

## **Robert Bassett**

### **Twyla Reed Martin Dean's Chair in Film and Media Arts**

[Robert Bassett](#) is the founding dean of Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University, which offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, with programs in production, producing, screenwriting, film studies, broadcast journalism, documentary, television writing and production, animation and visual effects, production design, public relations and advertising, and screen acting. With more than 1,500 students, Dodge College is considered one of the leading film schools in the nation, with highly selective admissions in direct competition with USC and NYU.

Dean Bassett successfully led a \$52-million fund-raising campaign to build and equip Marion Knott Studios, a 76,000-square-foot state-of-the-art studio complex, complete with sound stages and pre- and post-production facilities, which opened in 2006. He received the 2006 Artistic Visionary Award from Arts Orange County for lifetime achievement in recognition of his leadership in developing Chapman's film school and building Marion Knott Studios, a key community asset. A visionary educator who pioneered the integration of digital technologies in film education, Dean Bassett oversaw the conversion of the film school's entire curriculum to the use of digital technology in the early 90's, long before others followed suit.

He was named *Variety's* Media Mentor of the Year in 2013 and one of the 100 Most Influential People in Orange County in 2015 by the *Orange County Register*.

Dean Bassett has assembled a world-class faculty with a combined filmography of more than 500 feature films. The wealth of knowledge these industry veterans offer is supplemented by the semester-long Filmmaker-in-Residence programs, created by Dean Bassett, that bring industry luminaries to campus on an on-going basis.

In the international arena, exchange programs with schools in Taiwan and South Korea enable Chapman students to travel to those countries to make films with local students who also travel to the U.S. to make films with Chapman students. An international documentary program takes students to destinations from Singapore to Cambodia to Cameroon; students also create documentaries for local non-profits through the innovative Community Voices program.

Dodge College also offers joint programs with Chapman University's law and business schools, enabling students to earn J.D./M.F.A. or M.B.A./M.F.A. degrees as preparation for careers in producing.

Dean Bassett has served as President and Conference Vice-President of the University Film and Video Association (UFVA), the primary national professional organization of film faculty, and led the delegation that saw Dodge College elected as one of 21 U.S. members of CILECT (Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et de Télévision), the premier international association of film schools. Dodge College hosted the international congress of CILECT in 2014 on the topic of Previsualization. Dean Bassett is also a trustee of the University Film and Video Foundation.

Current initiatives include Chapman Filmed Entertainment (CFE), a feature film company that produces films in the \$1-million range and offers a post-graduate experience unique in higher education. CFE's first film, *The Barber*, enjoyed both theatrical release and international sales.

As the first full-time faculty member in film at Chapman University, Dean Bassett has taught a wide range of production and film studies courses, including editing, cinematography, film aesthetics, and film genre studies. He is also an award-winning producer and director of film and video projects for corporate and non-profit clients.