those actively working in Broadway and in television.

Professional Activities: Professor Myers is active as a costume designer at professional venues across the US, and as a contributor to the national discourse in the discipline through publications and conference appearances. She has collaborated with the top-tier regional theatres, such as the Detroit Public Theatre (*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, 2019), Purple Rose Theatre, Indiana Repertory, and Opera Memphis, and also prestigious national venues such as the Santa Fe Opera,

(co-design for *Die Fledermaus*, 2017). In 2021, her work was featured at an exhibition of top designers in NYC's Times Square called "Showstoppers! Spectacular Costumes from Stage and Screen," sponsored by the Costume Industry Coalition.

A leading voice in design and production pedagogy, Professor Myers co-facilitated a two-week workshop for the American Theatrical Costume Association entitled "ReDressing the Narrative" that was designed to disrupt "the status-quo of Western-focused, chronological teaching of historical garments." She has been a frequent presenter at United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) conferences, a contributor to the peer-reviewed Creative Teaching Archive, and was awarded the USITT's Herbert D. Greggs Merit Award for her article "Devised Theatre: An Ancient Story, A Uniquely Modern Space" published in the organization's peer-reviewed journal. Since 2016, Professor Myers has designed for 11 SMTD mainstage productions, in collaboration with guest professionals, University Productions (UPROD), and fellow faculty. The UPROD designs are substantive, and on par with professional projects. Her students assist her in the design process and execution, providing an invaluable opportunity for mentorship – bridging academic and professional realms and creating a vibrant laboratory at UM.

Service: Professor Myers has engaged in an extraordinary amount of service in the last six years, continuing her track record of exemplary service to the department, SMTD, UM and her profession. She has provided leadership to Theatre and Drama as the administrative head of Design and Production and the interim department chair for the 2021-2022 academic year. She has been extremely effective during her time as interim chair; she has coordinated a number of searches; led a review of departmental loads that has resulted in a number of equity adjustments; and spearheaded the department's implementation of COVID-19 protocols and policies. She has been a strong advocate for her department and provided stability during a time of transition. Professor Myers was a member of the Dean's Task Force on Sexual Misconduct in the Performing Arts, and founded and chaired an SMTD working group for the Costume Shop that culminated in policies and the creation of an educational video, called "What to Expect at your Fitting." The video and accompanying policy document set expectations for costume fittings and contribute to a professional and educational environment that acknowledges intimacy and accommodates difference.

In service to the university, Professor Myers was a senate assembly representative, chair of the SACUA Sub Committee for an Inclusive University, and member of the provost's COVID-19 Committee on Spaces that Support the Academic Mission. Professor Myers has made important contributions in service to her profession, including co-founding The American Theatrical Costume Association (ACTA) and working through that organization to foster conversation, promote positive change, and provide support to industry professionals. She has also led professional development workshops and portfolio reviews for the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "It is notable that Professor Meyers, in addition to her work at the university, has designed at important professional theatres and has developed a significant national reputation...her CV boasts an extensive list of professional productions at significant regional

venues...Professor Meyers is clearly a builder of artistic relationships, a hallmark of excellence in the field.”

Reviewer B: “The Purple Rose Theatre has, however, a national reputation and profile for supporting new American Plays. Notable in her work at this venue are several world premieres which require additional time and energy on the part of the costume designer as characters change and the story shifts in unexpected ways. I also note that Professor Myers’ design work has significant range: Shakespeare, opera, contemporary American classics and musicals are all represented throughout her career.”

Reviewer C: “Her accomplishments in Undergraduate Theatre Education, specifically in the area of Costume Design, are extraordinary. She is a leading voice nationally in costume pedagogy, and is leading the call for social justice change through the lens of theatrical costume design in the academy...[Her] association with the acclaimed Santa Fe Opera is for certain her highest professional affiliation. It is one of the great opera companies of the United States if not the world and her design work there maintains the high standards SFO demands...I can honestly place her among the top 5% of artists/scholars in our field.”

Reviewer D: “...it is clear that Professor Myers’ continued output is quite impressive...The work produced by the Detroit Public Theatre as well as their community engagement practices are notable...to be invited by the Santa Fe Opera to collaborate is a significant achievement. To be invited once to participate in productions at these venues is comparable to being invited to submit a manuscript to a solid publishing house, and to be invited back repeatedly as in the case of The Detroit Public, as well as with the Florentine Opera in the past, speaks highly of Professor Myers’ talents as a strong collaborator...Professor Myers is a gifted artist and craftsman.”

Reviewer E: “There is obvious evidence of a steady interaction with the profession of costume design for over twenty years...Her sustained relationship with many of these theaters is the true value of a productive faculty member leading a professional training program...this is an energetic, talented, producing costume professional. ”

Reviewer F: “The designs are well fleshed out with proper layering and choices of accessories and having a strong sense of the use of color palette, shape and textures in creation of the costume designs for each character...Her work with the Santa Fe Opera is to be lauded...[She] is at the height of her career and her work exceeds many who are at this point in their career.”

Reviewer G: “The venues of Myer’s work while in rank (since 2016) are nationally recognized and known for remarkable and/or innovative work. Furthermore, what also demonstrates excellence is the repeated invitations to design at these venues during the course of their career.”

Reviewer H: “Her dossier suggests that she is an inclusive professor with sensitivity to equity and storytelling based on individual students’ experience... Professor Myer’s service to her department through leadership, successful grant writing, fostering community, and making connections between different areas of specialization are impressive. I don’t think you could find a stronger colleague.”

Reviewer I: “In teaching it is clear that [she] is an accomplished educator. Her work with students in both costume design and rendering courses is masterful and deep...All her scholastic work is clearly cutting edge and extremely well organized...[Her] professional accomplishments are prolific, especially considering her design responsibilities to the university...[She] clearly thrives and excels in the combined work of being a professor of design and a professional designer.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Myers is an exceptional teacher who is leading the way in inclusive, culturally responsive pedagogy 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 an accomplished and highly-regarded designer, with a national presence in the field. 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 strongly recommend Christianne Myers for promotion to the rank of professor of theatre and drama, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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