

Trick or Treat! Happy Halloween from all of us at Chanti Studios. Halloween is a terrific time to practice our character skills. One of the best parts of this holiday is how people relax and allow themselves to play, right? At a Halloween party, whether at a bar, a home or school, when people get into a costume it seems they finally give their inner child permission to come out and play. And when we take on the physicality of a character – be it a witch, a bunny, a robot or some other creature – suddenly the style, mannerisms and **voice** of that character seem to spontaneously come alive in us.

The Halloween experience is in fact very similar to the acting philosophy we embrace at Chanti Studios in our MIC & ME Voiceover Workshops and other programs. It's not just about saying the words, it's about becoming the character. So, this Halloween let your inner child come out to play – wherever you are – at a club, in a restaurant, at school. Look at yourself in your costume, form a mental image of yourself as whatever it is you are portraying, and then assume all the traits of your character. This is exactly how you should do it in the studio, too, for every character you voice. You will feel the difference!

If you don't know yet what to be for Halloween, why not create a costume for a character that you've been trying to develop or master? What a great way to take your character's development to a new level! At a loss for ideas? How about your mom? Dad? Boss? Your favorite cartoon character? Pick someone or something – anything. Dress like them. Walk like them. **Talk** like them! Take a portable recorder with you and see for yourself how much more real and believable your character becomes. This year, let's turn Halloween Day into Voiceover Day!

ChantiPromos

"Making Waves" Moved Up to September '08

We've made some changes to the itinerary for "Making Waves" - *The Voiceover Cruise*, hosted by Bob Bergen (Porky Pig/ Tweety Bird, see www.bobbergen.com) and Deb Munro (www.debsvoice.com). In order to bring you the best quality at the best price, the cruise will depart from Vancouver and sail down the Pacific coast to Los Angeles. Cruise in style while honing your voice skills with two of the top instructors in North America. The new dates are September 29 through October 1, 2008. Details and pricing will be available next month, so save the dates ... and keep reading Chanti News.



Insulator Trade Video Update

Final touches on our Insulator trade video production have fallen slightly behind schedule due to last minute client changes, so we've had to delay posting it until November's newsletter. Stay tuned, it's coming soon.

Grandma Munro Hits 38

Happy Birthday! In September Deb Munro celebrated her 38th year on Planet Earth, commemorating the occasion at the Roller Rink in Edmonton with her daughters and close friends. *80's style dress was the order of the day, with the whole crew rockin' it 'old school' just like it really was the eighties. Way to play!

Promos

- Congratulations to Mike Selinger on landing parts in multiple episodes of Crime Stories on History Television.

- Also congratulations go to Tracie Gray for her role in the movie **Sure Shot Dombrowski**, which recently premiered at the Citadel in Edmonton.

- Michael Bean offers an excellent Film/TV class for kids in Vancouver. The fall class is already under way, but it's never too late. Micheal is a great instructor. **Confidence on Camera: Foundations** for ages 7-17 meets Saturdays 11am-4pm. Email info@bizstudio.ca for details.

- The 56 Slick Tricks Voice Over event with Pat Fraley, Hillary Huber and LA agent Pat Brady will be in Los Angeles October 27th. Cost is \$595. Go to www.patfraley.com for more info.

- LA Director Tom Logan is back in Edmonton, November 16 - 19. Tom is an exceptional film instructor, offering classes for youth (7-12) and adults, beginners and advanced. Contact MaryLou at (780) 460-4607.

- 11-time Emmy winner James Alburger and his partner Penny Abshire of VoiceActing.com are among the very best in the biz. Check out their course schedule at www.voiceacting.com.

- Voice Coach Bettye Zoller is offering her **Business of Voiceovers** course in Dallas all day on Saturday December 1st. Bettye is also teaching in Houston and Oklahoma and Switzerland. You can contact Bettye at www.voicesvoices.com.

- Wanted: We have a voice talent looking for voice recognition software that can take WMA or MP3 files and transpose them into text. If you know of any programs that can handle this, please help out by sending your email to info@debsvoice.com and to geedsieg@verizon.net. Thanks!



WorkShops

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September 2007 turned out to be one of our busiest months ever, with much of the month devoted to our MIC & ME autumn Canada workshop tour.

October marks the tour's halfway point. MIC & ME debuts in Toronto on October 13-14, with our new flexible format designed to accommodate all levels. Private sessions will be available on October 15th, so if you're in Toronto and would like to work one-on-one with one of the leading voiceover coaches in North America, don't wait any longer. Reserve your session now.

On October 20th MIC & ME returns to Vancouver with **The Voice Biz**, this time featuring special guest Ross Huget of GO2 Productions. Ross is a full time voice talent who has really mastered the business side of voiceover. This program shows you how to land voiceover work and even how to become an Executive Producer of the projects that you voice, putting you in a position to develop a business that produces a steady income stream. Other topics include marketing, unions, taxes, accounting, studio design, agents, rates and much more. Includes our info packed 40-page handbook. One day only – \$212, all taxes included.

A special 2-in-1 MIC & ME Workshop Weekend comes to Winnipeg for the first time on Oct 27-28, with private sessions available on October 29th. The 2-in-1 format combines our popular Voiceover Workout and Demo Prep Workout into one intensive weekend. Take either day alone or combine both workshops for your best value. Visit www.debsvoice.com for more details.

November 3-4 in Vancouver, MIC & ME presents Joyce Castellonas (formerly of Warner Bros. casting) Trailer & Promo program. If trailers and promos are the niche you want to cultivate, this is definitely the class for you. Go to www.debsvoice.com for details.

Back by popular demand, the MIC & ME Script Workout will be in Edmonton November 10-11. This is an excellent opportunity to develop demo scripts and get in some high quality professionally directed mic time. You can also have private coaching or demo recording during this event. Email info@debsvoice.com to register.

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

As this month's feature article suggests, Halloween presents us with a terrific opportunity to develop our character skills. This Halloween we're offering you a little extra added incentive for you to have some fun during the festivities.

Send us a picture of you as your character, together with a 10 second clip of your character's voice (.mp3 only, please) and you could win a copy of **The Voice Biz Handbook** (a \$43.00 value) as your reward.

We'll pick winners in three categories: **Most Original, Most Creative and Most Outrageous**. In addition to receiving **The**

HALLOWEEN CHARACTER VOICE CONTEST

Voice Biz Handbook, the winning photos and voice clips will be posted on debsvoice.com for all to enjoy.

Entries should be emailed to contest@debsvoice.com. All entries become the property of Chanti Productions, Inc. Winners consent to our use of their name, voice and photo. So, go crazy, have fun, send us your entry, and check back here next month for the names of our winners.

The Bottom Line

No matter how successful we become in this business, getting ripped off can really take the fun out of it. Don't let it happen to you. In this month's **Tip of the Month** feature, Deb discusses a scam that's going on in our industry right now. Don't miss it!

Trailers and Promos With the Pros

Are trailers and promos your niche? Chanti Studios is pleased to host Joyce Castellonas in Vancouver, November 3-4, 2007. Joyce has been in the promo field for 24 years, beginning her career at NBC in both video and audio post-production. She directed voiceover talent for the Disney Channel before moving on to Warner Brothers for 11 years as an audio director/producer for the promo department. Now in her seventh year as an instructor, Joyce has expanded her training program to cover both promos and trailers. She uses her special industry knowledge and experience to create a recipe for success for her students.

Joyce introduces techniques and styles unique to promos. This course emphasizes comedy, drama, and block spots, to develop a foundation for work on movie promos, kids' spots, reality and news promos. This is truly a rare and special opportunity. If you're interested, contact us to register at info@debsvoice.com. Joyce will also be available for private sessions on the November 2nd and 5th.

Save Vancouver's Pacific Spirit Park

Vancouver voice talent Paula Hoffman is spearheading a grass roots campaign to protest commercial development of Pacific Spirit Park. If you live in or near Vancouver, you know what a unique and precious public resource it is. According to Paula, Park Commissioner Marty Zlotnik proposes to transfer 120 acres of the park to the Musqueam Indian Band for immediate development. Paula has prepared a model letter that you can send to our local and provincial governments. Contact Paula at pjhoff@mac.com



www.bobbergen.com

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WorkShops

Here is our list of upcoming workshops, their dates and locations.

MIC & ME - Script Weekend Workout - \$375.00

Toronto - Oct. 13/14, 2007

Edmonton - Nov. 10/11, 2007

Vancouver - Nov. 24/25, 2007

Winnipeg - Oct. 27/28, 2007

One day option available **\$225.00**

MIC & ME The Voice Biz One Day Only - \$225.00

Vancouver - Oct. 20, 2007

MIC & ME The Voice Biz Handbook - The Voice Biz is everything about the business. This is available separately as a handbook for only **\$43.00 (new price)**



TeleScript Workout

Meant for every level

This teleseminar workshop will do exactly as it suggests a full copy workout. Work with a variety of current cutting edge scripts. All via your home phone. Listen as others attempt to voice various projects ... some actual auditions, some just for the practice. Join in each month for regular practice and direction. This will enhance any level. Keep up with your skills ... and this will help you do just that!

All this is for only **\$75.00** per 2 hour session

Last Wed of each month (with exceptions)

October 30th (note this is a Tuesday) 2007 8-10 p.m EST

November 28th, 2007 8-10 p.m EST

December 27th, (this is a Thursday) 2007, 8-10 p.m EST*

Making Waves - Voice Over Cruise

MIC & ME joins Bob Bergen

Sailing from Vancouver to Los Angeles

September 29 to October 1, 2008

Details coming in next month's Chanti News

(All Dates are subject to change)

Coming next month -- The Year in Review!

Fraud seems to be everywhere these days – even in the voice biz. This month I want to help to keep you from getting scammed. Over most of my career in this business I've been fortunate. It's rare to not be paid for a project I've completed. In the past seven years it's happened to me only twice, for a total loss of \$700.00. Sure, it hurt, but it was tuition for an important learning experience. Apart from those two incidents, things have gone extremely well. Until recently.

I was contacted via email by a client who called himself Gregory Alfonso. He claimed he was referred via a very reputable site – one that I would never think to question. He offered an extremely high rate (Red Flag No. 1) of \$1,900 to voice a two page message on hold. I thought it was odd to be offered such a high rate, but I trusted the source, so I voiced the project and delivered it.

He then offered me a second project at the same rate. I was thrilled to get such good pay, even more so when I actually received a cheque. But the cheque wasn't made out for just the \$3,800.00 owed to me – it was for \$7,500.00 (Red Flag No. 2). I contacted "Gregory" immediately. He said that his client must have made a mistake and paid me for his share of the project. (Red Flag No. 3).

Despite these warning signs, I took the bait. My bank gave me immediate credit for the cheque deposit, so I withdrew \$3,700 in a money order. When I told Gregory I had a money order for him, he said that he was in Israel (Red Flag No. 4 – any overseas location) and that he needed a wire transfer instead (Red Flag No. 5). Five warning signs were finally enough. I got smart.

I explained the situation to my banker and was advised to (1) immediately cancel the money order and (2) not send anything to Mr. Alfonso until I was certain the cheque had cleared. So I waited, and when I phoned my home branch to ask if the cheque had cleared they said yes. I then tried to use Western Union online to send a money transfer, but an odd and fortunate (for me) series of events prevented me. I could not get their system to work. Nothing I tried helped. The website was down. The destination code was wrong. The amount exceeded their limit. I spent two days trying to send this transfer, but each time something interrupted the process. Finally I capitulated and physically went to a Western Union office. Their computer was down. So I went to another location – but the teller's English was so poor that we couldn't communicate clearly enough to send the transfer.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Mark Brandon <http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/AUDITION%20STRATEGY.htm>

Voice Acting <http://www.voiceacting.com/archives/080charactersinpocket/>

Bob Bergen <http://www.debsvoice.com/Newsletter/Interview%20with%20Bob%20Bergen%20Episode%204.pdf>

VoiceOverXtra <http://www.voiceoverextra.com/article.htm?id=0ru4j0ti>.

Marc Baur <http://www.debsvoice.com/Newsletter/Column%20-%20An%20Act%20Of%20God%20-%20November%2007.pdf>

Bob Souer <http://www.debsvoice.com/Newsletter/Bob%20Souer%20-%20Packing%20It%20In.pdf?id=0ru4j0ti>.

Ross Huget <http://www.debsvoice.com/Newsletter/How%20To%20Make%20Real%20Money%20As%20A%20Voice%20Talent.htm>

The next day I finally got it worked out on the phone with Western Union. As I headed out my door to complete the transaction my phone rang. It was my banker, calling to tell me that the cheque had been returned. It was drawn on a fictitious account – one that did not exist. It was a fraud.

Thankfully, my comedy of errors with Western Union spared me the agony of losing \$3,700 in this scam. If not for my conscientious banker I would have been ripped off for sure.

The lesson? If it sounds "too good to be true," it probably is. How can we protect ourselves? There's no substitute for vigilance. We often rely on the honor system in this business. But reasonable precautions are necessary. Learn as much as you can about the clients you accept work from. Watch for the warning signs – and don't ignore them just because you need the money or the client seems "nice."

If you're in a union, there are some protections in place for you. If you're non-union, most reputable sites screen their clients well and the odds of being scammed are small. Either way, you must stay alert for warning signs - and heed them.

If somebody sends you a cheque for more than they owe you, never refund any part of it before assuring that the cheque is valid and the funds are good. And if you know of anyone who has had this or something similar happen to them, send the details to scamwatch@debsvoice.com. We'll publish a warning here in Chanti News to alert others to the danger.

All our best,
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