

MonthlyUpdate

As we head into midsummer the Canadian dollar is the highest it's been since 1977. If production seems a little slow in Canada right now this may well be the reason. In the U.S. this may mean more work as producers find it less lucrative to take their projects north. At Chanti Studios things are chugging along as usual. We're hosting more MIC & ME™ workshops now than ever before, as well as private sessions, demos, and tons of other projects. Our film division is in full swing with the "Mechanical Insulator" video.. Many thanks to all who submitted headshots and resumes. We'll post a link to share it with you when it's finished. We're excited to announce the launch of two terrific new MIC & ME workshops for all levels. The "Voiceover Audition Workout" is 100% on-mic and critique, with actual current audition materials. Choose your own scripts and perform them with professional direction. All sessions are recorded for home review. Stay on top of current trends, learn new techniques, or simply discover if the voiceover business is right for you. Sessions are catered to your level of experience, so anyone can join. Classes will be held in Regina on September 7th, in Edmonton on September 15th and in Vancouver on September 22/ 23rd. And our newest MIC & ME workshop is the "Voiceover Demo Prep Workout." Learn everything you need to know to prepare a demo for the global market. This 1 day intensive includes script selection, copy writing tips and on-mic practice. A good demo must be properly planned, and this course gives you all the tools to do that. This workshop will be offered in Vancouver on July 22nd, Regina on September 9th, and Edmonton September 15th. Register for the combination of Audition/Demo Workshop and receive a \$75 credit toward production of their demo at Chanti Studios. Check out www.debsvoice.com for other upcoming dates and locations.

ChantiPromos

Deb has been going nearly nonstop recording for the new Global series, "True Pulp Murder." She also voiced a recent spot for the world renowned West Edmonton Mall and is recording more spots for Tempur-Pedic, KVOS, Bright-House Networks and others.

MaryLou Drachenberg, a colleague and workshop student, had a very successful pitch at the Banff Film Festival. She's put together a fascinating concept called "The Kois" and was chosen from among a wide field of competitors to be one of the festival's presenters. She did a fabulous job and received an excellent response.

We know she's worked really hard for this. Way to go, MaryLou!

A very special mention goes this month to actress Judith Lucas, whose company Chocolate Dog Corporate Image (catchy name isn't it – that's good branding!) can get your name or logo onto ANYTHING. Effective branding is essential to the success of all businesses, even small independent operators – that means YOU! Judith's amazing company provides top quality products at extremely reasonable rates. Make yourself VISIBLE with cost-effective leave behinds for your clients and events. Visit www.chocolatedogci.com or contact Judith at Chocolatedog2@shaw.ca.

Promos Vancouver actor Michelle Brezinski wants to share an animation she voiced for TheTye.com. See it at http://joinus.thetye.ca/?utm_source=tyee&utm_medium=ftaf&utm_campaign=070529/ She's the little yellow fish!

Top Hollywood producer, director and acting coach Tom Todoroff returns to Vancouver August 4th and 5th. His past Vancouver workshops have been hugely successful due to Tom's uncanny knack for pushing just the right buttons to get things out of actors that they didn't even know they had. Tom's coaching credits include stars such as Robert Wagner, Joel Grey and Rene Russo. This weekend intensive is an exceptional opportunity to take your craft to a new level. Learn more at www.tomtodoroff.com or contact Raewyn Byrne for registration information at 604-872-1966.

Marc Baur's Ultimate Audition Workshop is back - this time with 4 Casting Directors and 3 Acting Instructors. \$50

discount if you register before July 9th. This will be your last chance this summer. Call Marc at 604-780-9679 or visit www.marcbaour.com and click Ultimate Workshop 4.

Voiceover legend Rodney Saulsberry has published his second book, "Step Up to the Mic, A Positive Approach to Succeeding in Voice-Overs." The book is very inspiring and includes advice from Don LaFontaine, Nancy Cartwright and other top voice performers. Learn more at www.rodneysaulsberry.com.



WorkShops



• **LONDON UPDATE!!** Reminder - MIC & ME in the UK has been postponed to September 28th through October 1st. Contact us at info@debsvoice.com to register immediatly. Check out the site for more details www.debsvoice.com.

• MIC & ME – Creating Voices Level 1 will be in Calgary August 25-26. This class is also filling up quickly. There is only 1 spot left for private coaching or demo sessions with Deb Munro in Calgary on August 24th. Register now to hold your spot. We will be teaching a newer variety of courses for upcoming classes, so this will be the last time for this course for a while.

• MIC & ME – Audition Voice Workout/Demo Prep will be in Regina on September 7/8/9th , Edmonton, Sept. 15/16, Vancouver on September 22/23, Toronto Oct 13/14, Vancouver Oct 20/21 .This popular class is filling up quickly, so advance registration is highly recommended. More dates to come.

• MIC & ME - TeleWorkout At Home each final Wed. of the month. This is your opportunity to learn from home on the phone and your webcam (if you have one). July 25th this month, Aug 29th for next month. Our most cost efficient way for you to stay in practice and discover new skills. All levels welcome. ONLY \$75.00 for 2 hours of class time. (more registers means more free time for you.) Don't forget our MIC & ME - CV 1 Powerpoint/Audiobook Home course. See the site for more details.

• Special Guest JOYCE CASTELLONAS is coming to VANCOUVER Nov. 3/4/5 Joyce is from L.A. area this is her first time in Canada. Working for many companies such as, Warner Bros. and more, she's recently started her own company. Joyce is happy to share her secrets, tips and tricks of the TV Promo and Narration world. She is more than amazing. Contact us for more details. Joyce wants to discover more talent and loves to use Canadian talent. More to come next month.

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to submit your suggestions for Chanti Studios' corporate image makeover. We received some incredibly excellent ideas that we're now reviewing with our creative team. It's quite a challenge balancing our creative urges with the business necessity of a clear and easily recognized corporate image. As Deb has mentioned many times in the pages of Chanti News, careful branding is critical to business success, even for voicers. Your input is very valuable to us and we really appreciate it. Contributors whose suggestions are adopted for use will be notified by email in the coming month.

AUDIO COMPRESSION

Many of us use home studios to create auditions and final recordings. Chanti Studios offers studio design and setup services, as well as referrals to audio engineers in your area. This month we're sharing a short Wikipedia excerpt on audio compression for voice recordings, courtesy of Vancouver entertainment lawyer Jeff Young. Jeff also has three credits for mixing major video games in surround sound: Dark Angel, The Hulk, and The Simpsons Hit and Run.

Your investment in your home studio can pay for itself many times over with the extra work you can get by having the ability to deliver a professional quality finished product. Every advantage helps. Give yourself that extra competitive edge! Email us at info@debsvoice.com for more information.

To Compress or Not to Compress?

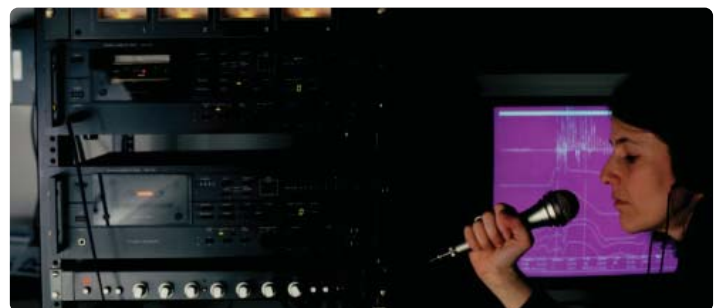
(From Wikipedia, Courtesy of Jeff Young, Vancouver Film School)

Dynamic range compression, audio level compression, volume compression, or limiting, manipulates the dynamic range of an audio signal. Compression is used during sound recording to improve the perceived volume of audio. A compressor is the device used to create compression.

The compressor reduces the difference in volume level between the softest and loudest sounds in order to make the overall audio level audible in usual listening environments. Under natural conditions, ears can hear soft sounds in a quiet environment but not in a noisy environment. In a moving car for example, background noise can overpower soft sounds. Turning the volume up louder makes the soft sounds audible, but the loud sounds would become too loud. However, making the volume lower, and thus acceptable for the loud sounds, would make the soft sounds inaudible. To make both the soft and loud parts of a sound audible at the same time, compression is used. Compression increases the volume of both the soft and loud parts of our performance. The overall effect is that a compressor makes softer sounds

relatively louder and louder sounds comparatively softer. This allows you to record with wide variations in the volume of your voice without constantly adjusting your recording levels.

Compression can be especially useful for voicers. A properly matched microphone and compressor combination will enhance the quality of your recordings and significantly reduce sibilance ('ess' sounds) in vocals, which if unchecked can cause distortion even at low levels. This usage is called 'de-essing'. Consider enhancing your recording system with compression.



Tip of the Month

How Can I Get More Work? [Take This Simple Quiz](#)

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We've all experienced the frustration of feeling like we're doing everything we can but just can't seem to get the work. We audition, maybe even get a callback, but then somebody else gets the part. Whether you're auditioning every day or just weekly in your local city, you know there's competition out there, but you're sure you were right for the part. Something is wrong.

You're not alone. Awareness of the voiceover business is catching on and the competition is growing. The era of the "Golden Throat" is gone. Knowledge of trends and techniques is essential to success. The most successful talents in this business are the ones who keep training. There are more voicers every day, but there is also more work available every day. It's not impossible.

Try taking this simple self assessment test. Your answers to these questions may help you to narrow down the reasons that you're not getting all the work you think you should. Answer these 10 questions honestly, recording as your score for each answer the number appearing in parentheses () at the end of your selection: 1. How much training have you had? 1 course or workshop (1); 2 to 4 (2); 5 or more, or relevant university degree (3); No training at all, I'm a natural (0). 2. How much have you invested in your voiceover business? \$100 to \$500 or less (1); \$600 to \$1,500 (2); Over \$1,500.00 (3); Less than \$100 (0). 3. How long is your demo? 1:00 to 1:30 (3); 1:30-2:00 (2); Under 1:00 or over 2:00 (1); I don't have a demo (0). 4. What kind of equipment do you have? Pro Studio (3); USB mic and computer (2); Computer mic and computer (1); I do not have my own equipment (0). 5. Do you have an agent? Yes (3); No (2); Why do I need an agent? (0). 6. How many cities do you have agencies in? 1 (1); 2 (2); 3 or more (3); Didn't know that was possible (0). 7. Are you a union member? Yes (2); No (1); Why would I join a union? (0). 8. How often do you audition? Once a day or more (3); A few times a week (2); A few times each month (1); Occasionally or Rarely (0). 9. Where do you get most of your work from? Self marketing and promotion (3); Agent (2); Other resources (1); Work will come to me (0). 10. Do you look for work outside of the typical resources? Yes-I talk about voiceover to any potential client (3); No - that's up to my agent and the sites that I'm on (2); I don't need to promote (0). Now, add your scores from each of the 10 questions together and let's see how you did. If you scored: 0 to 10 - You haven't done enough yet to get the work you're seeking.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Mark Brandon New article to come next month
<http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf.auditionstrategy#87.pdf>

James Alburger/Penny Abshire
<http://www.voiceacting.com/archives/001votips-1.htm>
Look for their upcoming telecourse www.voiceacting.com

More articles to come next month....many of us are busy, busy!

Keep training and developing until you can score 20 or more. Those who are landing this work NEVER stop looking and are constantly educating themselves to keep up with the trends, even while they're working. Remember, "Those who do the work get the work."

11 to 20 - You're heading down the right path. You are taking some of the necessary steps that you need to take to become a full time professional voice talent. You still need to get your score up over 20. What can you do to change your numbers? More marketing. Don't rely solely on your agent. Keep educating yourself. Always tell everyone what you do. Everyone you meet is a potential client or referral source.

20 to 30 - You are doing the right things to make it in this industry. You are probably landing some work if your score is this high. Perhaps it's not the amount of work you were hoping for, but if you keep at this and have the talent, it will come. It can be discouraging, but know that you're doing the right things. Patience and perseverance are the keys for you. Keep your score up in this range and good things should follow. If you're the right voice, you'll get the job. Stay with it - they have to hear you before they can hire you!

That's it. Keep your scores high and your drive strong. Competition is just a test to see how much you really want it!

We hope this quiz helps to motivate you to move forward and keep up the good work. Voicing may be the most fun you can have while working, but it's still work!

All our best,

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