Dear Incoming Drama Majors,

We are excited that you have chosen UCI’s Department of Drama for your undergraduate education! 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 One university. Our alumni go on to represent us in a variety of arenas, distinguishing themselves on Broadway, in national tours, in films and television productions, as designers, performers, managers, and story tellers.

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 needs, enthusiasms, and development. I encourage you to attend the Mega Auditions (Monday, September 20 to Wednesday, September 22) for the MainStage season. In addition to these performing opportunities, you may choose to be involved in “Director Classroom Projects” (smaller productions which are student-directed), as well as improv groups, and/or classroom acting companies. If you don’t find a project that speaks to you, you may choose to explore the different drama clubs which include Black Door Theatre Company, Brown Bag Theatre Company, Brick Theatre Company, and Theatre Woks.

As much as the faculty and I look forward to sharing our knowledge with you, we also look forward to learning about you, and are committed to ensuring that each student feels heard and understood. As we are facing challenging and uncertain times, 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 open 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 area of interest.

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

Sincerely,

Don Hill
Chair, Department of Drama

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