

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Death
Action Requested: Adoption of Memorial Statement

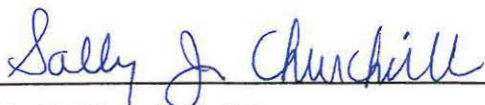
The Regents of the University of Michigan acknowledge with profound sadness the death of **Annette Masson, M.F.A.**, professor of theatre and drama in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Professor Masson died on August 13, 2017.

Professor Masson received her B.Ed. (1978) degree from the University of Saskatchewan and her M.F.A. (1991) degree from Boston University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1992, and was promoted to associate professor in 1998, and professor in 2015.

Professor Masson was a remarkable singer, actress, director, and musical director who worked in professional and academic productions across the United States, Canada, England, and Australia. She taught on the faculty of the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard University (1990-92), as a lecturer at Boston University (1989-92), as a visiting professor at Michigan State University (1994-96), and as a guest artist at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (1999). She served as the associate director of the Berkeley, California branch of the Drama Studio London from 1984-89. An innovative, challenging, and dedicated teacher, Professor Masson developed and taught over fifteen courses on a wide range of topics, including basic voice techniques, advanced dialects, Shakespeare, and public speaking. Much of her work in vocal training was guided by a deep familiarity with an approach known as the LoVetri Method, which combined traditional voice science and vocal training with elements from yoga, movement, dance, acting, and speech training. In 2007, Professor Masson's own research into dialects prompted her to spearhead the production of Nilo Cruz's *Lorca in a Green Dress*. Following a successful run in Ann Arbor, the production was staged at the DISK Theatre and the Apostrof Festival in Prague. Mirroring this trajectory, was her work on the 2013 production of John Cariani's *Almost, Maine*, which, after being staged at the University, was presented at the Toronto Fringe Festival with great success. As head of the BFA Theatre Performance Program, Professor Masson played an instrumental role in restructuring the curriculum as well as overseeing workshops, recruitment, auditions, and scholarships. Her indomitable spirit lives on in her many students who continue to "salute the gods" in her honor every day.

As we mourn the loss of our beloved colleague, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, and to her many loving relatives and friends.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2017