

HSI-AN CHEN

To be honest, the thought of crafting this final speech and delivering it has motivated me multiple times during my time at UCSD. (you know - "finish this model and you can thank Sam for being such a clever classmate with damn good taste!") Sadly we weren't able to have a formal closure due to the pandemic. so here's what I would have said:

I hit my lowest in the second year when I lost my Father and along with it, my purpose. The road to recovery was difficult and without the support of the UCSD Theater and Dance community, I wouldn't have been so far along. So thank you all for being part of this nice and warm family.

I'd like to thank my amazing cohort for motivating me to do exciting work, especially Sam - you are always inspiring.

I'd like to thank all the production staff for their wonderful support.

I'd like to thank MaryBeth for always tolerating my sloppiness and confusion about how this school works.

I'd like to thank my mentor - Robert Brill, thank you for accepting me into this program that has proven to be the best adventure thus far in my life. Thank you for your patience in guiding me to be a better designer.

Finally, my ultimate gratitude goes to my parents. You make me who I am. I hope I make both of you proud.

CHRIS FLAGSTAD

First I would like to thank Nick Rapp, who is really the reason I was able to come hear

He went out of his way to tell Judy about me during his application process. Undergrad was pretty rough, and I was terrified of coming here, but it's been one of the best things that's happened to me. It was like pulling teeth to get me to apply, but I'm thankful for Nick's persistence.

Meeting Judy for the first time is what convinced me UCSD was the right place.

Judy showed me an acceptance that built new confidence, but also the rigor that built the strength to to back that up.

I hope to emulate her pragmatism, thoughtfulness, poetry, and toughness.

I am proud to have her as my mentor.

I'd also like to thank Marybeth, because when I did finally apply, she made an exception the minimum GPA, and extended the deadline multiple times. She took a chance on me.

I thank Victoria Petrovich for her kindness and encouragement of exploration.

I thank Jan Mah for her constant patients and grounding good will.

I would like to thank my grandma who has been by my side through my journey here

I'd also like to thank my mom and dad who continued to support me even in my low points.

I'm not sure what lies ahead, but I am sure that I can handle it, which without coming here, wouldn't have been the case.

STEPHEN JENSEN

I'd like to thank Jonathan, Michael and Phil for their mentorship. My cohort for their friendship, and MaeAnn for putting up with me. I'd like to thank the faculty; Robert, Judy and Victoria, for crafting a program that extended far outside the classes here, and for bringing in many great sound designers to share their expertise. I'd like to thank Marrybeth and Mark for their kindness. And I'd like to thank the production staff, especially Steve, for their amazing support.

MAEANN ROSS

What a wild ride! We definitely didn't have a stable or traditional graduate experience, but I wouldn't trade my time and the collaborations and connections I've made for anything.

Thank you Stephen for being my better half on this journey and for always pushing me.

Thank you Andrew and Stewart for being such an inspiration and amazing cohort.

Thank you to my entire design cohort but especially my 2020 eight. I love y'all forever.

Thank you to the entire production staff for providing the most educational experiences I had while I was here.

Thank you Michael Roth, Cricket Meyers, Melanie Chen-Cole, and Bobby McElver for coming through my life and bestowing wisdom.

Thank you Andrew, Holden and Mona for always supporting and pushing me.

Thank you to my parents for always supporting and believing in me.

Thank you to all of MFA 2020. We did it!

Love you all,

MaeAnn