PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Matthew P. Solomon, associate professor of film, television, and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of film, television, and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D.  2001  University of California, Los Angeles  
M.A.  1995  University of California, Los Angeles  
B.A.  1993  Carleton College

Professional Record:
2011–present  Associate Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan  
2009–2011  Associate Professor, Department of Media Culture, College of Staten Island, City University of New York  
2008–2010  Visiting Professor, Film Studies Certificate Program, Graduate Center, City University of New York  
2002–2008  Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island, City University of New York  
2001–2002  Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching:  Professor Solomon is a committed and passionate undergraduate teacher who engages students to understand the multiple intersections between film history, film theory, and mass culture. At the undergraduate level, he has taught the department’s gateway course as well as elective courses in film and archival research, film noir, and silent cinema. At the graduate level, he has taught one of the department’s core requirements. He has been the recipient of multiple LSA and university grants to experiment with and create new methods of learning.


Recent and Significant Publications:

Service: Professor Solomon has shown impressive leadership in the area of undergraduate teaching, particularly in his revamping of the Department of Film, Television, and Media’s gateway course. He has also been involved with service at the university level, organizing symposia for the Hatcher Library’s Special Collections Mavericks and Makers archives as well as being a member of the University of Michigan Press Faculty Executive Committee. Professor Solomon’s service to the profession has been noteworthy. He served as the associate editor of Cinema and Media Journal, the journal of record for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Professor Solomon has also refereed articles for a number of international scholarly journals.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer (A): “Solomon offers a fresh understanding of Méliès [in Méliès Boots] as not only a filmmaker and a magician, but as a product of his first career—maker of luxury footwear—and more broadly as the product of the second wave of technological industrialization and specific cultural, political, and artistic currents.”

Reviewer (B): “The major contribution of Méliès Boots is to make filmmaking and filmgoing fully a part of specific stage of economic development—the Second Industrial Revolution—in which industries took advantage of electricity and organic chemistry…to accelerate economic activity, especially in the realm of mass-produced consumer goods.”

Reviewer (C): “What separates out Matt Solomon’s scholarship, however, is that he can be relied upon to respond to shifts in the field (such as the repositioning of cinema relative to other media) with more imaginative historical research than other scholars.”

Reviewer (D): “Over the past two decades, Matthew Solomon has established himself as one of the leading authorities, arguably the primus inter pares, in the intermedial field of studies exploring the relationship between stage magic and silent cinema.”

Reviewer (E): “A meticulous historian, he keeps making new discoveries and revealing unexplored aspects of well-known films. Above all, he has done more than any previous writer to explore the crucially important relationship between stage magic and early cinema.”

Reviewer (F): “[Professor Solomon’s] new book Méliès Boots…is a veritable feat and truly original research specimen…The broad scope of the investigation sets the book apart from most of the Méliès literature that mostly tends to gloss over the boot context and the materiality and industrial infrastructure that connect and embed the panorama of Méliès’ range of métiers.”
Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Solomon a leading scholar of the material and social history of early cinema in the United States and Europe. He is an important figure in the Department of Film, Television, and Media’s film studies undergraduate curriculum and has been a central voice in developing strategies to fortify the department’s pedagogical strategies. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Matthew P. Solomon be promoted to the rank of professor of film, television, and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2022