

**UTA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
PEER EVALUATION OF CREATIVE AND/OR RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

Name of Professor being evaluated: Austin Eyer

Project/production being evaluated: 9 to 5

Date of onsite evaluation. March 6, 2020

Evaluator's Name: Joe Chapa

Evaluator's Academic Title: Associate Professor

Evaluator's Academic Institution of Employment: The University of Texas at Arlington

Please use the following criteria in your written evaluation of the professor's work or contribution to the production/project. Please limit your evaluation to three double-spaced, typed pages (12 point type, 1" margins). Your evaluation may be attached to this sheet.

1. Describe the production/project including the title, if any.
2. Describe the professor's preparation for their project/production assignment that is evident to you.
3. Indicate challenges that the professor faced with the project/production.
4. If an artistic concept was involved in the professor's work, please state your evaluation of that concept or what the professor has indicated in their concept.
5. Evaluate the artistic/technical process that may be evident to you.
6. Evaluate the professor's success in achieving his/her concept or their creative/technical goals.
7. Please feel free to add other evaluative comments.
8. Please sign and date this evaluation.
9. Please attach a copy of your current curriculum vitae.

On March 6, 2022 I went to see the University of Texas at Arlington's production of 9-5 in the Uta mainstage theatre. Based on the 1980 film of the same name, 9 to 5 features Dolly Parton's song and lyrics. **9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL** chronicles the experiences of three ladies whose egotistical and sexist employer drives them to breaking point. Will the women be able to change their office after coming up with a plot to kidnap and confront their evil boss, or will everything fall apart when the CEO pays an unannounced visit?

For the director, this presented a fun and extraordinarily difficult challenge. As covid spread, the play transformed from a traditional theatrical performance to a concert-style production. A hybrid production was developed by the director. Professor Eyer should be commended for pulling this off. To have your whole idea of a production change midstream is an artistic slap in the face. But to take that slap and create a production that was entertaining, visually pleasing and oh so FUN. Well, that's quite a feat. I have seen the actual production many times and this was, by far, my favorite. The concert style created a rapid-fire pace to the story, but the use of set pieces and set pieces reminded the audience that this was still theatre! I had an amazing time. I am so sorry that the full production was not realized but between Professor Eyer's talent and his amazing cast. they put together a wonderful evening of theatre.

The concert elements were apparent when you first got to the theatre. The upstage was filled with giant wooden risers. Bench type seats for the actors to sit, but the director and designers allowed room for basic choreography. The downstage area of the stage was for acting and larger choreographed movements. Set pieces helped to show location. Desks for the secretarial pool, a bed for Franklin Pierce's bedroom. The set pieces appeared to move on and off the stage in an easy and seamless manner. This helped to maintain the incredible pace and energy of the show.

I know for a fact that many of the actors were saddened when the production moved to a concert format, but again I believe that Professor Eyer's ability to create an excitement with his actors helped to create a buzz around the show for not only his cast but for the department as well. The performances from Brock Huerter, Fatima, Flores, Victoria Gomez, Kobie Jackson and the rest of the amazing ensemble are to be commended.