

Monthly Update

Happy New Year! 2008 promises to be a terrific year....positive thinking produces positive results! Now is the perfect time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future. Taking just a few moments to write out your goals for this year is an excellent way to help you stay focused on them. It really works! Try it now, and by this time next year you'll see how much you've narrowed down your list. The most important thing is to set goals that are realistic ... for most of you this will not be the year you become an astronaut. But almost any goal you are physically capable of achieving is attainable, so don't be afraid to set your sights high. Nearly anything you can imagine can be achieved. It all depends on how badly you want it and how much you're willing to sacrifice for it.

We at Chanti Studios want to take this opportunity to wish you success in fulfilling your goals this year. Set out on your path and stay the course. We're here to support you every way we can. We hope to be a part of your journey and to help guide you toward realizing your dreams.

2007 saw many challenges at Chanti Studios, as well as tremendous accomplishments. And more exciting growth is in store for the year to come. The redesign of our corporate image is nearly complete. We released a sneak peek in the December mid month bulletin and the official launch is tentatively scheduled for February 1st ... at least if all goes according to plan. It's a big job, but the website is looking great and will make it easier for you to register for upcoming workshops, review archives of our newsletters and tips, purchase a variety of tools, products and services you're looking for, and locate employment opportunities, talent and helpful resources to support you in your journey.

ChantiPromos

MIC & ME & BOB - Making Waves VO Cruise

It's official: Making Waves – The Voiceover Cruise, with Deb Munro and Bob Bergen, sets sail September 24 – 28, 2008. The cruise will depart from Vancouver, B.C., Canada, stopping in the beautiful city of Victoria, B.C. and then continuing on to sunny San Diego, California! Once in San Diego we've arranged a studio tour and something special at VoiceActing.com, plus optional adventures to Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. This is going to be the most fun you'll ever have while working and learning with some of the most talented and dedicated voice professionals in the world! makingwaves@debsvoice.com to register.

Not Just Another Pretty Face with Bob Bergen

Also included, Bob Bergen will present his critically acclaimed one-man show, "So Here's the Deal!" All the food you can handle, round the clock entertainment, and 2 FULL DAYS with two of the top instructors in the business, Bob Bergen and Debbie Munro. This floating workshop package would usually cost over \$1,800.00, but we've made special arrangements to bring all of this to you for only \$530, plus cabin (\$490 and up depending on accommodations selected) for a limited time. Prices will go up in May so, immediate booking is essential to secure the cruise and your cabin. A deposit of only \$250US will hold your cabin and \$250US for Workshop. Click here for more. Cruises fill up fast! Register here

- Promos**
- MIC & ME Monthly TeleScript Workouts are back, beginning January 30th, 2008 from 8-10 p.m. EST. Only a few remaining spaces. Your telephone sessions will be recorded for personal home review. Choose from a variety of scripts or work on current auditions, giving you a better chance to land the job. Constant practice is key. This program has what just what you need.
 - ANIMATION AUDITIONS - if you are in the Edmonton, area, have we got news for you! Chinookanimations.com is holding auditions. They are opening a studio in your area, so book your audition today. Send your demo or an email to performance@imag.net Auditions are this week, by appointment only. Please contact **them** for questions (not Chanti Studios).
 - December is often a slower time of year for many of us. Be sure to read this month's Tip of the Month for ideas about how you should prepare yourself for the inevitable slow times.
 - A reminder to watch for the new TV series *True Pulp Murder*, featuring Debbie Munro as narrator. Global TV Saturdays 10:30 across Canada, plus various times each Thursday and Saturday on Mystery TV. Support your favorite VO coach! The more you watch, the better chances they will pick it up for another season.

- Chanti Studios moves into its new Vancouver area facility at the end of this month. Our new, modern studio in Pitt Meadows will have state of the art equipment to support workshops demos and production. Watch for more news when the new studio opens!
- Catch us this year at VOICE 2008 in Los Angeles at the Hyatt Century Plaza, August 8 – 11, 2008. Debbie will be a featured presenter this year as the incredible James Alburger, Penny Abshire and their talented Voice Acting Team host the most exciting and creative international voiceover exposition in the world. This is an event geared for every voice talent. Mark your calendars and prepare for an experience you'll never forget!



The MIC & ME Canada/US tour begins. Now that the holiday season has passed it's time to get back to work! MIC & ME is gearing up for a busy year of exciting new workshops featuring the flexible format we introduced last year, "MIC & ME Voiceover Workout" which allows all levels of performers to get maximum benefit from our programs. We'll be visiting many cities this year, starting with Vancouver Jan 26/27th and travelling across Canada and into the U.S ending in August. See page 3 for dates and locations.

Demos in Production. We completed a host of new demos again this past month. Congratulations to Georgette Starko for her first commercial demo, Gary Johnston (a well established voice talent/broadcaster upgrading that that next level ... way to go Gary!), and Ashley Liu – an exceptional actor venturing into the incredible world of voiceover for the first time. Many more new demos are currently in the works. When the new site is up you'll be able to hear all the amazing demos we've been producing over the past few years.

Rodney Saulsberry Comes to Vancouver. Excel into Promos and Trailers. Movie trailers and promos comprise one of the most exciting and lucrative niches in voiceover. Could it be your niche? Would you like it to be? The MIC & ME Voiceover Workshop Series is proud to host one of the top promo/trailer voice talents out there and author of "Step Up to the Mic" & "You Can Bank on Your Voice", Rodney Saulsberry. Promos/Trailers -Vancouver, April 5-6, 2008. rodneysaulsberry.com email to register.

Andy Krieger Making American. We are honored to introduce one of the top American Dialect Coaches to the Chanti Family. Turning the Eh into Huh! Whether you are from Canada, the US or anywhere around the world, there is only one central Voiceover Dialect and that's Mid-Western American and it's important that you know how to speak it. This amazing coach has worked with top talent such as Jackie Chan and more. This is one coach you don't want to miss. www.andykrieger.com

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

I wrote last month that I'm in my second year of a three year plan to advance my career as a voice talent. Oh, I love camera work when I get it, but the most satisfying part of voicing is the unlimited variety of characters I can be called upon to play that I would never get cast for on camera.

My performing days started as a singer, then progressing on to community theatre musicals. I always knew I wanted to act, but like so many I also felt a need for financial security. So I worked at another career for years without the job satisfaction I have now. That changed for me forever one fateful day almost three years ago when, for the first time, I finally gave myself permission to say, "I am an actor."

WE BECOME WHAT WE BELIEVE WE ARE

It changed my life. My deepest conviction is that we create ourselves as what we believe we are. When I allowed my lips to speak the words that my heart already knew were true, I empowered myself to create that reality. I said it to myself. It felt good. And I knew that it was true.

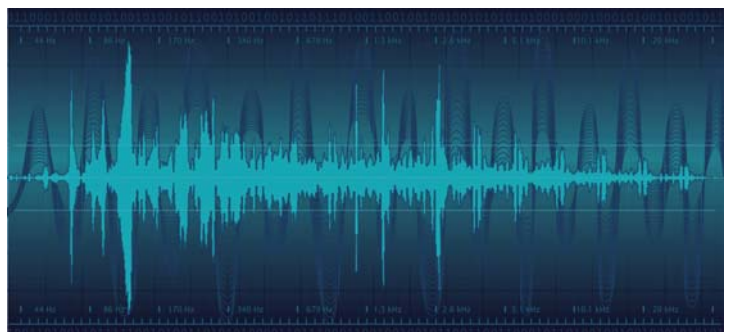
Immediately it became clear that I had to be ALWAYS DOING the things that an actor does. I talked to other actors and asked where I could get the best training. I went to workshops, constantly, and read every script I could get. I trained as intensively as I did when I studied for my professional license. I still do. And that's when I started getting the real work.

Now I love work as never before. This can happen for you, too! Give yourself permission! We're here to help with the rest.

Special Promos

- Chanti would like to congratulate the winner of the logo contest, David Blackard. David has done an amazing job capturing the new look for Chanti Productions. Welcome to the team!
- A tremendous resource for logos and web designs at amazing deals is www.sitepoint.com. You post a contest and will receive several layouts to choose from. You set the price.
- Have you left your mark? If you've ever considered branding your company logo (such as purchasing hats, pencils and a variety of trinkets) then Chocolate Dog Corporate Image is just what you need. Contact Judith at www.chocolatedogci.com
- One of Canada's amazing up and comings, Brendan Myer (13 years of age) has been doing some amazing things in film these days. Here is a clip of one of his latest. [Click Here](#). Way to go! Brendan is currently working with Ron James on a fantastic project so expect to see more of him in the coming year!
- Join our Teen Voice Over and Film Workshop in Vancouver March 1 & 2nd. email for more info workshops@debsvoice.com

- Howie Hoggins of Edmonton landed a great gig voicing 10 modules for a Northwest Territories Power Corporation. He says, "thanks to the coaching you gave me, I was able to complete the first 9 modules in just under 5 hours at a great rate." He is also voicing several commercials and other projects. Way to go Howie.
- Film training is essential to a great performance, even in the world of voiceover. If you're in the Vancouver Area check out www.marcbaur.com and www.winningauditions.com. For Teen workshops www.actone.com and www.bizstudio.ca.



WorkShops

NOTE NEW LOWER (earlybird) PRICES

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**Here is our list of upcoming workshops, their dates and locations and other products
Early Registration Necessary to hold your spot**

MIC & ME - Voiceover Workout - [click here](#)
Vancouver - Jan. 26/27, 2008 Near Sold Out
Calgary - Feb. 9/10, 2008
Edmonton - Feb. 16/17, 2008 Near Sold Out
Regina - Feb. 23/24, 2008
Toronto - March 8/9, 2008
Winnipeg - March 29/30, 2008 Near Sold Out
\$375.00 (\$315.00 earlybird if paid 2 wks prior)
One day option available
\$230.00 (\$210.00 earlybird)

MIC & ME Teen Voice/On Camera Weekend
\$300.00 (\$250.00 earlybird)
One day option available
\$175.00 (\$150.00 earlybird)
Vancouver - March 1/2, 2008

MIC & ME The Voice Biz Handbook - [click here](#)
This 40 page handbook will guide you through your voice over business. from marketing, branding, equipment, studios, websites, resources for work, demos, agents, unions, and more. Only **\$43.00**

MIC & ME Creating Voices Level 1 CD-Rom
Discover how to become a voice talent from the comfort of home. This is one of a kind 88 page workbook comes with an amazing CD-Rom VIRTUAL WORKSHOP, created and narrated by your coach Debbie Munro. Discover if you have what it takes to make it in the industry by purchasing CV1 and Debbie will also include a one hour in person or phone coaching session free of charge. Valued at over \$375.00. Now only **\$200.00**
Contact us to order info@debsvoice.com

MIC & ME Private Voice/Acting Sessions
Work with Deb Munro one on one. In person, out of town or teledirection.
\$105.00 per hour (Student discount Avail.)

MIC & ME Demo Production/Direction
In person, out of town or teledirection!
The Voicer's most important tool! Make sure you're ready before you produce your demo. No matter what your talent level, DON'T DIRECT YOURSELF. Get an honest assesment first. Hire MIC & ME to produce the entire demo or just to direct your voiceover session.
\$105.00 per hour (Direction Only)
\$315.00 Flat rate Direction/Editing (you do music/sfx)
\$525.00 Flat rate Complete Demo, Full Production (most genres, except Animation)
\$750.00 Animation Demo

TeleScript Workout
Meant for every level
You need to be working out on a regular basis! This is the best value out there. Constant training at your leisure. 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. Use current audtions (with Deb Munro's direction) givning you a better shot at landing the job. 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.
ADVANCE REGISRATION REQUIRED
Last Wed of each month (with exceptions)
January 30th 2008 8-10 p.m EST
February 27th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST
March 26th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST
April 23rd, 2008 8-10 p.m EST
May 28th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST

Making Waves - Voice Over Cruise
MIC & ME & BOB
Sailing from Vancouver to San Diego
September 24 to September 28, 2008
[Click Here](#) for more details

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro Are You Prepared for the Winter Blues?

For some, the winter months bring snow, skiing and snowboarding, and nights by the fire. For others it's still green grass and golfing in the sun. But wherever we're located, one thing that can be expected for many of us is less income. The sad part is, this is often when we most need some extra cash in our pockets.

If you are a full time voice talent, you know exactly what I'm talking about. If you're new to the game, this is something you'll need to be aware of. Preparing for the industry's slow times is very important. December brings with it Christmas and Chanukah, which statistics tell us means average spending of \$900.00 per person, on top of travel costs and our usual expenses. But at this time of the year, there usually isn't much being produced after the middle of December, and this often lasts through January. There may be very little money coming in during these times. In fact, there probably won't be very much. Then come the taxes. If you're on the ball with your taxes, maybe by January you're already starting to prepare your return. We hope you made too much money (is there such a thing?), though this will mean that you'll be paying the government instead of receiving a refund.

Insurance. Property taxes. Website renewals. Those new headshots and business cards. Website production. And everything else it takes to keep a voiceover business going. These things never heard of holidays. Small wonder people get depressed. Keeping this in mind, there are strategies we can adopt to, as nearly as possible, set up these expenditures to occur at other times of the year. When buying or renewing a subscription service, such as voices.com or voice123.com, if possible select a term that expires at a time when your income is more likely to be there. Over the years, as you discover the idiosyncracies of your particular income cycle, use this information to adjust your spending and saving so that you have a steady cash flow throughout the year. And of course, saving a certain pre-defined percentage of the pay from every gig you score will help pay for the rainy winter days.

As self-employed voice talent, we need to think about these things and plan ahead. If you're just starting out, this is especially true. It will take you some time to get going to begin with, which puts an even higher premium on careful expense planning. But if you're creative and think outside the box (click here for our "Making Money Not Excuses" podcast) you're eventually going to land some good well, paid jobs throughout your career. Use the good times to help balance the slower ones.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

HarlanHogan studio on the go - porta booth [click here](#)

JamesAlburger/PennyAbshire #1 resource for voice artists [click here](#)

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

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

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

FrankFredrick The VOICE - Seven Strategies for the New Year [click here](#)

Voiceover2008 Report - compliments of voices.com (creator of voiceovertimes.com) [click here](#)

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

These articles are worth reading!

Voiceover is a great career, and it's a fun. We guarantee that part. And though we'd like to tell you that it's also a very stable career that will let you live in security - well, that's just not true. Rare stories of extreme success occur, of course, but even the top names worry from year to year about whether they can continue to generate their accustomed incomes.

And this is an industry that demands constant upkeep and marketing. We can't afford to take much time off, even when work is slow. So it's a good thing that we love what we do!

Eventually you'll get to a point where it will be easier. As with all good things, some struggle is to be expected before you get there. Prepare for it. Pace yourself. Discipline yourself to save as large a percentage as you can afford. If you start with, say, 20% every time you get paid, by the end of the year you should have a nice safety net for the slow months and maybe even a little extra cash to spend for the holidays!

Also, the slow times are a great time to improve your education and hone your skills to stay at the top of your game, so

when the slow times subside you'll be ready to grab great work. As a voicer, you're always on call. Keep practicing. Read out loud. Take classes. Use our TeleScript Workouts. Keep up with your training and marketing ... and you'll get there!

Until next time everyone! We look forward to unveiling more great news for you next month.

All our best,
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