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Tenure and Promotion Committee
Department of Theatre and Dance
The University of Alabama
Box 8870239
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Dear Committee:

Allison Hetzel is applying for promotion to full Professor, and I am writing in support of her application.

I was a colleague of Allison's for eleven years, and often collaborated with her. Since my retirement we have continued to work together on creative projects.

In the areas of teaching, research/creative activity, and service she has been an exemplary faculty member, and has made significant contributions to the Department of Theatre and Dance, the University of Alabama, the city of Tuscaloosa, and the national and international professional communities of which she is a member.

As a teacher she has been the Department's specialist in Voice, Speech, and Diction. Her credentials in this area are outstanding. She is certified as an Associated Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework and Master Teacher of Archetypes. She has studied with leading authorities in the vocal field, including Kristin Linklater, Arthur Lessac, and Catherine Fitzmaurice. Her MFA degree from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) features a concentration in Voice and Speech/Acting.

The successes of her students in undergraduate productions and competitions -and in the professional worlds of stage, screen, and television - speak to the excellent vocal training she provided. Clarity and expressivity of speech, and a mastery of dialects and period diction have been a hallmark of UATD graduates. I have had the opportunity to compare them with students and graduates of other programs.

I should add that the excellent speech and diction training of UATD students carries over into their musical theatre work. In songs as well as scenes they are especially attentive to questions of clarity, projection, and consistency of diction styles. Allison has set a high standard.

In the area of Research/Creative Activity Allison has significant credits at the local, national, and international levels. She has taken the stage in London, Edinburgh, Switzerland, Romania, and Greece, and off-Broadway in New York. Tuscaloosa audiences have enjoyed her performances in UATD productions. Recently (in November of 2019) she presented her one-woman play

Step Mama Drama! at the United Solo Festival in New York, to excellent reviews and audience reaction. I collaborated with her on this project as composer and pianist, and her work was a model of professionalism, discipline, commitment to the material, and communication with the audience.

She has published peer-reviewed articles and book reviews, and contributed materials to the textbook *Acting: Onstage and Off*. She has presented many workshops on vocal technique at events sponsored by the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), the Southeastern Theatre Conference, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and elsewhere.

She has served as Vocal Coach for Off-Broadway productions of plays by her colleague Seth Panitch, for Alabama Public Radio, at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and for numerous productions at the University of Alabama, the University of Louisiana, and VCU.

Her record of Service - to the Department and externally - is large and varied. As co-director for the New York Showcase she has worked devotedly for this important and successful enterprise. Her supportive and nurturing attention to participating students is noteworthy. And when then-chair Bill Teague introduced a Freshman Showcase, Allison enthusiastically accepted the directorship, and has built it into a brilliant annual event on the Department's calendar.

An active member of VASTA, she served as their Newsletter Editor, Associate Editor, and Southern Region Editor. For the Kennedy Center American College Festival she has served as Regional Respondent, Workshop Leader, Guest Directing Mentor, and regional Judge for the Irene Ryan Acting Competition.

She is active as an Instructor for Tuscaloosa Arts in Autism. She has lent her expertise to the Alabama State Theatre Festival, the Mississippi Regional Theatre One Act Festival, the Theatre Virginia New Voices Program, and many other regional theatre activities.

In sum, Allison Hetzel, through her teaching, research/creative activity, and service, has played a significant part in building the UATD into the leading theatre department that it is today. And her collegial spirit has helped to make it an inspiring and rewarding place for students and faculty members. Her promotion to full Professor is fully warranted.

Sincerely,



Raphael Crystal
Founding Director of Musical Theatre
Associate Professor Emeritus
Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Alabama