

Monthly Update

Happy Ho-Ho-Holidays! Yep, it's that time of year again ... a season that means many different things to different people. Some look forward to it all year long, gleefully anticipating festive times with family, the joy of giving and receiving, turkey with trimmings, and more. Many dread the season and avoid the celebrations altogether. Some see it as a time of marketing hype and materialism. One way or another, though, it's impossible to get through December in the Western world without being affected by it. We like to think of it as a great time for a cozy fire, hot cocoa with marshmallows, popcorn strings, caroling and family. Whatever this season means to you, we want to take this moment to extend our very best wishes to all.

If you're stuck for a good gift idea this season, remember that MIC & ME Gift Certificates are a great way to give a gift that can really make a difference in someone's life. Education and training are the keys to success in voiceover, and you won't find a better selection of value-priced programs and publications than the MIC & ME series. Our gift certificates are available in all denominations and never expire. They're a great way to give a special gift to that someone – even yourself!

The print edition of the MIC & ME Voice Biz Handbook is currently sold out. We're busily preparing the new updated Second Edition, which will be available in 2008. We are accepting preorders and offering gift certificates with free shipping. Customers preordering the second edition will also receive a free digital copy of the First Edition (CD or PDF download) to hold them over until the new edition is ready to ship. Gift orders also include a personal voice greeting from Deb Munro. The Voice Biz Handbook is packed with hard to find details and resources about making it as a voice talent. Now only \$43.00 – and you'll get both editions for the price of one – a terrific value! Contact us at info@debsvoice.com to order or for more information.

ChantiPromos

MIC & ME and Act One Team Up For Teens

The MIC & ME Workshop Series expands again with our newest offering, the Teen Script Workout. Featuring material tailored to teens and young adults, this program successfully debuted in Edmonton last month. The Teen Script Workout will come to Vancouver January 19-20, 2008, where we've teamed up with Eden Philp of www.actonestudio.ca, who specializes in teaching teens for film and TV. This will be the first program of its kind in Vancouver, and one your kids won't want to miss. [Click here](#) for more details.

Creating Voices Level 1 CD-ROM Workshop

This virtual at home workshop includes a 90 page workbook and powerpoint presentation narrated by Debbie Munro. Deb guides you step by step - through an entire workshop, as if you were really there. Now through Dec 24th we're offering \$50.00 off. A total value of over \$300, all for only \$159.00. One hour private session included.

Join the Monthly TeleScript Workout

MIC & ME TeleScript Workouts feature 2 full hours with Deb Munro, working on the scripts of your choice. At \$75.00 per session, this is without a doubt the most cost effective way to develop your skills and keep them fresh. Last Wed of each month.

Promos

- It's the perfect time for an Audio Season's Greeting. Chanti Studios will produce a special holiday audio greeting featuring your voice or ours. It's also an excellent way to promote yourself as a voice talent by sharing a professionally produced sample of your work with friends, family and colleagues. Our "Season's Greeting" special price is only \$50.00 – that's \$25.00 off! This package includes script development, recording, direction, and email delivery to you. Add your special personal touch to the season.

- OUCH! Here's a clip of William Shatner in a VO session:

<http://www.yuppiepunk.org/media/tirades/WilliamShatner.mp3>

- THE TRADES – Mechanical Insulators, is finally complete. We will be posting it next month for all to see. This Chanti Production is a recruitment video targeted to teens and young adults who may be interested in the building trades, produced and directed by Deb Munro, featuring local talent from Edmonton, Alberta.

- November was yet another great month in the studio, with another new family member joining the Chanti Studios team. Please join us in welcoming Suzan Nowaczynski, who will be helping out in the marketing department.

- Acting genes seem to run in the family! Deb's oldest daughter Melissa has dabbled in voice over and film, but seems to have found her niche in graphic design gigidydesign@shaw.ca. Deb's youngest girl Brandi is pursuing acting/voicing and has just been picked up by a top agent in Vancouver. Way to go girls.

- Global has picked up *True Pulp Murder*, featuring Debbie Munro as narrator. It airs prime time beginning January 5th. Among the more prominent of Deb's numerous VO jobs in November, she was featured in spots for the US Coast Guard, Multiple Sclerosis and Teen Challenge.



WorkShops



The MIC & ME Takes a Holiday. Our 2007 workshop series is wrapped for the year. In 2008 we'll be touring across Canada and the U.S. beginning in February. [Click here](#) to see our schedule line up and to sign up for a workshop that fits your needs. We have an exciting year ahead, so pass this along to anyone that might be interested. Contact us at workshops@debsvoice.com to register or for more information. You can also visit www.debsvoice.com for more information and printable posters.

New Students - New Breakthroughs. Last month MIC & ME welcomed many new students, including a very distinctive baritone who traveled from the East Coast of the U.S. to attend our sold out Vancouver Script Workout – Timothy Harris. Deb produced Tim's first demo last month, together with a slew of others including Bill Johnson, Anne Swist, Ashley Lui and Graeme Burns. Many more are scheduled for the coming months, so stay tuned. [Click here](#) to listen to Deb's very own new demo.

MIC & ME Gift Certificates Available Now. This season give someone you love, even yourself, the ultimate gift of Passion and Play! A MIC & ME Gift Certificate will put a smile on anyone's face. What could be better for a voice talent than to work with one of North America's top VO coaches and develop their career in voiceover. Even experienced voice talents can take their skills to new levels in a MIC & ME Workshop. Gift certificates are valid for all of our products and services ... and they never expire!

Making Waves - The Voiceover Cruise. Featuring MIC & ME with Bob Bergen. Take your voice to the waters! Join two top professional voice talents for four days of fun, sun and learning. Bob Bergen, the modern voice of Porky Pig, Tweety Bird and many more, joins MIC & ME's Deb Munro. Four days at sea with two top professionals – a working/playing vacation that will change transform your voice skills forever. Whether you're a skilled professional or just getting started, this cruise is for you. September 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2008. Save the dates and pre-register now! Contact cruise@debsvoice.com to save your space.

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

In a recent workshop one aspiring voice talent asked me whether it's really possible to make a viable living in this business. The short answer to this question is: Of course!

I speak from experience, having left my old day job three years ago to devote myself to my acting, particularly voice. I am now in year two of a three year plan, and so far things have been going as well as I ever hoped.

For one thing, I've had the guidance and inspiration of one of the best informed and most generous coaches in the world, Debbie Munro. Deb's passion for voice acting is unparalleled. Working with her has had amazingly positive

HOW LONG SHOULD IT TAKE TO SUCCEED?

effects on my performances, both in voice and camera work.

Year one of my three year plan was literally an intensive succession of workshops, Deb's and others, and putting myself out there for every audition I could get. I learned to relax and have fun with my work. Now in year two, I am beginning to see my efforts rewarded with paid work coming from my self-marketing (see Deb's Tip of the Month for more on this), as well as from my agent and websites like Voice123.

Sure, there have been tough moments and doubtlessly more to come. Yet I am propelled by my love for this work and the joy it gives me to do it. As Deb always says, "Do what you love and the money will follow." Passion, Patience and Perseverance are rewarded in this business. Stay with it!!

Special Promos

- There's no place like home for the holidays, but what happens if you're in a hospital instead? Find out how you can make this holiday season a bit brighter for sick children by donating your voice for a noble cause. Holiday Magic CD. Talent and donations needed. Contact Jeff@gelderhead.com for details

- The ChickaDivas are live in concert in Edmonton – Support local independent musicians! CD's and more available. Contact Marion McFall at thechicks@chickadivas.com or (780) 432-7731.

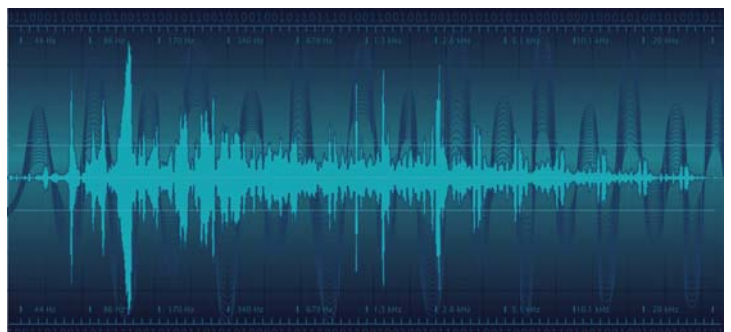
- John Spackman reports on a couple of new pocket-sized USB preamps, which, according to Harlan Hogan, are excellent products. First, the MicPort Pro from CEntrance is a professional USB mic preamp with true Plug-and-Play installation. It enables instant computer recording with Windows and Mac. No drivers, no wizards, no headaches. Just plug it in and record! Available at MusiciansFriend.Com for US \$124.95.

There's also the Marshall Electronics MXL Mic Mate / USB Preamp and A/D Converter. It's a compact low-noise analog preamp that converts 48 volt phantom powered studio mics and analog line level signals to USB for quality recording on any PC or Mac. US \$79.99 at MusiciansFriend.Com.

- Peter Skagen, one of Deb's favorite acting coaches in Calgary, Alberta is offering a screenwriting basics class Dec. 8th for only \$75.00. www.auditionhell.com/screenwriting

- James Alburger/Penny Abshire have another great year ahead for voiceacting.com. Be sure to check out their line up and sign up for their amazing newsletter.

- See what american accent you have, sent from www.voices.com. www.gotoquiz.com/what_american_accent_do_you_have



WorkShops

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

*MIC & ME - Weekend Script Workouts
2008 Winter Schedule:*

Vancouver - January 26-27, 2008

Calgary - February 9-10, 2008

Edmonton - February 16-17, 2008

Saskatoon - February 23-24, 2008

Toronto - March 8-9, 2008

Winnipeg - March 29-30, 2008

NEW Early Bird Special Prices! Preregister 2 weeks in advance and save big! (\$100 nonrefundable deposit required).

Full Weekend-2 Days \$318 Early Bird / \$375 Regular

1-Day Only - Sat. OR Sun. \$205 Early Bird / \$225 Reg.

MIC & ME - Creating Voices Level 1 CD-ROM

A workshop you can do at home, on your own time. Narrated by Deb Munro, she guides you step by step through a virtual workshop - just as if you were really there. Our holiday promotion includes a BONUS one hour private coaching session with Debbie Munro (in studio or via phone) valued at \$100.00, making this package the best value in voiceover training available anywhere!

Now on sale for only **\$159!** (Regularly \$212)

All Taxes Included



TeleScript Workout

Flex Format Supports All Levels

Designed to accommodate every level of talent, this tele-workshop does what its name suggests. Each month you'll get a full workout with a variety of current, cutting edge scripts – all via your home phone. Join in each month as you and other performers voice actual auditions and practice sessions. Regular practice and direction brings **huge** growth in your performances. This will enhance any level. Keep your skills current ... at the lowest cost possible!

\$75.00 per 2 hour session

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

Next Session:

Thursday, December 27, 2007 8-10 p.m. EST

2008 schedule now available. [Click here.](#)

MIC & ME - The Voice Biz Handbook

Everything about the business, from getting started, to equipment, demos, unions, agents, marketing, and more. A must for your voiceover resource collection. Pre-order the upcoming Second Edition now and receive the First Edition in digital format FREE!

Only \$43.00

(All dates subject to change)

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro

Making Money Against The Odds

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Several people have told me recently how difficult they're finding it to get work. I completely understand. It's important to remember that just because this business is fun doesn't mean that it's easy. As in any commercial enterprise, it's critically important that we understand how to sell ourselves in this business. There are lots of great marketing books available. One of my personal favorites, of course, is our *MIC & ME Voice Biz Handbook*. My other all time favorite is Penny Abshire's *Demos and Marketing* available at www.voiceacting.com. I'm also going to give away some of my favorite tips here. If you follow these suggestions and stick with your training, you're going to find work.

In order to survive I've had to learn to think outside the box, as they say. Also, I feel very strongly that if a person follows their heart and pursues a goal for the sheer love of doing it, the other things that people often seek – money, notoriety, success – will follow naturally. When we put our love and passion into our work for its own sake, not merely for the promise of some reward, people notice that and are drawn to it. So it makes sense to me that the best way to make our dreams a reality is to begin by pursuing a goal that we love regardless of how much it pays. For some people it might be cooking, knitting, or traveling. For Debbie Fields it was chocolate chip cookies. For me, and perhaps for you too, it's voiceover.

Most people feel that they're victims of their circumstances. Take, for example, a man I've known very well for most of my life. His passion is golf, though he works at another job for a well known major company. As I was gaining notice in the voice acting community, he told me at one point how lucky I was that I could do what I loved whereas he did what he needed to do. He likes his job enough, actually, but if he had followed his passion he would be a professional golfer. He made his choice as a young adult – a 'sensible' choice possibly – to work for a big company and have a stable career. He chose not to follow his true passion.

What might he have done differently? Maybe first volunteer at a golf course, perhaps trading for golf lessons? He would have met people who were part of that world and become more immersed in it. Maybe that would lead to a regular job. Next thing some great golfer hires him to caddy - now he'd be learning from the best, gradually moving up along the way. Finally he's managing the place, designing golf courses, making money from golf *and* real estate. A fantasy you say? Maybe. But he'll never really know

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Mark Brandon amazing acting coach and author [click here](#)

James Alburger/Penny Abshire #1 resource for voice artists [click here](#)

Bob Bergen an interview with porky pig himself [click here](#)

Julie Williams fantastic resource for voice talents [click here](#)

Bobbins Blog learn more about the San Diego Fires and join her amazing blog [click here](#)

Paul Murphy (student) links to pronunciation & lap top home recording [click here](#)

Writers Strike how it may affect you and the voice over community [click here](#)

VoiceoverXtra.com your online voice over magazine worth reading [click here](#)

These articles are worth reading!

for sure what might have been different had he followed his heart instead of his need for security. and that's not how you want to look back on your life, either.

So what does this have to do with voiceover? The point is, you CAN attain your goals. Think outside the box. Knock on local company doors, any company, and promote yourself as a voice talent who can voice training videos, message on hold, IVR, commercials, anything. Talk to anyone who will give you the time of day and find out what the company may need. A website voice maybe? Volunteer it's a great way to get started and make connections. Create phone messages for friends and family, both for practice and to build your resume.

Nearly everybody has a website these days, and most of these are still untouched. Develop some rudimentary web design skills and do the voicing as part of a total production package. One of my favorite marketing tips is to real estate agents. Land 10 virtual tours a month, using your voice to help sell homes, and you could be well on your way to earning serious full time wages.

I have lots more ideas where these came from, but nowhere near enough room here for all of them! When you

attend a MIC & ME workshop with me, I share all the strategies I've learned over the years. It's up to us to be proactive - to get out there and **create** the work. We are in the marketing and communications business. Get in touch with your salesman character ... then go make some money!

Do you have a great marketing idea or story to share? Send it to us at newsletter@debsvoice.com.

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

All our best,

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