

Dear Incoming Drama Majors,

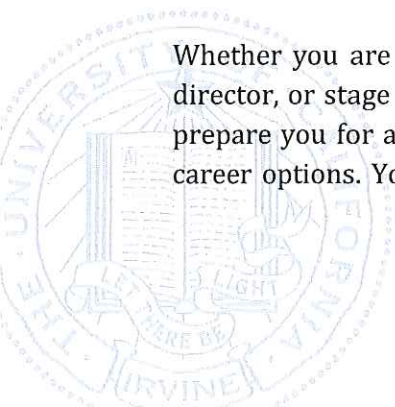
Welcome to the 2017 - 18 academic year!

As you embark upon your experience as student artists in UCI's Department of Drama, you can be proud of the legacy created and maintained by this UC Irvine *Department of Excellence*. For over fifty years, our graduates have distinguished themselves on Broadway, onscreen in films and television shows, as educators, in public office and community service, and in any number of vocations across a variety of industries. In addition to providing our students world class, conservatory-style practical training and the comprehensive education offered by a Research 1 university, we are also dedicated to creating "citizen-artists" who contribute holistically and meaningfully to the world at large.

As we move into UC Irvine's second half century, it is an exciting time for you to join one of the five original schools on the UCI campus. Throughout your time here you will have many chances to learn and create, perform and discover; I recommend that you embrace and explore every situation, and co-create a college experience that speaks to your passions and aspirations. I encourage you to audition for our MainStage season, which this year features six shows that explore *The Business of Politics/The Politics of Business*. 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 can't find a play being produced that speaks to you, you may want to consider enrolling in our playwriting course and creating your own original work!

As the voices in our societal conversation become ever more rich and varied, UCI Drama remains committed to ensuring that all of its members have a voice, both as artists and as individuals. In a world that is too often divided by difference and fractured by a lack of mutual understanding, UCI Drama seeks to examine culturally germane issues through a variety of lenses and viewpoints, and are *deeply committed* to an ethos of diversity and inclusion. The practice of creative exploration often inspires emotional responses in artists and audiences alike, and we strive to ensure that students are always given the tools necessary to work through transformative experiences in a safe and supportive space. Creating and maintaining this safe space is the work of all of us: faculty, students, and staff.

Whether you are entering the Department as an aspiring actor, music theatre performer, designer, director, or stage manager, you will enjoy a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum that will not only prepare you for a life in your area of interest, but will provide a thorough understanding of various career options. You will be exposed to theoretical ideas as well as real world practicalities, and will



learn not *only* your chosen craft, but how to integrate your intended career into the fabric of the broader community. In addition to spending the next few years acquiring visionary performance and design techniques, you will be studying great literature, and learning about cultural traditions and expression from around the world. You will have opportunities to perform, crew, direct, and design everything from classic plays to world premiere musicals, and will leave UCI with heightened communication skills, creative problem-solving ingenuity, and a sharpened sense of intuition and self-reflection.

With an extensive alumni network and a faculty who remain active and engaged professionally, our graduates are launched into the workplace with not only marketable know-how, but often with opportunities for internships and job opportunities in their chosen professions. Our alumni newsletter (available on the Department of Drama website) is constantly updated to show a sampling of what our graduates are up to, and we are always thrilled to watch as former students are nominated for Oscars, Tonys, and numerous other awards and honors; more importantly, we are heartened to see them fulfilling their own promise, and in turn enriching the lives of others in countless ways.

While you will ideally spend much of your time here working on projects that speak to your artistic passions, you should also know that this is certainly a rigorous major! You will be *expected* to work long hours, maintain an attitude of dedication and good citizenship, and demonstrate the kind of committed perseverance that will convert to success for you individually as well as for the community. We encourage you to remain curious, think creatively, go the extra mile, ask questions, and knock on your professors' doors any time you feel you need more clarity or additional information. Your faculty is here to mentor you, and to help you grow both as artists and as human beings.

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. One last bit of advice...in school, in life, in love: Show up. Pay attention. Tell the truth. Let go of the outcome.

Here's to a great year!



**Dr. Daniel Gary Busby**  
**Chair, Department of Drama**

*Theatre is the laboratory of civilization; the dreamspace where we prove the soul, dissect politics and religions, and re-enact – always with our own particular spin – the universal struggles of humankind: survival, love, ambition and reconciliation.*  
**Who would not want to spend a lifetime investigating this?**

—Robert Cohen, Founding Chairman, UCI Drama