

MonthlyUpdate

Hello all! 2008 is off to an exciting start. After months of planning and development our new website is finally ready to launch. In fact, by the time you receive next month's newsletter it will be up and running. We have an exciting new look and great new functionality, including newsletter archives, demo gallery, and online workshop reservations. Check it out at www.chantiproductions.com and send us your feedback – we're eager to know what you think.

The studio is also getting a face lift – and a new home, too. At our new location in Pitt Meadows BC, Vancouver area, we've installing a modern, professional quality recording environment with top quality gear. The studio, to be dubbed the Voice Pitt in honor of its new home town, is in a quiet location that's perfect for recording. It's close to Vancouver and well worth the quick trip. Once it's fully operational, all of our Vancouver workshops will be held in the Voice Pitt. It's truly a model environment for learning how to do professional voice work from a home based studio.

January was a busy month for demo production, with an impressive roster of talent. Congratulations to Amy Color for her two new demos, and Ed Gentzler of Florida for his first commercial demo. Deb Munro finished her long awaited narration demo, and more are coming this month. To listen to these and others, see the new Demo Gallery at chantiproductions.com next month.

ChantiPromos

MIC & ME & BOB Hit the High Seas NEXT Summer

Making Waves – The Voiceover Cruise has hit a few waves of its own and we will be postponing this event until September 2009. Due to the VOICE 2008 event in L.A, we thought it best to plan this amazing event for next year. We apologize to those who registered and will either transfer your deposits for the next cruise, or give you a full refund.

You can still join Bob and Debbie at the event of the year in L.A. August 8-11th and work with them one on one.

VOICE 2008 - VoiceOver International Creative Experience

Join Debbie Munro as a featured presenter at VOICE 2008 in L.A. August 8-11th, 2008. This will be an event you don't want to miss! VOICE is intended to help you become a more effective performer, a more skilled communicator, and a more savvy business person by providing the training, tools and resources you need through education, technology and community, which in turn will help you and your clients be more successful. Meet Debbie in person at VOICE 2008. Visit www.voice-international.com for details and registration.

Promos

- Our 2008 Workshop Tour has started up and will be making its way across Canada and the US. Though US dates are not yet confirmed, we've been invited to several US locations, including The Big Apple itself – New York City. MIC & ME has been so well received everywhere we've been, so we're very excited. Check the workshop schedule for dates and locations of MIC & ME programs near you.

- Even though the new website is ready to go, there will still be lots of ongoing development to bring you more features and convenience, such as enhanced online workshop registrations, e-commerce services for online product purchases, and an online web conference portal for our Tele-Workshops. You'll also be able to set personal preferences for receiving newsletters and articles relevant to your interests, register for special events, and more. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to use our website to navigate the path along your voiceover journey ... to provide you with one-stop access to all your voiceover and acting needs. Visit the new ChantiProductions.com soon!

- If you'd like to attend Camrose, Alberta's Japanese Animethon, you will have the opportunity to meet Deb Munro in person. As special guest, Deb will be discussing character voicing and what it takes. Click here for more information.

- Help support Debbie's latest VO project "True Pulp Murder" by watching Global TV across Canada each Saturday night at 10:30 p.m. or Mystery TV Thurs/Sat. This is a great new series about actual murder investigations, narrated by a graphic novelist host (voiced by Deb Munro), featuring interviews with the actual investigators using a combination of real images, graphics and dramatization. Soon to be a top favorite. Click Here for more details.

- Deb is excited to announce that she has a new Vancouver VoiceOver Agent, Play Management. Choosing an agent is a very important part of the journey and you need to do what is right for you. Remember they are a part of your team. Find the one that will suit your needs best.

WorkShops

The MIC & ME Canada/US tour begins. We are in full swing and 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 allows all levels of performers to get maximum benefit from our programs. We'll be visiting many cities this year, starting with Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Toronto and Winnipeg - plus a special teen voice workshop in Vancouver in March. See page 3 for dates and locations.

Demo Production. We completed a host of new demos again this past month. It's very important you have the right director and engineer to produce your demo. Make sure they care about **you!** Our demos include: Prep and script development, recording session directed by Deb Munro, sound effects and music, two rounds of changes, and the final production delivered to you in the format of your choice. This is your most important voiceover investment. Make your demo stand out! Contact us for more details or to book a time. demos@debsvoice.com. See prices on page 3.

Virtual or TeleTraining. Constant training is one of the most important steps that you can take to maintain a steady income in this industry. Due to the advent of technology, you no longer have to travel great distances to take some of the top training available to you. Join us each month for our TeleVoice Workouts, or book private one-on-one time ... no matter where you live, or take a virtual workshop from the comfort of home. It's great to get in person training, but let's face it, that isn't always easy when you don't live near our studio. The beauty of audio is that we don't need to SEE you, we only need to hear your voice. A good coach can teach you so much, even if they're not standing right there with you. See page 3 for more workshop information and pricing. (Discounts are available for regular sessions).

Rodney Saulsberry Comes to Vancouver next year.. Due to a fabulous acting role, Rodney won't be coming to Vancouver this year. We are very excited to bring this amazing coach to Canada so we'll try again next year!

Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

If you're like me, or like most actors for that matter, you probably wonder sometimes whether you're really "getting it." I usually know when I'm "in the moment," but there's always that little voice that wonders if I'm the only one who likes it.

In the past year I've discovered that Voice123.com is a terrific way to get objective feedback about my work from the people who matter most - the producers who are hiring.

If you haven't tried it yet, consider joining Voice123.com. Aside from the prospect of getting hired for a job, it's a great way to get regular practice with a steady flow of fresh scripts while getting feedback about the quality of your work.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - HOW DO YOU RATE?

On an average day I record at least three to five auditions for projects I receive from Voice123.com. Frankly, it hasn't been a steady source of work, but I am gradually seeing better results from it as the months go by.

Their rating system allows voice seekers to give the talent a score from 1 to 5 stars. About a third to half of them actually do this, but enough of them to make it possible to realistically check in with yourself. It gives me an idea whether my take on my work is shared by others who have no stake in my ego.

This also has helped me identify the genres where my work seem to be strongest, and to figure out where I need to focus my improvement efforts. The annual subscription is a worthwhile investment for this reason alone ... and you have the chance to get paid work from the site, too. It's a double win!

Special Promos

- The upcoming Smart Cookies TV Series are on the hunt for real women and couples who would be interested in the opportunity of being part of the Smart Cookie movement and appearing on their show! Click here for details.
- Diane Costello Merritt, voice talent and founder of merrittmediaproductions.com has been animated. Diane landed a really cool gig in an animation. Congrats Diane!
- Julie Williams has an exciting opportunity for kids. Sunday Muses Cartoon Voices for kids March 16, 2008 Go to www.voice-overs.com for more information. Julie will also be a presenter at VOICE 2008.
- An incredible opportunity in Vancouver if you're a Film actor - Actor Action/Firearms for Film Workshop Feb. 16/17th. Knowing firearms is a great addition to your training. Click here for more details.
- The incredible William Holmes (one of Deb's favorite coaches/directors) is hosting a Workshop in NYC Feb 23rd. Contact Bill via the webstie www.compostproductions.com.

- Chanti editor and associate producer Eric Pollins starred last year as a wise-guy customer in a regional commercial for Alberta-based RentCharlie.com. You can see it now on YouTube by following this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFQhEl7rpsQ> And if it makes you laugh, feel free to rate it and forward it to friends.
- Congratulations to new student Angie Scandale of Victoria, B.C. She was bumped from an extra in the Feature Film "Travelling" to a speaking role and credits Deb Munro for her great coaching. Way to go Angie.
- F. Ed Knutson wants to let you know about his upcoming play in Las Vegas, Feb 18th. www.onyxtheatre.com/waterhen.htm
- More Ultimate Audition Workshops in Vancouver (includes 4 top film coaches and 4 top casting directors) www.marcbaur.com.



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](#)

Calgary - Feb. 9/10, 2008

*Edmonton- Feb. 16/17, 2008 **Sold Out***

Regina - Feb. 23/24, 2008

Toronto - March 8/9, 2008

Winnipeg- March 29/30, 2008 Near Sold Out

Vancouver - April 5/6, 2008 Filling Fast

\$395.00 (\$315.00 earlybird if paid 2 weeks prior)

One day option available

\$230.00 (\$210.00 earlybird) Prices include taxes

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 Virtual Workshop

Discover how to become a voice talent from the comfort of home. This unique 88-page workbook comes with an easy to follow CD-ROM VIRTUAL WORKSHOP, created and narrated by your coach Debbie Munro.

Discover what it takes to make it in the industry by purchasing CV1 and Debbie will also include a one hour **private** coaching session, in person or by phone, absolutely **FREE!** (Regularly \$105). This package would usually cost over \$375.00. Now only **\$210.00**.

MIC & ME Private Voice/Acting Sessions

Work with Deb Munro one on one. In person, or out of town by teledirection.

\$105.00 per hour (Student discount available)

MIC & ME Demo Production/Direction

In person, or out of town by 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)

\$790.00 Animation Demo (requires more work)

All Prices Include Taxes

TeleVoice 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 auditions (with Deb Munro's direction) giving you a better shot at landing the job. Join in each month for regular practice and direction. This will enhance any level. Maintain your skills! This will help you get to and stay at your peak of performance!

All this is for only **\$75.00** per 2 hour session.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Last Wed of each month (with exceptions)

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

June 25th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST

Sept 24th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST

Oct 29th, 2008 8-10 p.m EST

Making Waves - Voice Over Cruise

MIC & ME & BOB

Coming Fall 2009

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro Building Your Virtual Future

The past year and a half has been an amazing journey of growth, trials and celebrations. One of the most frustrating aspects of a voice's journey is the TECHNOLOGY. Get used to it, as technology needs to become your new best friend. I am very fortunate that I've been working on computers for many years and I have a good grasp of many programs and technical issues that can carry me through. But as I know very well, you can't be an expert in all areas or you'll run yourself thin in the area you're really best at. You need to prioritize. Lean the areas you can handle yourself and which areas you should be hiring the pros.

We are now into the third generation of the Chanti Productions website. Our first website was a fantastic cutting edge site designed by Dixon Christie at www.hypepublicity.com. It was an amazing site with all the bells and whistles. Hype was also the host. This means that I purchased the SPACE on the web through Hype Publicity. When I found a deal I couldn't refuse through www.godaddy.com I decided to change hosts and found that this became a severe challenge. I ended up losing an important database file as a result of the transition and losing all the really cool functionality I had enjoyed with Hype Publicity.

When we started down the road to re-brand Chanti's corporate identity, I cobbled together a temporary website from the remnants of the original, just to accomodate the basic web presence requirements. This "temporary" site, while perhaps better than nothing, has now been up for almost two 2 years! As Chanti Productions has grown, and the MIC & ME programs have become your number one stop for training and production needs, it is long over due for the site to have a professional overhaul. We've recieved great feedback from our temp site, as it's very easy to navigate, but it still has MANY technical problems.

For example, when you bookmark our site, it comes up as an "unknown" site. This is terrible for search engines and makes us hard to find. So, as much as I *thought* I knew about websites and posting, it wasn't enough to maintain the site at the calibre it needed to be. The moral? Hire the professionals. It's worth it. A great site to visit for logos and web development is sitepoint.com.

Now that we are re-branding and re-launching the website, all those old headaches will soon be gone. And as a result of our growing pains, there's a lot I can share with you now about building your own website.



VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Voices.Com has an incredible Voice resource for you to check out. [click here](#)

MarkBrandon- Vancouver Acting Coach [click here](#)

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

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

MarcBaur- Vancouver Acting Coach [click here](#)

BobbinsBlog VoiceOver Podcasts you might want to check out [click here](#)

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

These articles are worth reading!

The most important thing you can do to help your web designer is to lay out the site map in as much detail as possible. This will help them accomodate your needs, and they can help you decide where to modify your layout for better functionality. Pick a designer you can trust, and then ... let them do their job!

Find a way to bring out your personality in your website. Be unique. Use colors, images and information that conveys an image of who you are. Keep it professional, as this is what you represent. Here are some do's and don'ts:

- Pick a domain name everyone can spell without asking!
- Use images and audio to help move your site. People tire of reading a lot of text. You're a voice talent, use your voice!
- Only use your picture if necessary, i.e., you're a screen actor.
- Make it easy to find your demos on the home page.
- Have your contact information clear and easy to find.
- Have a strong logo, and signature phrase. Use them consistently in all your marketing products, including fonts.
- Offer a booking form to make it easy to hire you.

- Leave room to add links and expand your site as you grow.

There is so much more to know, but these tips should help you get off to an excellent start. Listen to our podcast for more by clicking here.

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

All our best,
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