

5-25-2007

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Chapman University Media Relations

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### Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Film Writer-Director Tom Mankiewicz Named Trustee Professor" (2007). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. 242.

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## Film Writer-Director Tom Mankiewicz Named Trustee Professor

Tom Mankiewicz, the celebrated writer/director who wrote several James Bond films, helped create the hit TV show *Hart to Hart*, and worked closely with director Richard Donner to write *Superman* and *Superman 2*, has been named a trustee professor in the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University.

Mankiewicz first came to Chapman in 2006 as part of the schools unique Filmmaker-in-Residence program, which brings a renowned filmmaker to campus each spring to teach and mentor students, working closely with them on their final projects. Although the residency was only for a semester, Mankiewicz so enjoyed teaching at Chapman that he stayed on longer, teaching classes like *Evolution of Film Language* as an adjunct professor. Hes just one of a number of Hollywood luminaries, including *Saturday Night Fever* director John Badham and David Ward, Oscar-winning writer of *The Sting* and *Sleepless in Seattle*, who have decided to join Chapmans permanent faculty after serving as Filmmaker-in-Residence.

As part of a long line of acclaimed filmmakers his father, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, wrote and directed movies like *Cleopatra*, *All About Eve* and *Guys and Dolls*; his uncle, Herman J. Mankiewicz, was the screenwriter of *Citizen Kane* Tom Mankiewicz shares a legacy of stories and experience with his students, and has become something of a fixture at Marion Knott Studios, the \$41-million dollar building that houses Chapmans Dodge College.

On the last day of his *Evolution of Film Language* class for the spring 2007 semester, Mankiewicz encouraged his students to keep in touch with him during the summer and not to hesitate to ask for filmmaking advice or industry connections. You know me, I'm like Forrest Gump, always sitting on that bench out there in front of the building, he said. His final lecture was interrupted by an entourage of Dodge College faculty and staff, including Dean Bob Bassett, who took the mic to make the surprise announcement that Mankiewicz had been elected as a trustee professor, an extremely rare honor that can only be bestowed by Chapmans Board of Trustees.

The veteran screenwriter and director looked around at his fellow teachers who had come to watch him receive the honor. One of the things that make Chapman great is the terrific faculty here. Just great, brilliant people, and its an honor to work with them, Mankiewicz said. Now I'm a blinking professor, too! I hated to hang around with them and only be an adjunct, he joked.