

Merage Summer Film Program 2008
Hosted by Chapman University, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts
July 12-26, 2008

Introduction

Paul and Lilly Merage are philanthropists and civic leaders. They established the Merage Summer Film Program in 2005 to provide opportunities for low-income and/or immigrant youth in Orange County interested in a career in filmmaking (producers, directors, writers, editors, cinematographers, etc.) to learn more about the film industry and the art and craft of making a movie. **The program is free to students admitted into the program.** It will be hosted by Chapman University, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and is administered by Children First, A Merage Foundation.

The Dodge College of Film and Media Arts believes that film is the literature of this century. Through the medium of film, people around the world learn about others – about cultures and traditions they would otherwise never encounter. Similarly, young people today gravitate toward film as the medium through which they wish to express their hopes and dreams. Just as young people once aspired to write the great American novel, today they dream of becoming filmmakers who will make films that will relate their very personal stories and touch the hearts of others. With a working knowledge of the tools of filmmaking, young people today are freed to use the medium they know best to explore the stories of their own lives and share those stories with others.

The Two Week Program:

The selected students will collaborate with veteran professors from the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. During a two-week immersion program students will be engaged in activities that support the program goals. The students will:

- Learn the language of film: how images create meaning; how the tools of filmmaking (camera setups, editing, music etc.) contribute to the story.
- Develop a five minute film. This will include developing a story idea, writing a script, casting, filming, editing, and more.
- Learn to work in collaborative teams, thereby improving social and creative problem-solving skills
- Watch and discuss films with college film students and industry experts.
- Go on field trips in Orange County or Los Angeles. (Last year students went to Warner Brothers and also attended a seminar at the country's largest cinema lighting facility.)
- Screen their own films for their family and friends at an end-of-the-session celebration at the Marion Knott Studios.
- Live in dorm rooms for the duration of the program.

Selection Criteria

Students will be evaluated and selected using the following criteria.

1. Students will be selected from 20 high schools in Orange County:

- a. Back Bay HS, Costa Mesa
- b. Buena Park HS, Buena Park
- c. Century HS, Santa Ana
- d. Costa Mesa HS, Costa Mesa
- e. Garden Grove HS, Garden Grove
- f. Huntington Beach HS, Huntington Beach
- g. Los Alamitos HS, Los Alamitos
- h. Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana
- i. San Clemente HS, San Clemente
- j. Westminster HS, Westminster
- k. Aliso Niguel High School
- l. Canyon High School
- m. Dana Hills High School
- n. Mission Viejo High School
- o. Northwood High School
- p. Tesoro High School
- q. Trabucco Hills High School
- r. Westminster High School
- s. Santa Ana High School
- t. Edison High School

- 2. Students must be incoming juniors or seniors (i.e. juniors or seniors in September '08)
- 3. Passed or enrolled in film courses
- 4. Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- 5. Submit two letters of recommendation (see below for details)
- 6. Submit a personal Letter of Interest (see below for details)

When the application is complete, a committee will review all applications and invite students in for interviews. Students will be selected based on strength of recommendations, personal accomplishments, interest in a filmmaking career and the final interview. Please note, that students from low-income and or immigrant families will be given priority if all things are equal.

Important Dates:

Application due date: April 10, 2008
 Interview invitation mailed: April 20, 2008
 Interview date: TBD (1st or 2nd week in May)

Other important dates will be posted on our website in the future. Please visit www.meragefoundations.com and click on Artist in Residence.

Mail Applications to:

Chapman University

Dodge College of Film and Media Arts
Attn: Prof. Harry Cheney
One University Dr.
Orange, CA. 92866

If you have questions concerning this application, please call Harry Cheney, Film Professor at Chapman University at 714.628.7215 or hcheney@chapman.edu

Merage Summer Film Program 2008 Application

General Information

Student Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Student E-mail: _____ Parent E-mail: _____

High School Name: _____

Grade Level for 2008-2009 academic year: _____

Age: _____

Circle one: Male Female

GPA: _____

Supporting Documents

1. Letter of Interest: This letter should explain your interest in film making and discuss your hoped-for future dreams with respect to filmmaking. You should indicate things you have done while in high school to pursue this dream.
2. Two Letters of Recommendation: At least, one letter must be from a teacher in the area of film. This teacher should be able to speak to your classroom performance, your creativity, and your passion for and interest in some aspect of film making. The second letter can be from another teacher or a community leader who can speak about your talents, work ethic and or education.
3. Official School Transcript: This will verify your GPA.

Supplemental Questions (attach another page if necessary)

1. What types of activities are you involved in? Include sports, clubs, church, informal jobs (i.e. babysitting), tutoring, etc.

2. Do you work? If yes, please indicate how many hours.

Optional Questions

1. Are you or your parents first generation immigrants to the United States?

2. Do you receive free or reduced lunch?

**Merage Summer Film Program 2008
Letter of Recommendation**

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Please answer the following questions regarding the student you are recommending for the Merage Summer Film Program 2008. Feel free to add another page if necessary.

1. How do you know this student? For how long?

2. Describe the student's passion, commitment, or talents for film and the art of making a film. A variety of student will be selected based on their dreams to be a writer, actor, director, producer, cinematographer, etc.

3. Students will be living in dorm rooms at Chapman University and working in film labs with expensive equipment. Please describe the student's level of responsibility and respect for others.

4. The two week program with work days lasting 12 hours or more. Students will be required to participate in all events, work independently and in teams. Describe the student's work ethic, leadership skills, interpersonal relationships and ability to absorb information and participate in classroom discussions.

5. Please provide other information for consideration.