



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Peter Arnade  
Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall 314  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Markus Wessendorf  
Chair, Dept. of Theatre & Dance  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
1770 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
wessendo@hawaii.edu / (808) 956-2600

Honolulu, January 21, 2021

Dear Dean Arnade,

I am sending you my periodic 5-year review for Associate Professor Kara Jhalak Miller.

Instruction

Since she received tenure in 2016, Jhalak has taught more than a dozen different courses. She has created five new dance courses and added the focus designations “Oral Communication” and “Writing Intensive” to two of her courses. She has chaired eleven graduate student committees (i.e., four PhD Theatre–Performance Studies, four MA Dance, and three MFA Dance committees) and has been a member of ten further graduate committees (including one in Anthropology and another one in Political Science). She has also directed four student choreography showcases in our department and has individually mentored fifty student dance choreographies for these dance concerts. Jhalak was also instrumental in developing a creative response to the COVID-19 challenges with regard to live performance: In fall 2020, she directed our first *Virtual Dance Performance* with twenty-five student-created dances for the camera that were livestreamed. Since fall 2019, she has also served as the Director of Undergraduate Dance Studies. In addition, Jhalak has initiated and organized more than forty guest lectures and masterclasses at our department since she received tenure.

## Research

Jhalak has been very active in the areas of creative and scholarly research during the review period. One of her major research areas with regard to choreography and performance has been the use of media in dance (screendance, dance for camera, digital futures, and the livestreaming of virtual performances). In fall 2016, she co-directed the dance concert *MemoryHouse: DREAMS* on the Kennedy Theatre mainstage. She has presented her own choreographies and performed dance improvisations locally (ArtZone, Hawai'i Theatre, Hilo Performing Arts Center, Honolulu Museum of Art, ONG King, Paliku Theatre, Shangri La Museum, etc.), nationally (California, Colorado, and New York) as well as internationally (in Australia, Finland, France, Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Korea). She is currently developing several projects, some of them commissioned internationally, that will be performed in the near future. During the review period, Jhalak has continued as a performer and collaborator of the ING performance group, and she has collaborated with many other local, national, and international artists in different fields (filmmakers, videographers, software designers, etc.). Jhalak has published four scholarly articles and has presented papers at six conferences over the past five years, and her choreography and performance research have been featured in two recent dissertations. She has also successfully applied for more than a dozen intermural as well as more than a dozen extramural grants since 2016.

## Service

Jhalak's service record is impressive. She has served on numerous departmental committees during the review period: The Departmental Personnel Committee, the Season Planning Committee, the Curriculum Committee, the Department Accounts Committee, the Workload Policy Committee, and others. She has been the chair of the Edward A. Langhans Student Enhancement Award Committee since fall 2020 but has been a member of that committee since 2018. She is the current Director of Undergraduate Dance Studies. She has served on two dance faculty hiring committees in the past five years and is the organizer of this semester's Theatre & Dance Graduate Student Research Symposium. At the university level, Jhalak has served on the University Council of Academic Advisors since 2019. She was a member of the interdepartmental committee (consisting of faculty from ACM, EE, ICS, and T&D) that proposed the Undergraduate Certificate in Computational Media (CCM). She was also a member of another interdepartmental committee (consisting of faculty from ACM, Music, and T&D) to create a Collaboration Opportunities virtual network for students in the arts. In 2016–2017, she was a member of the UHM Faculty Senate and the UHM Senate Standing Committee on Administration and Budget (CAB). From 2015–2018, she served on the Digital Arts and Humanities Committee, and from 2015–2016 she was an Undergraduate Honors Program Advisor. Jhalak has also consistently provided volunteer services to the local community in

Hawai'i: for example, the local Hawai'i SYDA Foundation, the Native Hawaiian PA'I Foundation, and—since the outbreak of the pandemic—the COVID-19 Dance, Yoga, and Wellness Group and the COVID-19 Hawai'i Unemployment Insurance. Many of the guest artists that Jhalak has brought to our department have conducted outreach workshops at local schools (Castle High, Aiea High, and Mid-Pac).

Associate Professor Kara Jhalak Miller exceeds departmental expectations with regard to post-tenure instruction, research, and service.

Sincerely,

  
Markus Wessendorf  
Chair, Theatre & Dance