Storytelling Comes of Age
Dodge College
By The Numbers

- 1,500 students
- Ranked #6 in *The Hollywood Reporter* among American film schools
- 24/7 facilities access
- 132,000 square feet of space in three buildings
- 45 full-time faculty
- 91 adjunct faculty (including President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; Editor of the *Orange County Business Journal*; Board of Directors for Women in Film; *Variety* magazine film critic)
- $98,800 awarded to fund student projects in 2017
- $14,000 average undergraduate thesis cost
- $31,000 average graduate thesis cost

Faculty

Dodge College faculty are working professionals who teach from their industry knowledge to give students practical exercises and specific advice. Full-time faculty have a combined filmography of nearly 500 feature films including:

- *Tron*
- *The Bucket List*
- *Overboard*
- *Antz*
- *Rambo III*
- *The Sting*
- *Major League*
- *The Green Mile*
- *Tin Cup*
- *2 Guns*
- *American Pie*
- *McFarland USA*
The vision of providing an education that would empower students to tell compelling stories through the visual media drove the creation of Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. Chapman University set out to create the film school of the future — a film school that would offer state-of-the-art facilities, continuously evolving curricula, and industry-proven faculty who learned their craft by doing, not by reading about their disciplines in books.

That vision is predicated on a production-oriented education, which puts a camera in students’ hands on day one, is project-based, and expects students to be media entrepreneurs. That vision is delivered through intense faculty mentoring, a steady stream of industry guests, access to state-of-the-art technology, and innovative programs.

Maintaining a film school with such high goals places great demands on the University. While curricula can be updated and new programs can be added, keeping up with the technological innovations that transform the creative possibilities of storytelling for the screen demands a significant investment.

Marion Knott Studios was built to serve 800 students; current enrollment is 1,500. To remain competitive, Chapman needed to develop new facilities.

Today, Dodge College includes these state-of-the-art facilities:

- Marion Knott Studios: 76,000 square feet – completed in 2006
- Digital Media Arts Center: 18,000 square feet – completed in 2014
- Chapman Studios West: 38,000 square feet – partially completed in 2017
Dodge College Alumni Highlights: Storytelling in Action

**Matt and Ross Duffer** (BFA Film Production ’03): Emmy-nominated directors and writers/producers/creators of the highly acclaimed Netflix series *Stranger Things*

**Justin Simien** (BFA Film Production ’05): Award-winning writer and director of the feature film and Netflix series *Dear White People*

**Tara Hernandez** (BFA Film Production ’10): Staff writer for the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*

**Brenda Brkusic** (BFA Film Production ’04): Emmy Award-winning executive producer for PBS SoCal

**Kory Parker** (BFA Film Production ’05): Post-production coordinator for *Unscripted Originals* on Netflix

**Daniel Drummond** (BFA Digital Arts ’14, MFA Film Production ’18): Won the top prize in the Alternative Film category at the Student Academy Awards in 2014 and is nominated again in 2017 for his graduate-level film in the Narrative Drama category

**Kelly Galuska** (BA Screenwriting ’06): Staff writer for *BoJack Horseman* on Netflix and *Mom* on CBS

**Tom Teller** (BFA Film Production ’16): CEO and founder of Frame48 freelance film company and winner of the Coca-Cola and Regal competition

**Al Raitt** (BFA Television Broadcast Journalism ’10): Supervisor of game presentation for the Ontario Reign hockey team

**Brendan O’Connor** (MFA Production Design ’12): Production designer for *Shameless, The Barber* and *Feeding Mr. Baldwin*

**Noelle Novoa** (BA Public Relations and Advertising ’06): North America communications manager for Nike

**Kurt Soderling** (BA Communications ’98): Aerial cinematographer for feature films such as *Ted 2, A Million Ways to Die in the West* and *The Call*

**Christina Francis** (BA Public Relations and Advertising ’10): Vice president public relations and advertising for University Medical Pharmaceuticals

**Emily Wilson** (BFA Television Broadcast Journalism ’07): Actress on television shows such as *General Hospital, Bones, Castle* and *We Go Crazy*
Dodge College of Film and Media Arts is rapidly growing to keep up with industry practices and remain competitive in the entertainment industry. The need for expansion has been increased even more so with new degrees including:

- B.F.A. News and Documentary
- B.F.A. Television Writing and Production
- M.F.A. Documentary Filmmaking
- M.F.A. Television Writing and Production

Chapman Studios West offers facilities for these ever-expanding pursuits. The building includes areas dedicated to the study of production design – including an extensive art and prop department and scene construction shop – as well as cinematography, documentary filmmaking, and television production.

CSW also provides a permanent home for the widely popular documentary filmmaking programs in the Dhont Documentary Center.
THE DHONT DOCUMENTARY FILM CENTER

Today's students are deeply committed to making the world a better place and documentary filmmaking is a powerful and attractive tool to help them make a difference. Partnering with non-profits and NGOs, programs such as Community Voices and the International Documentary travel course generate critical support for these worthy causes.

Taught by top documentarians in the industry, films made in the Dhont Documentary Film Center in Chapman Studios West teach the art of adaptive film production, telling an untold story, and editing in a concise and efficient manner.

Longtime Dodge College supporter Andre Dhont and the Dhont Family Foundation created the Dhont Documentary Film Center in 2009.
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHAPMAN STUDIOS WEST

STUDENT LOUNGE – $300,000
To welcome guests of the college, while providing a vital interaction space for students and faculty members, this inviting area serves as the facility’s main entrance. It features comfortable seating and a great environment for being creative.

FACULTY OFFICES – $50,000 each (7 available)
Chapman Studios West features faculty offices for the documentary, cinematography and production design programs. Offices near the specific classrooms in Chapman Studios West creates consistency for students and helps build the reputation of this production-centric facility.
SCREENING ROOM — $1 million
As Chapman Studios West is the home of the documentary filmmaking program, certain films may not always necessitate a large theater. This intimate 48-seat screening room allows Dodge College to tailor its film selections, empowering niche films to fill the theater. While the theater itself is small, the behind-the-scenes technology is mighty in capabilities. It features 4K Barco motion picture projection, 3D stereoscopic capabilities, and full immersive surround sound for the most pristine experience when viewing documentary films.
Maintaining our small class sizes, this is one of the premiere classroom spaces in Chapman Studios West. This screening room is utilized to provide students with peer feedback during test screenings of films and clips in class.

FINISHING SUITE — $200,000
This 285 square-foot suite comprises state-of-the-art, industry-standard tools for honing the audio and color grading on student films. These vital post-production activities add the finishing touches that enhance and polish the students’ final presentations. This immersive space has seating to accommodate others to encourage live feedback in the collaborative post-production process.

CONFERENCE ROOM — $250,000
The Conference Room at Chapman Studios West is furnished with a 65” Sony 4K display, state-of-the-art room controls and complete audio-visual functionality for videoconferencing, business presentations and electronic collaboration. In the evening, the conference room will host important dinners for visiting documentarians, alumni sharing their latest films, and other industry guests.

AUDIO MIXING-COLOR CORRECTION SUITE — $200,000
This 285-square-foot suite comprises state-of-the-art, industry-standard tools for honing the audio and color grading on student films. These vital post-production activities add the finishing touches that enhance and polish the students’ final presentations.
PROP AND ART DEPARTMENT – $1.25 Million
The Prop and Art Department is a 6,299-square-foot warehouse filled with more than 18,000 items, organized by era and/or genre, to help in the design of a television show or movie. This highly utilized facility is operated like those at working studios, offering props, furniture, décor and a wide variety of accessories to aid in the ultimate design of any scene.

SCENE CONSTRUCTION SHOP – $1.25 Million
The Scene Construction Shop is a 6,930-square-foot facility with high ceilings and ample room for the construction of multiple sets at the same time. This allows precious stage space to be reserved for shooting. Every carpentry tool is available to build even the most creative sets. Once sets are complete, they can be quickly moved to the sound stage, thanks to the large roll-up doors.

Photos by Amanda Galemmo (B.A. Screenwriting '20)
Multi-purpose Sound Stage  ($2 Million)

Once completed, this 6,640-square-foot facility will be the largest and highest profile area in Chapman Studios West. It will also be the largest sound stage at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and one of the largest at any university film school in the United States. This stage will provide much-needed production space for all disciplines of Dodge College. In particular, it will be an optimal venue for shooting television productions, as its large roll-up doors with easy load-in capabilities provides an ideal environment for multi-camera scenes. The facility will also feature a green screen wall for motion-capture technology, allowing for a wide variety of filming experiences.
Cinematography Teaching Stage ($1.25 Million)

Designed to teach cinematography, this nearly 2,000-square-foot space allows for more permanent sets that will be used as a classroom where students learn lighting, production design and camera use. One special feature: the high-tech lighting grids that descend from the ceiling.

On weekends, the cinematography stage doubles as a production space where students can shoot projects on sets they have constructed. The cinematography stage will give first priority to film production and visual effects students.
Digital Media Arts Center
$4 Million Naming Opportunity

A lead gift will name this state-of-the-art facility, which is lauded for having enhanced the living/learning environment for all students in Dodge College. It truly lays the foundation for a new era of excellence in digital media at Chapman University.

With 80 percent of the worldwide box office currently being earned by animated or visual effects films, the digital arts comprise the fastest growing segment of the entertainment industry. Just as the cutting-edge Marion Knott Studios catapulted Chapman’s film school to the top tier of film schools in the nation, this strategic, ground-floor opportunity is the very best digital arts facility available in higher education and uniquely positions Chapman’s students to take advantage of this industry explosion. Comprised of the very latest, state-of-the-art industry-standard tools and workspaces, the Digital Media Arts Center offers the most comprehensive and complete education for animation, visual effects and digital design anywhere.
DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS CENTER AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

A | 2D Animation Lab
B | Flex Classroom
C | Digital Work Center
D | Justin Poulsen '14 Digital Arts Lab
E | Kris and Linda Elftmann Art Studio
F | Stephen and Chantal Cloobeck Screening Room
G | Directing Stage and Cinematography Studio
H | Harrelson Family Student Creative Commons
I | Women of Chapman Grand Foyer
J | Greinke Family Patio
K | Conference Center
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS CENTER

DIGITAL WORK CENTER – $1.5 Million
Comprised of ten individual suites that are connected by a collaboration counter and accented by windows that run the length of this creative space, the Digital Work Center is the core workspace dedicated to student use for the creation of their digital arts projects. Each station is remotely connected to centralized data-storage computers in Marion Knott Studios to allow the sharing of files with other students for review by faculty.

DIRECTING STAGE – $1 Million
This large stage is designed for aspiring directors to learn their trade. It is easily adapted for actor movement and the creation of impromptu scenes, so that students can learn by doing. Within this space, under the watchful eye of an Academy-Award winning faculty member, students will be the directors, guiding their peers in the development of new productions. And while this highly utilized space is in heavy demand during the school week, it is available for student film shoots on weekends.
**2D ANIMATION LAB – $500,000**

This classroom is designed to educate digital artists in the basic two-dimensional pen and ink drawing techniques. Just as children need to learn to walk before they run, aspiring animators need to develop their drawing skills and understanding of anatomy and movement before they can bring a character to life in a full-scale animated production. This classroom is outfitted with an instructor station with projection capabilities, as well as 20 student computer stations equipped with the latest software and technology to allow students to translate their ideas into works of art.

**CONFERENCE CENTER – $250,000**

This central conference space serves multiple purposes. During the day, it might serve as a space for faculty meetings or student-faculty conferences. At night, it plays host to dinners with VIP industry guests who are on campus for one of Dodge College’s special screening series.

**FLEX CLASSROOM – $300,000**

The Flex Classroom features moveable furnishings that accommodate a variety of seating arrangements, from the traditional straight row configuration to oval and even theater-style classroom settings, to give both faculty members and students complete control over each day’s learning environment, allowing for rapid transition between classes devoted to story development or seminars in production design.

**DIGITAL DESIGN SUITES – $30,000 each (4 available)**

These private suites allow students to delve into their work in a quiet and interruption-free area. Each suite is available 24/7 with reservation and is equipped with digital design software necessary to complete a visual effect piece.
The DMAC is impressive for its striking design and advanced technology. Most visitors may not realize what all those monitors, powerful computers and state-of-the-art Cintique digital drawing tablets represent. It’s the only 4K-stereoscopic workflow in America!

My favorite aspects are two distinctly “non-tech” features. For the first time, we have an art studio without computers – where students can draw, paint, make a mess, and train the way artists have for centuries. And we have lounges, benches, and picnic tables, where all students can relax, mingle, and exchange ideas. Real creativity thrives in this spontaneous, unplanned interaction.  

“PROFESSOR BILL KROYER”