

Monthly Update

Summer just never seems long enough ... yesterday it was June, and now everybody's headed back to school! At Chanti Studios you'd never know that we were supposed to be on holiday last month ... in fact we've been busier than ever. Many editing our "Trades" video and it looks amazing, 6 demos in production, private sessions, we're booked solid, and it felt like we voiced a zillion new commercials and promos.

Among them, last month we added the Vancouver International Fringe Festival to our list of credits, with Deb Munro and Eric Pollins collaborating for the first time to voice a promo spot for The Fringe. If you're in Vancouver, The Fringe will present over 80 shows this year, on and near Granville Island. Go to www.vancouverfringe.com for show times and ticket information.

The final editing phase of the Mechanical Insulators video is underway. Go2 Productions (visit their terrific website at www.go2productions.com) is doing an amazing job in post and by this time next month we'll have a completed product to share with you. Look for the link to this spot next month!

Deb just wrapped her first season narrating *True Pulp Murder*, the new Global prime time television crime series premiering this fall. It's a great concept, marrying true crime stories with graphic novel styling. Viewers get an insider's perspective of real life crime dramas, told from the viewpoints of the actual detectives who worked the cases with commentaries by crime fiction writers and a sexy, film noir graphic novelist/narrator voiced by Debbie. Part documentary, part graphic novel, and part 1930's hard-biting detective drama. Check out the trailers at www.youtube.com/user/TruePulpMurder.

ChantiPromos

Mark Your Calendar for "Making Waves"

You'll want to set aside the first week of December 2008 for "Making Waves" - *The Voiceover Cruise*, hosted by Bob Bergen (Porky Pig/Tweety Bird, see www.bobbergen.com) and Deb Munro (www.debsvoice.com). Sail the Caribbean in luxury while discovering voice secrets from two top instructors, representing the U.S. and Canada. Lots of leisure time will be mixed with lots of FUNwork and growth. You've got over a year to plan ahead for this, so there's no excuse for missing this fabulous opportunity! Date to be announced ASAP... more details to come in future editions of Chanti News.

"Americanism" update

Catering to the American accent is necessary in today's competitive market. (See Chanti News, June 2007 issue). Deb attended an Americanism class with Andy Krieger in Vancouver last month and was really impressed with Andy's teaching skills. As we always remind you in Chanti News, no matter what our current level we can never afford to stop learning. Deb constantly refines her American dialect to maintain her craft at a global level, and she eagerly shares this knowledge in our workshops. Keep reading Chanti News. We'll have more on this in upcoming editions.

Andy Krieger

www.andykrieger.com

Promos

- Marc Baur is a top film acting instructor in the Vancouver area. One class that should pique your interest is "What's My Type," offered on September 4th from 6:30-10:30 p.m. for only \$55.00. Knowing how the industry sees "your type" is extremely valuable to an actor. Film and television are visual media where looks **DO** matter. Knowing your type helps you target the work you're most likely to be cast for. In turn, this will help you to choose the right headshot, style of dress, hair cut and more. What an exceptional value for \$55! Visit www.marcbaur.com for more information or to register.

- Here's a great new website to check out and join - VoiceOverXtra at www.voiceoverxtra.com is a voiceover e-magazine created with you in mind. It features links to sites with tons of vital information on instructors and workshops throughout North America. An excellent resource for all levels.

- Congratulations to Anne Swist (aswist@telusplanet.net) on being named by Voices.com as one of their five finalists for the New Voice category. Anne was also profiled in the "Giving Back" section of the July 2007 V-Zine published by Voice-Overs.com for her volunteer work at VoicePrint. Great work, Anne!

- Bob Bergen and top Commercial producer William Holmes have teamed up to present an outstanding animation/commercial workshop in Burbank, California, September 8th & 9th. For more information visit www.billybobvo.com

- 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.

- Looking for an instructor or class in your local area? We'll point you in the right direction. Send an email to info@debsvoice.com.



WorkShops

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The MIC & ME Voiceover Workshop Series is back in full swing, now better than ever. The August workshop in Calgary was hugely successful and we are nearly full from now through late October. Sadly, for reasons beyond our control we had to indefinitely postpone our London, UK launch date. Hang tough, Britain ... we'll get there soon! Manitoba joins the list of Chanti provinces in October, when we bring MIC & ME to Winnipeg on October 27-28, 2007. Welcome to the Chanti family!

Recently redesigned to address the unique needs of different levels, the new Voiceover Workout & Demo Prep Workshop has been a big hit – now with more emphasis on advanced voice acting skills for experienced performers. Beginners and intermediate voicers still get everything that was always included before – and lots more. Workshops will be in Regina Sept. 8-9, Edmonton Sept. 15-16, Vancouver Sept. 22-23 and Nov. 24-25, Toronto Oct. 13-14, and Winnipeg Oct. 27-28. Many of these dates are nearly sold out, so early registration is crucial. Contact us now to register. Email to info@debsvoice.com.

Joyce Castellonas Promo & Trailer Seminar visits Vancouver. Are trailers and promos your niche? Would you like them to be? 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.

In this seminar Joyce introduces techniques and styles unique to promos, contrasting promo style with commercial VO. 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.

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

"What's in a name," you ask? Okay, well you didn't really ask ... I did. But it seems that when it comes to the word "voiceover" this is actually a debateable topic. I've been trying to adopt a uniform style for the word in this and other Chanti publications. Sounds like it ought to be simple, right? Not so. There are almost as many opinions as there are sources. Voiceacting.com, one of our favorite sites, uses both "voiceover" and "voice-over" almost interchangeably. Voices.com seems to prefer "voice-over," while voice123.com opts to omit the hyphen and go with two separate words, "Voice Over." The American Heritage Dictionary offers both the one word and hyphenated forms as acceptable, while

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME?

the Merriam Webster Dictionary lists only the hyphenated form.

Does it even really matter? Is consistency the hobgoblin of little minds? Or is there perhaps a greater good in adopting a uniform standard? We are, after all, in the business of communication. Clarity is a good thing. We already talk the talk, so we should walk the walk, too.

Personally I prefer simplicity, and I think that school of thought represents the wave of the future. Hyphens are superfluous. One word is preferable to two. So I've adopted the single word form of "voiceover" as the one we will use here. If you have any comments or opinions on this subject that you'd like to share, please send them to editor@debsvoice.com. Thanks!

Special Promos

- Bettye Zoller offers voiceover workshops in Texas. If you're in the Lone Star State, Bettye will offer "The Business of Voiceovers and Voice Acting Techniques for Today" on September 15-16 in Dallas. Enroll online at www.voicesvoices.com, or by phone at (214) 638-TALK (8255).

- John Spackman of Vancouver shared some interesting and worthwhile links with us this month. Take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVDzuT0fXro> for a great trailer comedy. Also <http://www.petersellers.org/HardDay.mp3>, where Peter Sellers recites Shakespeare – listen for the peaks, valleys and inflection changes of a true master performer. Thanks for sharing, John.

- Give the gift of Voice this Holiday Season! Chanti Studios now offers gift certificates redeemable for any of our workshops and publications. And from now through December, the MIC & ME Voiceover Home Study Workshop on CD-ROM is specially

- AuditionHell is back in Calgary. Join top instructor Peter Skagen and Casting - Deb Greene for an amazing weekend workshop. www.auditionhell.com. Amazing workshop worth taking. Sept. 8/9 & Oct. 13/14

holiday priced at just \$160.00. This terrific course contains all of the essentials from our popular Creating Voices Level I program. Get started in the voiceover business from the comfort of your home computer. Add the Voice Biz Handbook for only \$33.00 (w/out pkg \$43) to save even more. These are great gifts for that special voicer in your life ... or for yourself! Email info@debsvoice.com to order.

- Congratulations to Deb's lifetime friend Corinne Crawford – now Corinne MacDonald (or as Deb is calling her, MacCrawford). On August 4th Corinne married the man she first said she would when she was 14. She also said that Deb would be there standing beside her ... and she was right! Deb was honored to be there as her as maid of honor. Best wishes from all of us at Chanti Studios, Corinne!



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

MIC & ME VoiceOver Workout - \$225.00 one day only. Weekend is combined with Demo Prep class. Both days optional. Take one or both \$375.00 (full weekend) All levels

You wanted more mic time with a top instructor, this workshop was created with you in mind. Work for two intense days on mic. Be directed as you work on a variety of current scripts. Tips, tricks and amazing stories throughout. All levels welcome.

*Regina - September 8, 2007
Edmonton- September 15, 2007
Vancouver- September 22/23, 2007
Winnipeg - September 29, 2007
Toronto - October 14, 2007*

MIC & ME - Demo Prep Workout - \$225.00 one day only. This course is combined with VoiceOver Workout for a full weekend course. Take one or both. \$375.00 (full weekend) All levels

Discover everything you need to know to prepare your demo for a global market. Tips and tricks, length, content and more. During class we will help you write scripts suited for the demo of your choice. You will work on them on mic, getting you prepared for your demo session.

You only get one chance to make a first impression. Make sure you're doing it right the first time.

Receive a \$75.00 discount available towards your demo production with Chanti Studios after class.

*Regina - September 9, 2007
Edmonton- September 16, 2007
Winnipeg - September 30, 2007
Toronto - October 15, 2007
Vancouver- Oct. 28, 2007*

MIC & ME Voice Biz - Learn all about the business of the biz. Demos, studios, marketing, equipment (cost and list), union, agents, labels, websites, logos and more.

Vancouver - October 27, 2007 10-5 p.m.

Calgary - February 2008 (date to be announced)

Edmonton - February 2008 (date to be announced)

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)

MIC & ME Telephone Workout - Meant for every level - Last Wed of every month 8-10 p.m. EST

This telephone workshop will do exactly as it suggests, keep you working out on a regular basis. Work with a variety of current cutting edge scripts. All via the comfort of home. 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...so you're ready for the work. Practice pays off!

Each of your sessions will be recorded and posted for your home review.

All this is for only \$75.00 per 2 hour session or \$424.00 for one full year! Or customize your own package.

September 26th, 2007 8-10 p.m EST

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*

Email to register info@debsvoice.com

Dates are subject to change without notice

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro

'Tis Better to be Heard Than Seen

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This month we look at the differences between voice acting and visual media. Over many years of casting, production, broadcasting, theatre, acting and voicing, I've been privileged to see the industry from both of these perspectives – behind the scenes and behind the mic. As a child all I wanted was to be on television – to perform my little heart out and be the object of admiration. Ask me now what I love best and I never hesitate to say voiceover.

With lots of hard work, training, and perseverance I eventually accomplished that childhood goal. And I would be hard pressed to deny now that performing on camera is very rewarding – when you get the work. Just like voicing, it's a struggle to get started in camera work. But with film and television, or any visual medium, there is the added hurdle to overcome of having the "right look." Particularly in film or television, to a far greater extent even than theatre, what you look like becomes more important than almost any other factor. This doesn't necessarily mean the "hot babe/guy look." It means the "right look for the part."

I discovered this best through my classes with the amazing Tom Logan (see www.tomlogan.com). Tom is a director who tells it like it is – he tells you exactly what they really say in the casting room when you leave and exactly what they base their decisions on. Many times it's because of how you looked. You were too good looking, too white, too dark, too skinny, too fat, too old, too young, your hair stood out funny, or you looked like the director's or client's ex wife/husband. It gets worse . . . and the list goes on.

This is the reality of film and television – or any visual medium – so get used to it. It has to look right, and that means you have to look right or you don't get the job. I've been in this position as a casting director when I had no choice but to select an actor based on their appearance.

So you went and spent all that time and money on acting lessons . . . now what? Well, first let me reassure you that the time, effort and expense can still pay off. Remember that even when you have the right look, you still need to have some talent. So what happens if you have that great look, but you get into a car accident? Could be great if a scar adds character to your look, but ladies . . . what do you think? Will we have work? Then what? Okay, that's a bit of a dark scenario . . . but you get my point.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Mark Brandon

<http://www.debsvoice.com/pdf/Audition%20Strategy%20Improving%20Improv.pdf>

James Alburger/Penny Abshire

<http://www.voiceacting.com/archives/14difference/>

Bob Bergen

<http://www.debsvoice.com/Newsletter/Bob%20Bergen/Interview%20with%20Bob%20Bergen%20Episode%203.pdf>

These articles are worth reading!

In voice, talent talks ... literally. If you've trained and maintained your skills, there's still work to be had. One of the best things about voiceover is that there is virtually no discrimination. Accents are sometimes an issue, but you can even get work with an accent. Looks are irrelevant. You get hired because it's your voice and your performance that they liked.

I think this is why voice talent tend to be less insecure than on camera talent. Especially with advances in CG animation, live actors are increasingly being replaced with animated characters that look so real it blows you away. But while they can replace our visual image with technology, no one has been able to replicate the emotional content of our voices. I doubt they ever will. Human emotions are impossible to program, and voice is our principal tool for emotional expression.

Voiceover also has the added bonus of what I call "selective fame." Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart Simpson, can walk in and out of the local grocery store virtually unrecognized in most places. She gets to live a normal life. She never has to fend off paparazzi. She can be famous when she chooses to be, or she can choose to go unnoticed. Now that's smart!

It's just my opinion, but I love voice acting and I wouldn't want it any other way. I love what I do and I feel blessed every day that I get to do it. Sure, I'll take the on camera jobs that come my way, but I wouldn't trade voiceover for anything!

I'll sign off with a quote I caught recently on CBC: *"If you sit in the front seat of all your experiences, you will live a happy life."*

All our best,

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