

Dear Incoming Drama Majors,

We are excited that you have chosen UCI's Department of Drama for your undergraduate education, and I assure you there has not been a more dynamic time to embark on your journey here! Established in 1965, this *Department of Excellence* maintains a strong commitment to conservatory-style practical training combined with the comprehensive education offered by a Research 1 university. Our alumni go on to represent us in a variety of arenas, distinguishing themselves on Broadway, in national tours, on screen, as designers and managers, and in a variety of capacities outside of the arts professions.

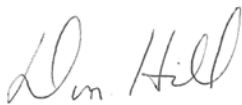
Your time here offers a chance to learn, create, and share your discoveries. I recommend that you embrace every opportunity, and co-design a college experience that speaks to your individual enthusiasms and development. I encourage you to audition for our MainStage season, entitled *WOMEN & Co. – A Centennial Celebration of Women's Right to Vote*. This season includes two musicals and four plays, each play and the spring musical all are by female writers and four out of six season directors are women. In addition to these performing opportunities, you may choose to be involved in "Director Class Projects" (smaller productions which are student-directed), as well as improv groups, classroom acting companies, or independent projects. If you don't find a project that speaks to you, you may choose to create your own!

As much as my faculty colleagues and I look forward to sharing our knowledge with you, we also look forward to learning *from* you, and are committed to ensuring that each student feels heard and understood. It is of utmost importance to us that everyone has a seat at the table, and a voice in the community conversation. The practice of creative exploration often inspires emotional responses in artists and audiences alike, and we strive to ensure that students are provided with the necessary tools to work through transformative experiences in an inclusive and supportive environment. Creating and maintaining this safe space is the work of *all* of us: faculty, students, and staff.

Whether you are an aspiring actor, music theatre performer, designer, director, or stage manager, you will enjoy a comprehensive curriculum that prepares you for a life in your area of interest, while also providing an understanding of various career options. With an extensive alumni network and professors who remain active and engaged professionally, our graduates are launched into the workplace not only with marketable skills, but often with internships, contacts, and even job opportunities in their chosen professions.

On behalf of my dedicated faculty and staff colleagues, I welcome you to the Drama family, and look forward to embarking on this journey together. You are part of a lineage of artists and thinkers who are creating a richer, more exciting, and more inclusive worldview. I look forward to getting to know each one of you.

Welcome to the 2019-20 academic year!



Don Hill  
Chair, Department of Drama  
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