

# Brian Rickel, Dean of artistic things at Cosumnes River College

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Award winning senior portrait  
Go class of '93

Born in Fountain Valley, but raised in Sacramento I began my college career in the Los Rios system as a very confused and lost student. It only made sense that I would come back to Los Rios as the Dean of Arts, Media and Entertainment after a lengthy stay in Fullerton for my degrees, a stint in Chicago followed by a decade or so in San Diego where I met my wife.

I am the middle child (and oh boy am I a middle child) of a nurse and a salesman that had a killer second career as a teacher. Early in my life I found that I had a need to be as extroverted as humanly possible. This led me to a path of studying Theatre and landed me with two degrees in Acting (yes! we actually study this stuff and it's really really really hard!!) I bore very easily and never wanted my career to only include acting. My parents were very supportive of my choices, but did not have the money to support my siblings and I financially, so college was on me if I wanted to do that. I spent so much time in college that I decided I wanted to teach Acting, also.

Supporting oneself as an Actor means that I waited a LOT of tables and had a LOT of admin jobs. Doing so meant I had a very good management skill set once I got to my career in academia. Being an artist who is good at the "business stuff" has served me very well in my life and career and is something I try to impart to all young artists. Know your worth. Know how to do other stuff. Don't lock yourself down in one part of the art. I loved teaching, but I absolutely love being the first ever arts trained Dean in a Division that has needed someone who understands the artist voice for decades. I'm proud of the work we are doing!



Have Pride in your eyewear



Everyone needs a RSVLTS tuxedo



Teddy Roosevelt, US Grant,  
Ron Swanson. #murica'

Sometimes it takes a few tries to get things right. After a couple of tries at the ol "marriage" thing, I met my wife in San Diego while teaching at Grossmont College and working as an Actor. She is the best human being in the room every single time and I am thrilled by the rocky road it took both of us to find one another. We are now parents to a fabulous 5 1/2 year old who just lights up the room where ever he goes.

Born in December, it makes sense that his favorite holiday is Halloween. HA! Some of our favorite times as a family include all things "spooky".

For fun I love to build things in my garage, go to the theatre, drink fun things, hang out with our friends, work in our huge front yard food garden, play with my kid who loves Mario, Legos, Superheros, backflips in the pool and ice cream. I could hang out with my wife endlessly. She is that much fun. She keeps me positive when bureaucracy takes over my life. She's also a KILLER hairstylist. Her Instagram is @mane\_attract\_mandi (no, seriously....you should really go check out her work. It's that good.

As a performer my favorite roles include Stanley Kowalski in Streetcar Named Desire, Martin Dysart in Equus, Cleante in Tartuffe and Glen-Duh in a rousing drag version of The Wizard of Oz called "The Ruby Slippers". Drag makes the world better and I wish I had the opportunity to do more of it! If you've never been to a Drag Show, grab your nearest "Mom for Liberty" and take them there so maybe they'll chill out and enjoy life a bit more. When I have spare time you can find me at the EGUSD school board meetings fighting for things like inclusion, the arts and keeping ALL OF THE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY!!!

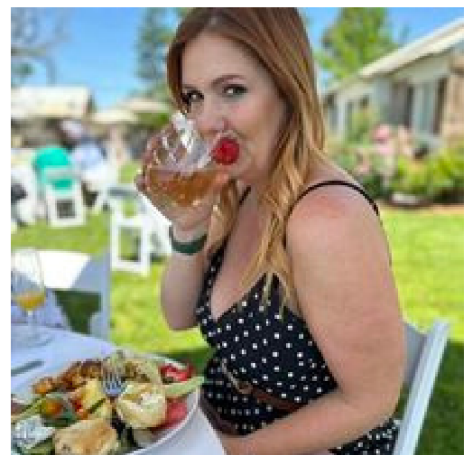
I am so glad to be a part of the 2023 Great Deans program. I've dabbled at the edge of the organization for a couple of years and am very much looking forward to connecting with all of you!



What are we without laughter?



My favorite person next to...



...this absolute smoke show.