

Monthly Update

Break out the warm sweaters and winter coats – it's November, and the weather is changing fast! Ski season will be here soon, so that should put smiles on some of your faces. Even if you're not a skier, the holidays are just weeks away. Happy Thanksgiving to our U.S. neighbors. This season we hope you all have lots to be thankful for. Remember, Chanti Gift Certificates come in all denominations, never expire, and can be redeemed for all of the products, services and programs we offer.

October saw debut workshops in Toronto and Winnipeg. Debbie was a featured speaker on the A-Channel's Big Breakfast in Winnipeg on October 27th. When Deb wasn't voicing, acting or teaching, she produced a ton of demos. Congrats to Anne Swist for her second demo, Glen Williams, Adam Millard, Shelley Fullerton, Esther Law, Greg Hamilton, Paula Hoffman, Bill Johnson and many others. In December the load will let up a bit as our workshop schedule takes a break for the holidays, so if you're ready to take that important step and produce your next (or even first) demo, this is a great time to contact us.

The branding process continues its forward march. Last month we began sorting through some really excellent new logo designs. Thanks to all of you who've offered your suggestions over the past few months. We expect to launch a new look for the Chanti brand early in 2008.

Deb's been searching for property in the Coquitlam, B.C. area and prospects are great for closing a deal soon. This means that Chanti Productions will have a new professional recording studio up and running in 2008. Expect more news and exciting promotions when the new studio opens. And for great tips on designing your own studio, even in the tightest space, check out this month's featured podcast at www.debsvoice.com. Just click on **Building A Studio** at the top of the home page.

ChantiPromos

Voice Talents Affected By California Wildfires

Our thoughts and good wishes go out to all those affected by the fires in Southern California. Many of the talent such as James Alburger, Penny Abshire, Connie Terwilliger, Bobbin Beam and others have been in touch with us to let you know that they are safe and back home. Voice talent Julie Williams has more than risen to the challenge. Go to www.voice-overs.com/forum to stay in touch or to post news of those affected by the fires. If you're interested in contributing to relief efforts for the many families who lost their homes in the fires, contact Julie@voice-overs.com.

Adult and Teen Script Workout in Edmonton

This full copy workout is specially designed with scripts for young adults and teens. You'll be on-mic under professional direction, working with material from actual programs and commercials. Our new flex format assures that performers of all levels will be appropriately challenged to achieve new heights. A great way to keep your voice in shape or push it to a new level. Call 604-939-4029 or 780-718-4394 for instant registration, or email to info@debsvoice.com to register.

Promos

- Deb has been typically busy with voice work, including a couple of spots as 'Grandma', plus multiple new commercials, a few narrations, and a new animation role.
- Starting next month Eric Pollins, our Associate Producer and Chanti News editor, appears as Cardinal Hernandez (both animated and live action) in multiple episodes of the new fantasy adventure series, **Kingdoms of Grace**, by award-winning director Nastasha Baron (**Children of Fate**, 2006). Check out the trailer at www.kingdomsofgrace.com, and help contribute to the success of the program by passing this link on to others.
- Voice Talent newbie Charles Rengel landed his first walla session and it looks like this may turn into even more. It just shows what perseverance, hard work and good training will do. He wrote an excellent review, [click here to read it](#).
- Congrats to Greg Hamilton on landing a political commercial in Saskatchewan, co-voiced with Debbie Munro. He was chosen against several top talents and surmounted multiple tech issues. He put in lots of hard work and rose to all of the challenges!

- Two top directors and voice talents, Sue Blu and Cynthia Songe, will be hosting workshops in November and December. This is a class you don't want to miss. Contact them for more details at www.blupka.com and join their mailing list.
- Tom Logan, the L.A. director who tells it like it is, will be in Edmonton Nov. 16, 17 & 18. Learn more at www.tomlogan.com or contact MaryLou at 780-460-4607 to register.
- Happy Birthday to Kyler Robert Gerald Adams, who turned one on October 18th. Momma Melissa and Grandma Deb are proud!



The MIC & ME Voiceover Workshop Series is better than ever. Our new flex format has been very well received. This format puts you in control, with options for the genres and scripts you want to work with, tailored to the level at which you're ready to perform. You set the goals and we support you with more personal attention and on-mic time than you can get anywhere else. All workshop participants receive a \$50 discount on our Creating Voices Level 1 CD-ROM package, and Chanti pays the taxes. The package includes our 90-Page professional workbook, filled with tips and tricks to improve your craft.

Special Holiday Promotion. Now through December 24th, every purchase of the Creating Voices Level 1 CD-ROM course includes a private one hour coaching session with Debbie Munro, making it the most exceptional value in voiceover training that can be found anywhere. The MS PowerPoint presentation featured on the CD is narrated by Debbie herself. In it Deb guides you step by step through an entire virtual workshop – just as if you were really there. This *special holiday promotion is a \$100 value. It's like getting two workshops for the price of one!*

Fall 2007 Workshop Schedule. Our fall workshop schedule is coming to a close and we'll be done for 2007 after our Script Workout on November 24-25 in Vancouver. We will be in Edmonton on November 10-11, and a few spots are still available. Our regular workshop schedule will resume in late January. Visit us at www.debsvoice.com to see our complete workshop schedule or contact us at info@debsvoice.com for details about upcoming workshops near you.

Making Waves Cruise Update. Making Waves – The Voiceover Cruise is coming, but it seems we've run into a bit of a sand bar with the scheduling of our on board seminar rooms. As it turns out, we may have announced our dates a little prematurely, but we're looking forward to final confirmation very soon. Registration forms and information should be available later this month. Contact us at info@debsvoice.com for details.

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

You've got to give Apple credit for its catchy marketing campaign as well as its abilities to feel the pulse of the consumer market and provide the products that people really want. The once failing computer company is now ascending to market dominance with booming sales of its iPod, iMac, and iPhone products.

My recent experience suggests that the cool TV spots are more than just slick advertising. I've been busily transitioning from the PC platform over to Mac because the simple reality is that Mac does everything my PC did, but handles the artistic applications that we use to record, edit and design, faster, better, and with fewer system glitches.

PC VS. MAC - WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

That said, making the transition from PC to Mac has been no mean feat. For one thing, only in the middle of editing this month's edition of Chanti News did I discover that I can no longer save my work to my old PC formatted drives. Also, while Macs do come pre-loaded with plenty of good and useful stuff, the software that I'm accustomed to as a PC user is not among the freebies, which means purchasing all new copies of things like MS Office, or switching to Apple's version and learning yet another new operating environment.

Despite these growing pains, I am absolutely loving the ease and power of recording with ProTools on my new iMac. And while I've still got a long way to go, so far this once dedicated PC user is really glad he made the switch. Stay tuned and I'll keep you posted as the transition progresses.

Special Promos

- Jarrod Pickford wants to share the launch of his new website: www.yourlifecrisis.com. This funky new website is about discovering quarter-life crisis, issues, and ideas from across the globe.
- He may be done taking auditions but this is very exciting. Colleague Dixon Christie with www.punktv.ca is looking for hosts. This could be your big opportunity. Click here to find out more.
- Don't miss the opportunity to work with top Director Ginny McSwain and the every amazing Pat Fraley December 1st. See Pat's site for more details at www.patfraley.com.
- Mary-Lou Drachenberg has an exciting opportunity for you in Edmonton. Upstart is a talent development program sponsored by Jonathan Joffe, AMPIA, and Telefilm. The program brings together local actors, directors, and writers to perform a series of scene studies on camera. Scenes are then edited for review the following week. Seven weeks, \$150.00 (\$100.00 for ACTRA, AMPIA or WIFTA). Contact upstart@ampia.org for more info.
- VICOM Productions needs your help - actually, they need your stories! Click here for more details.

Talent Takes

- Paula Hoffman scored a couple of great VO jobs, including a new series on Global, **Very Bad Men**. She also landed an audio book, utilizing four of her exceptional characters. Way to go Paula!
- Big congrats once again to superstar teen actor Brendan Myer. Among his most recent credits: **Freezer Burn**, with Tom Green and Crispin Glover, shot in Edmonton. And now he's up as a top choice for a guest star role on **Interns** as well as a pilot being shot in Vancouver. He's doing great work and we're so proud of him!



WorkShops

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

MIC & ME - Weekend Script Workout - \$375.00

Edmonton - Nov. 10/11, 2007

Vancouver - Nov. 24/25, 2007

Vancouver - Jan. 26/27, 2008

Calgary - Feb. 9/10, 2008

Edmonton - Feb. 16/17, 2008

Saskatoon - Feb. 23/24, 2008

Toronto - March 8/9, 2008

Winnipeg - March 29/30, 2008

One-day option (either day) - **\$225.00**



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

MIC & ME - Creating Voices Level 1 CD-ROM

This MS PowerPoint presentation on CD-ROM, narrated by Deb Munro herself, guides you step by step through an entire virtual workshop - just as if you were really there. As a special holiday promotion, this course includes a **BONUS** one hour live private session with Debbie Munro, by phone or in person - a \$100.00 value at no added charge - making this package the best value in voiceover training available anywhere!

Now only **\$212** - All Taxes Included



TeleScript Workout

New Flex Format - Great For All Levels

This teleseminar workshop is exactly what its name suggests - a full copy workout. Work with a variety of current, cutting edge scripts, from the convenience of your phone. Listen as others attempt various projects, some for real auditions, others just for practice. Join in each month for regular practice and direction. This program will enhance all levels of performers. It's the easiest and most economical way to stay at the top of your game or push yourself to your next level.

\$75.00 per 2 hour session

Usually last Wednesday of each month, *with exceptions.*

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

Thursday, December 27, 2007 8-10 p.m. EST
2008 schedule coming next month.

Making Waves - Voice Over Cruise

MIC & ME joins Bob Bergen

Details in next month's Chanti News

(All dates are subject to change)

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro

Home Studio Design Made Simple

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I hear this lament all the time: "I have no room to spare as it is, so how can I build a studio?" After 1-1/2 years of renting in small, busy, noisy locations, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to accommodate a proper recording space. Thankfully, prices for the technology that we use to record have dropped substantially over the past few years. So, all that's really needed is an acoustically insulated space about the size of a small closet or phone booth. And even if you don't have a spare closet in your home, there are several workable options for you.

At first I connected sections of ABS pipe obtained from the plumbing department of Home Depot to create a booth frame, an excellent tip contributed by 11-time Emmy winner James Alburger. I then covered the frame with heavy quilting fabric and arranged it into four walls and a roof. I sewed Velcro strips to each section of fabric and attached the adhesive on the other side of the Velcro directly to the pipes. This setup performed quite well and allowed me to keep my income stream coming in.

Then I found another place that was great and roomy, but with no room for storage or studio. So I did what I had to: I shared the closet in my bedroom with my daughter and used the other one (hers!) for my recording booth. Tough times in tight quarters, but worth it to be able to keep working. Though not as spacious or flexible as a professional studio, the sound quality of the recordings that I made in that closet was really excellent. I removed all the hardware from the closet and covered the walls and ceiling with the same fabric I had used before on my ABS pipe frame.

The key to a good studio is less about sound proofing (although being sound proof is a huge benefit) than about creating a space that absorbs enough sound to prevent excessive reverberation. There are two fabulous books available that can teach you virtually everything you need to know. First, visit www.voiceacting.com/products/munro for James Alburger's terrific e-book on designing and building home studios. This is an economical resource that will give you much of the information you need. I also highly recommend *The Voice Actor's Guide to Home Recording*, written by voice talent Harlan Hogan and his engineer Jeffery Fisher – it's the perfect compliment to James Alburger's e-book. You can find it online at amazon.com and samuelfrench.com, or at Samuel French bookstores in New York, Hollywood, Toronto and London.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

James Alburger / Penny Abshire – build your home studio e-book www.voiceacting.com/products/munro

Harlan Hogan / Jeffrey Fisher - *Voice Actors Guide to Home Recording* <http://www.harlanhogan.com/book.shtml>

Bob Bergen on Robot Chicken - <http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/Ask%20Bob%20-%20Robot%20Chicken.pdf>

Charles Rengel – Walla Walla - <http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/Charles%20Rengel.pdf?id=0ru4j0ti>

Colleen Wynia – Heartlink Consulting – Self Care - <http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/Heartlink%20-%20Self%20Care%20with%20Colleen%20Wynia.pdf>

Marc Baur – Great Industry News for Canada -

<http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/Good%20Industry%20News%20for%20Canada.pdf>

www.voiceoverextra.com – Your Voice Over Magazine Online – Always worth checking out!

These articles are worth reading!

For those even more pressed for space, an innovation called the Voice Box offers a possible solution. These are commercially available in various forms from music stores and recording suppliers. For example, musiciansfriend.com offers the sE Reflexion, pictured below right, for an investment of US \$299. Or you could build one for under \$100.

I recently bought a rolling storage box with a telescoping handle at Costco for only \$25. The box is the perfect size to line with high end acoustic foam (also available from musiciansfriend.com) – which is a bit costly, but you won't need very much.

Line the entire box with the foam, except for the lid, which you will leave open to voice into. The result will be an acoustically correct miniature recording booth that's just big enough for your microphone and your head. You can then place your mic on a desk stand (musiciansfriend.com sells one for \$5.99 or you can get one at your local music store) as far back into the box as it can go. This will be just about the perfect distance from your mouth to the mic. Place the box on a table high enough for you to get the mic to your nose/mouth level, and then speak into the box.

As an added bonus, this setup functions as an excellent carrying case to take your recording equipment on the road, giving you a fully functioning portable recording studio in a box!

Until next month, do what you love best ... the rest will follow!

All our best,

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