

Welcome to the UCI CTSA Department of Drama!

We are delighted that you are joining our community: all are welcome here; you belong here! Our distinguished faculty, exceptional staff, and I look forward to meeting you in person and collaborating with you in achieving your goals. Our first opportunity to meet together as a whole will be at our **Department of Drama Town Hall (Mandatory for all Undergrads, Grads, Faculty, Staff)** on **Monday, Sept. 23, 2024 at 2:30 pm** in the [Anteater Learning Pavilion \(ALP\) 1300](#).

You are joining a long line of artists and scholars who are working together to create a more vibrant, exciting, and inclusive world at UCI and beyond. Since our founding in 1965, we have been dedicated to blending the rigorous, hands-on training of a conservatory with the expansive opportunities of a top-tier research university. Our alumni are shining brightly across the globe, making their mark on Broadway, national and international tours, regional theatres, film, television, new media, and in countless innovative endeavors. They have credits as performers, designers, directors, entertainment managers, musical theatre makers, and explorers of dramatic literature, theory, and criticism – ultimately as artist-citizens and creative leaders.

Be sure to check out the Welcome Week schedule - there are so many exciting events lined up just for you! If you want to get a head start on the week, join us on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024 at 1:00 pm for **Demystifying Welcome Week (Optional/Open to all New Undergrads/Grads)** in [Studio Four, Rm. 209](#). If you are a performer, be sure to sign up and attend [Mega Auditions](#), where we cast this year's entire **Main Stage Season** (5 shows) on the evenings of Monday, Sept. 23 – Wednesday, Sept. 25, with Callbacks on Friday, Sept. 27 – Sunday, Sept. 29. Beyond our Main Stage, there's a world of possibilities waiting for you including our **Emergent Series** and **Off the Grid (OTG)** projects – featuring the work of our faculty, guest artists, and your fellow students – including various drama student organizations and affinity groups, like Black Door Theatre Company, Brick Theatre Company, Brown Bag Theatre Company, and Theatre Woks.

To stay connected and informed about all the exciting happenings in the Drama Department, be sure to check our Drama Callboard (across from [The Green Room Cafe](#)), our [Digital Callboard](#), and our [UCI Drama website](#). Also please check your UCI email at least twice a day. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to visit the Drama Department Office (up the stairway behind the Drama Callboard) or call or email (below).

Your time here is going to be an incredible adventure of transformation, evolution, and elevation – our inclusive, anti-oppressive, encouraging, understanding, and challenging community will be there as you advance to the next level. I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way here, it will create a college experience that is as unique and dynamic as you are.

Best wishes,



Joel Veenstra ☺
Chair, Department of Drama
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