

Happy Holidays

It's been extremely busy here at Mic n Me/Chanti headquarters. We are overwhelmed in fact and don't even know where to start.

Deb Munro was honored to have been chosen as the Voice Announcer for the 2009 Gemini Awards in Calgary, AB, Nov. 14th, 2009. This is one of the most prestigious jobs in Canada and she was honored to be a part of it. There are a couple of links to hear some excerpts from the show and her review. m.

For video/audio clips check out - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkMUP-ub2DE>

For a written review Deb wrote on her experience - [Click Here](#) (You may want to read this one)

Christmas is just around the corner and that means it's time to make your wish list. Perhaps we can be a part of your Christmas delights. Just let your family and friends know you'd like Mic n Me Money for Xmas. Purchase Mic n Me money in any denomination good towards any of our products and/or services.

Check out our website for our new package updates such as our Six Pack Package, one on one workshops customized to your needs, group workshops, products such as the CD Rom Workshop and The Voice Biz Handbook, demos and more. Order your Mic n Me Money certificates today. Gifts@MicnMe.com.

Mic n Me Events NOT to miss!

Deb Munro says Aloha - April 10/11th

Join us for a workshop getaway - Kaikea Mauka Studios, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the famed Mauna Kea mountains in Hawaii - April 17/18th, 2010. Two unique workshops - including several bonuses not offered in our regular courses. This is a unique workshop opportunity offering you a TON of value. Tons of mic time in an intimate environment. What more could you ask for. This is one adventure you don't want to miss. [Click here to learn more.....](#)

Register info on our website www.MicnMe.com

Feature Presenter at VOICE 2010

The long awaited VOICE Experience has finally arrived. Join Deb Munro and several top professionals for the industry event of 2010

Los Angeles - June 2-5th, 2010

A feature presenter again this year, Deb has attended all three VOICE events.

James Alburger, Penny Abshire and the entire VOICE team are going to put on event with impact. www.VOICE2010.com Register now! See you there!

Promos

- Augustina Anime Convention March 6/7th. Deb is thrilled to be speaking again for the 4 year in a row at the Augustina Anime Convention. If you're a fan of anime and will be in the Edmonton area, contact them to register. <http://japaneseanimationfestival.blogspot.com>

-L.A. Director -Tom Logan (one of my favorite mentors) is coming to Vancouver March 13/14th, 2010 to host his infamous on-camera commercial workshops. This unique film class is a must for your resume even if you're not pursuing film. Only \$295.00 for 3 incredible days with a director who tells it like it is. Contact me at - TomLogan@MicnMe.com

-We are well under way planning Voicelympics 2011. Those of you who were lucky enough to join us are anxiously awaiting distribution lists, pictures, videos and more, it's time to take a look. There is more to come <http://www.facebook.com/#/pages/Mic-N-Me/148259970769?ref=ts>

You may have noticed the www.voiceLympics.com website is no longer active so become a Mic n Me fan on our facebook group. Enjoy watching Bob Bergen...I mean Porky Pig karaoke style, workshop highlights, student interviews and so much more. You'll see how much fun you'll have on the 2nd Voicelympics Voyage 2011.

- Listen to our ChantiCast Xmas Greeting "Twas the Night Before Voicing" . Exec/Writer Deb Munro, Produced by Brent Halfyard, Narrated by Bob Noble/Deb Munro, additional voices - Brent Halfyard, Doug deNance, James Alburger, Penny Abshire, Seann Shaffer, Bobbin Beam, Paula Hoffman & Tom Edwards. [Click here](#)

- One of our students, James Higuchi stars in a terrific new Canadian series and you can be a part of the live studio audience. "May Contain Nuts" is a comedy worth watching. www.nutsonline.tv to learn more.

- Check out November's VoiceOver Insider Magazine. This incredible magazine put together by Julie Williams is packed full of info for the voice talent. <http://voice-overs.com/NOV09VOI.pdf>

- Look for Deb as a featured speaker on Voiceover Experts - [Click Here](#)

- Talent Rob Scigimpaglia is having an end of year legal sale on LLC's, writing of standard VO contracts, and a new service he is offering, and that is compliance with local zoning and licensing - [Click here](#)

- If you are awaiting the Creating Voices Workbook please let us know ASAP. They are finally in. Also if we owe you any outstanding invoices, let us know so we can get those to you for year end.

Where is Deb Going?



It's hard to keep up! Deb is at it again with another new Workshops line up. Join Deb Munro for another full year of incredible workshop opportunities and locations. She has put together two entirely new workshops just for you.

Auditioning Acrobats – the ins and outs of auditions (in person and online) - work for a full day on mastering auditions. Discover the clients point of view and tons of tips and techniques that will help you book the job. Participate in both an online style audition and In-person style audition, taking you through the entire process from beginning to end. Deb's previous casting experience gives her an incredible up-to-date insight on the audition process. Discover things you would have never thought of no matter your current level. Tons of mic time and a workshop that will make a difference.

The Voice Pitch – Creating your online marketing package. This is an incredibly unique workshop that will take you through the business of voiceover. This industry is 50-75% business and 25-25% talent. How business savvy are you? Deb Munro has put her career in her hands and she wants to teach you the ins and outs for the Voice Biz. This workshop will put you in the drivers seat of your career. If you're an experienced talent, this is a great opportunity to have your website, demo, pitch package and marketing skills critiqued and enhanced by Deb. Those of you knew to the industry will learn exactly what you need to do to make your career happen for you; from logos, websites, equipment, agents, online casting sites, coaches and more.

It's never been easier or more convenient to take a workshop. Check out our newest feature - Private Workshops at home or in person. Work for 3 two hour sessions - that's 6 hours for the price of 4. Customize a package that will work for you. Also check out the Private session options on the site. Tons of savings. Workshops - \$395.00 One hour Sessions - \$105.00/hr

See our website for more discounts and information. Dates and locations listed on page 3 of the newsletter. www.MicnMe.com

VO2GO Kit

Deb is so excited to share with you her newest studio compliments of George Whittam of Eldorado Recording Services and OutofHear.com. The VO2GO Don LaFontaine Studio is a gem you may just want to add to your collection.

George is a blessing to all of us in the Voice world. Having a tech engineer who really knows his stuff is extremely important. Not only can George help you from the comfort of home (phone/computer sessions), he can set up your studio from beginning to end. You can save yourself a ton of time and a ton of headaches by ordering all your equipment through his comprehensive website www.eldorec.com

Thanks to ERS - George Whittam

The VO2GO kit can be used as a travelling studio or a permanent studio if you want, but George has MANY options to help you make the best decision for your budget and recording needs. <http://eldorec.com/vo2go>

Check out our interview with George this month. Contact him and tell him we sent you. George will take great care of you.

[Click here to read the article](#)

We'd like to take this time to personally thank George, ERS and OutofHear.com for their incredible contribution to the Voice-Lympics Cruise.

We couldn't have done it without you

Speaking One Language - American

No matter where you live, you have a dialect. In this industry it's imperative that we have one common dialect so that we're all speaking the same language. Due to the quantity of work opportunity in the US, American dialect wins, but not just any American dialect. There still has to be one neutral accent. California is a great central state to follow. We typically cater to a Mid Western American Dialect.

Dialect has to do with pronunciation, pacing, vowels and rhythm and there is no one more effective to teach it to you than Andy Krieger. I recently had an interview with Andy and I wanted to share that with you.

EVERYONE OF YOU can benefit by working with **Andy Krieger** (unless of course you're lucky enough to have a neutral dialect). Whether you have a slight dialect, a strong accent or language barrier, Andy will transform you in as little as 3 hours. I've purchased many dialect courses and worked with other coaches, but Andy has a method that works.

Working with greats such as Jackie Chan and many celebrity actors, Andy Krieger truly cares about your results and will help you to create new habits that will impact your booking ratio.

Andy can work with you online via skype, in person or with his CD workshop set. His prices are incredible and his kindness is abundant.

Look for more on Andy Krieger at www.AndyKrieger.com

[Click here to listen to our Interview with Dialect Coach – Andy Krieger.](#)

[Click here to read the feature article written by Deb Munro](#)

If ever you're in doubt over an Americanism (as Deb calls them) or pronunciation the Miriam Webster website is an incredible resource.

www.m-w.com

Type in the word and she'll voice it back to you in a neutral American dialect. There are exceptions to every rule but this is a great start.

There is even a medical section to help you with those complex medical scripts.

WorkShops *Discount Prices Available with ad mention.*

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

NEW MIC n ME Workshops for 2010

Auditioning Acrobats & The Voice Ptich

Vancouver, B.C. - Jan. 30/31st, 2010

Los Angeles, CA - Feb. 6/7th, 2010

Calgary, AB - Feb. - 20/21st, 2010

Philadelphia, PA - March 22/23, 2010

New York, NY - March 27/28th, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii - April 17/18th, 2010

Orlando, FL - April 24/25th, 2010

Seattle, WA - May 1st/2nd

Regina, SK - TBD

Toronto, ON - TBD

Edmonton, AB - TBD

Full Weekend - \$395.00

One Day Only - \$250.00

Prices include taxes

\$100.00 non-refundable deposit required to register. We are starting to fill up very fast so early registration is becoming necessary.

Returning students are entitled to a \$50.00 discount until 2 weeks prior to class.

MIC m ME *The Voice Biz Handbook*
2nd edition - click here

This new and improved 50 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

We are in stock once again. Order yours today

MIC n ME *Private Voice/Acting*
Sessions/Workshops

\$105.00 per hour (Special pkgs available)

MIC n 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 and 3 Audio CD's, created and narrated by your coach Deb Munro.

Deb will also include a one hour follow up **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 n ME *Demo Production/Direction*

\$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 specific needs)

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 televoice 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. 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 maintain and advance your performance! All this is for only \$75.00 per 2 hour session.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Last Wed of each month (with exceptions)

See our site for our dates

www.MicnMe.com Click on TeleVoice Workshop

(All Dates are subject to change without written notice)

Tip of the Month by Deb Munro

Can You Survive a Slow Economy?

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With the economy in a flux times are proving difficult for many voice talent. I'm hearing of people wanting to throw in the towel. Doesn't sound like a good way to convince you that this is a great industry to join does it? I thought I would take it upon myself to give you my take on where the industry stands and what you might be able to do to make things happen.

With the shift in the economy we are seeing the biggest hit with union projects and this will trickle it's way down to affect all of our work. There are many reasons why, but the result is the same. We are hearing that very experienced talent are now auditioning for jobs they would have normally turned down, and who could blame them. What people seem to forget is that some of us are full time voice talent raising a family on this income and if the jobs aren't there, we have to do what it takes to find them, or find a new job. This is within reason of course. If you adhere to union guidelines, then it's important to remain true to it's values. This can be very difficult in a slow economy.

If you feel you are an experienced talent with great training and your booking ratio is decreasing, it could be due to the economy. Does this mean that you should quit the industry? Well if you're thinking you should then perhaps that is the best decision, but if you are talented and trained enough, you need to trust in the process that got you there to begin with.

Perhaps you're getting too comfortable and need to change up your game? Take more risks? Perhaps it's time to go back to self marketing and finding your own work (one of my personal training specialties). I can completely understand not wanting to go back to sales, but this is a changing industry and I warn EVERYONE involved not to forget that this is work.....don't get too comfortable. Clients change their mind, change their finances and change their employees. Are you as prepared as the new upcoming talent who may have less experience, but may be more trained, younger, fresher., adaptable and more eager than you? There is NO security in this industry. I don't say that to deter you....I say that to keep you in check.

We should ALWAYS be improving and staying current and always prepare for change.

VoiceBuzz Hear it from the experts

Gemini **Recap**- Lessons learned on an incredible experience - An article worth reading - [click here](#)

Happy **Holidays** - from the entire Mic n Me crew [Click Here](#)

Making the **Ugly Face** - by Deb Munro - [Click here](#) for the written article

Making the **Ugly Face** - by Deb Munro - [Click here](#) for the audio podcast

VoiceOver **Insider**- an incredible Voice Magazine packed with free info - [click here](#)

Voiceover**Xtra.com** - a comprehensive source for your voice over journey [click here](#)

These articles are worth reading!

This is an industry of passion, so doing it for the money makes it very difficult. Don't get me wrong, we need to make money, but you also need to hang on to the passion that got you here to begin with.

If you're newer and you feel your auditioning with minimal results, you need to look within YOU and not blame the rest of the world. You have the power to change it and only YOU have that power. Relying on agents and online casting sites may not be enough in today's economy. Even union members can still pitch non-union clients and convince them to go union with their projects. NO COMPANY is untouchable. Sales isn't something we want to do, but that's the industry your in.

If you believe in you enough, you can sell you. But you must first have a product that you absolutely believe in and can sell to anyone.

Stay strong. Love what you do, Do what makes you happy and the rest will ALWAYS fall into place (at least that's how I live). Remember you can't afford training, NONE of us can....but really ask yourself, can you afford not to? What if one workshop or one session makes a 100% turnaround on your booking ratio? Isn't it worth it?

On behalf of all of us here at Mic n Me and Chanti Productions, we'd like to wish you the best over the holiday season.

This is a slower time of year so this is a great time to spend with family and friends that may have been neglected while you focus on you!

We will see you all in the New Year. Happy Holidays Everyone!

All our best,
Chanti Studios / www.micnme.com
Deb Munro - Director / Debbie@micnme.com



Mic n Me

Voiceover Workshop Series

Voiceover Workshop Weekend

Kaikea Mauka Studios, overlooking the the famed Mauna Kea mountains.

Honolulu, Hawaii- April 17/18th 9-5 pm

Day 1 - Auditioning Acrobats

Work through the entire audition proecess

Online and In Person

Tips and Tricks to stand out

Q & A - plus special bonuses

Day 2 - The Voice Pitch

The cover letter

Voice Characteristics

Create or enhance your full market package

Websites/Demos

Making this work no matter your location

All sessions recorded and sent home for your review



Private/Demo services also available

*"I am a card carrying member of the Deb Munro fan club!
She's the real deal! There are only a handful of coaches
I recommend, and Deb is on the top of my list."*

Bob Bergen - Voice of Porky Pig/Tweety

Full Weekend Workshop

Cost: \$550

Mention this ad, get \$75.00 off

www.MicnMe.com

workshops@MicnMe.com

604-459-5559 or 780-718-4394



Your Award Winning Coach

Deb Munro

See the website for more info



An Interview with Tech GURU - George Whittam

By Deb Munro

Deb - *What is the VO2GO Studio Kit?*

George - A kit that contains everything you need to record while traveling, or even just for a simple home studio.

Deb - *What kind of packages do you offer?*

George - They are custom built to order. Check out <http://eldorec.com/vo2go-order-form/>

Deb - *What kind of equipment is in the kits?*

George - Everything you need to record, including mic, interface, computer, mic mount, headphones, cables, and instruction manual.

Deb - *Can anyone use this?*

George - Anyone who needs simple, quality system to record voiceover.

Deb - *What if you run on a MAC system, will this work for that too?*

George - Of course!

Deb - *How much will all this cost a talent? Of course each kit is customized, but what can a talent expect to pay (range)*

George - \$1000-\$4000

Deb - *Do you offer engineering services? If so, what services do you charge?*

George - I do not offer engineering services. I do provide technical services, design studios, consult, tech support, and training.

Deb - *What do you recommend to talent looking into buying studio equipment?*

George - There are many options. How can they make these decisions when there are so many options. Find someone you trust to help you make decisions. Use proven methods.

Deb - *What I love about you George is that you are a one stop location for all of us and you truly care about our results. Tell us a bit about you and how you got started into all this?*

George - *I'm a 1997 graduate of Virginia Tech <http://www.vt.edu> with a Bachelor's degree in Music and Audio Technology with a Minor in Communications. I went on to acquire considerable expertise in music recording by working with various musicians and artists in the Philadelphia area. I also gained broadcast engineering experience working at a radio station in Philadelphia as the remote engineer for the NFL Eagles Radio Network <http://www.philadelphiaeagles.com/gameday/RadioInformation.html>.*

I was introduced to the world of voice-overs through a producer at the station, Howard Parker <http://www.hpvo.com>, who asked the station's engineer to help him build a home studio in New York City. I came along to assist; I later followed Parker to Los Angeles and furthered his already diverse experience by working on over 15 film projects in 3 years as a sound mixer and boom operator.

From a handful of satisfied clients, I built a business that works solely with voice-over studios and clients. My extensive knowledge of computers, software, equipment, and troubleshooting abilities makes me a sought after expert and indispensable on-call technician. I am now globally considered a top authority in voice-over recording technology. I've invested thousands of hours researching studio design, recording equipment, and creating training materials for voice actors. In so doing, I've also become an industry innovator by developing specialized services that cater exclusively to voice-over professionals. Among my many successful clients are the late Don LaFontaine, Bill Ratner <http://www.billratner.com>, Joe Cipriano <http://joecipriano.com> and Scott Rummell <http://www.scottrummell.com>.

Deb - *I understand you worked very closely with the great Don LaFontaine. Sounds like you've had some great success stories. Is there anything special you can share with our audience about your time with Don? Perhaps you can share with us Don's favorite studio set up.*

George - *Don was a remarkable talent and human being. He told me once that he could talk through a tin can and the clients would use the recording. I don't know if that was a testament to the fact that he sounded great on any mic, or that they would take him any way they could. Naturally, we made sure he had the best signal chain possible. In his home studio he had a Manley Reference Cardioid mic, TubeTec MEC1a mic preamp, Telos Zephyr Xstream, an Allen & Heath Mix Wizard 20s console, Pro Tools HD1, and Gentner phone hybrid (which I never say him use). While traveling, his VO2GO consisted of a Sennheiser 416 mic, Mbox2 Mini, Sound Device MM1 mic preamp, JKudio Daptor2 phone patch, Source Connect Pro, Apple Macbook, Sony MDR-7506 headphones, and Canon ip90 printer, all in a Pelican 1510 case.*

Deb – *What's next in your venture?*

George - *Next for ERS is creating service and equipment packages that meet the needs of almost any voice actor. We're also deeply involved in designing a recording studio for the SAG Foundation, the Don LaFontaine Voiceover Lab, which we hope will be completed in February 2010.*

'Just the Voice Talent' – Selected Fame

By Deb Munro

Recently I was honored to be chosen as the Voice for the 2009 Gemini Awards, which was broadcast live from Calgary, Alberta on Nov 14.



This prestigious event - much like the Golden Globes - honors the Canadian Film and Television industry.

Following in the footsteps of one of my idols Randy Thomas - voice announcer for The Academy Awards - I was at a career high to have received this opportunity. It is truly one of the most honorable jobs to have as a Canadian voice talent, and it was a privilege to be chosen.

I learned many things on this live event, and believe they are worth sharing.

THIS HAPPENED TO BOB

For those who don't know, I'm a HUGE Bob Bergen fan. Bob is the voice of Porky Pig/Tweety and tons more. He's an incredible coach, mentor and human being. But what I love most about Bob is his willingness to share his experiences and stories.

One story in particular has always stood out to me. Bob was several of the animated characters for Space Jam, short of Bugs Bunny and perhaps a few more. What an incredible opportunity and a well-earned job!

But he was taken back when he discovered that he was NOT invited to the premiere, only the voice of Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny, saying they were 'Bigger Names' the other Looney Tunes. Voice of Daffy 'Dee Baker's wife very generously gave Bob her ticket.

The premiere was held at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. Bob, joined by Dee, were directed to an overflow theater down the street and were not allowed to see the film with the rest of the cast and celebrity attendees. Plus the overflow theater was half empty, so the entire cast could have been invited as there was plenty of room.

We were shocked to learn this.

After all, we as voice talent know how important the voice is to the production, so we assume that voice actors of Bob's stature are treated very well.

MY GEMINI EXPERIENCE

Now I've got a similar story, from my Gemini Awards experience.

Don't get me wrong. Just as Bob was - and still is - honored to have voiced so many of the characters in Space Jam, I too am honored to have been a part of the Gemini event. But I was extremely taken back to have lived Bob's reality.

When I arrived for the production, I was greeted by the production team and sent into the Green Room, where I introduced myself to a few of the celebrities there.

Then, within a half hour, I was whisked away to my private voice booth – in the FUSE BOX ROOM.

Not only was this room dingy with BARN-type doors and poor acoustics, but pipes with running water were making tons of dripping noises and, well, quite frankly, I was locked in this little hole NEVER to come out, except for lunch.

Lunch meant only a 30-minute break before dress rehearsals.

I was needed for ALL of the rehearsals, and of course, they ran late.

I kept inquiring when I'd have time to get ready for the event. No make-up and wardrobe for me, though. They save that for the real celebs. Despite my many pleas for time to slip into a \$300 outfit that I spent great care in selecting, I was given 30 minutes to get ready.

I knew that at 4:30 there was a cocktail party. So I suggested I'd like time to get ready to be able to attend the party.

The production office replied, "You need a ticket for that," and it was obvious I wasn't getting one.

So I quickly prepared my dress in the public washroom and we did our hair in the Green Room while everyone was schmoozing.

Then I was flagged down 15 minutes before my call time to rush to the voice room. So I ran out of free time, had no Red Carpet opportunity, and had no time to greet my guests, take pictures, etc.

I spent the remainder of the evening in that booth.

At the end of the production, they said they needed me to stay to make a final announcement as people were leaving the stadium. So I patiently waited and much time went by.

I pressed my talkback button and discovered that EVERYONE was gone! They had left me in the fuse box room for some time before realizing I was still there, and apparently, the announcement wasn't needed after all.



By the time I got out, all the celebs had left and there was NO time to get to know industry people who would potentially hire me based on the performance I gave. (Mind you, I wasn't thrilled with my live announcing, so perhaps that was a good thing.)

I also received NO recognition in the program, so there was no way to know who was doing the announcing unless you watched the program credits fly by at high speed.

This was all very disappointing, but I thought it would be okay since I could see many of these people at the "after party." Then, of course, I was to find out we were not invited to that either.

WE'RE 'JUST VOICE TALENT'?

So why do I share this with you?

First, I could finally relate to all I was warned about regarding being JUST THE VOICE TALENT.

This was eye-opening for me, and in some ways, was a great experience.

The one thing I've learned about Voice - compared to Film – actors, in general, is that voice talent are a bit more modest.

There isn't an air of arrogance in the voice community as strongly as we often see in the film community. Perhaps this is because of how little we are recognized visually.



Watching some of these Canadian celebrities thinking they were "too good for anyone" made me appreciate even more my role as a voice talent. This means no offense to the actors - it's the film community in general that decides its cliques.

I KNOW that they could not host a successful voice event without a great voice talent. It would change the show entirely.

I KNOW how valuable our job is to the industry. In fact it's the one job that's irreplaceable. They can animate for you visually, but they are not able to replicate the human voice - at least, not the emotions that go behind it.

PREFER 'SELECTED' FAME

I will use Nancy Cartwright as an example as to why voice artists have a much better life, no matter the treatment of the events.

Nancy, who is the voice of Bart Simpson, can still live a normal life. Consider a hypothetical stage shared by Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep, Dustin Hoffman and Nancy Cartwright ANYWHERE in the world. The audience would all want a piece of these celebrities – except for Nancy ... until she spoke in Bart's voice.

Nancy has what I call selected fame. And that's just where I want to be.

When you say you're an actor, you hear, "Oh, so you're unemployed" or "What restaurant do you work at?"

But when you say you're a voice talent, the usual response is, "What? What is that? Tell me more!" People are FASCINATED by what we do. It sparks up conversations wherever I go.

While I wish I could have been invited to the Gemini parties and allowed opportunities to be introduced more as the voice talent, and not been so hidden, I truly appreciate that I will always have anonymity, if I so chose to.

I discovered that I like where I am. I'm honored to be that hidden, mysterious voice, and I can pat myself on the back.

No longer am I that insecure on-camera actor looking for approval. I know where I am. I know what I've accomplished. I know I have tons to be proud of, and that's all the recognition I will ever need.

I hope that you will take part in this industry because you just absolutely love it, rather than looking for your moment of fame.

It's different in our VO world, and even though we could be more appreciated, WE ROCK! And don't ever forget it.

Thanks for listening. Love what you do, and the money will follow



Men vs. Women – Taking the Risk to Look Ugly

Out of curiosity, I've taken it upon myself to study the differences between men and women in voice over, especially in animation. Have you ever wondered why there are more men in animation than women? I know I have...so I set out on a journey to discover why.

I've had the privilege to be a Casting Director, Coach, Talent and Producer so I've watched many sessions/auditions enough to get a good idea as to why the odds seem to favor the men. Keep in mind this is just my opinion.

There are more reasons than what I've laid out, but let's start with the writers. I don't know this for a fact, but its probable (much like film) there are more male writers in animation than there are female. This counts for a good portion of the roles. Males will write more males roles, just as females would write more roles for females....why? Well my guess is that it's what they can relate to best. It's hard to relate to a gender you have no experience with, therefore people will write in their comfort zone. Of course there are many exceptions. There are animations out there that are heavily female oriented such as "Power Puff Girls", "Barbie" and the like. It's a good thing too, or we wouldn't be working much at all in animation.

Many of the animations include only one or two females; while there will be 5 or more males for every series. Did you know that there are only a handful of voice actors in an episode voicing multiple characters? In fact, depending on where you are based, you are required to do at least 2 characters as a part of your contract. It's much cheaper for the client to hire one talent to do a variety of characters, than to bring in multiple actors for each role, so this is why versatility is key.

Does that mean then that men are more versatile than women? Not at all! Women have just as many characters built inside them as men do. The key difference between women and men are risk. Of course this is just my opinion

and not everyone will agree, but the majority of men take far more risks than women.

Those of you who've taken a class with me have heard me say this before, "If it wasn't for a woman at some point in your life (a mom, sister, grandma or girlfriend), you men would be burping, farting, using poor manors etc., without any care". We judge you and request you be polite...because we think its right and lucky for us, you listen (most of you anyway).

Ladies, I don't mean to offend you, but most women are extremely judgmental and caddy. It usually sounds something like this, "Did you see what she was wearing? I wouldn't be caught dead in that" or "Did you hear about so and so...I hear she's been seeing someone else...her poor husband" etc. Women are very dramatic (I know the boys are agreeing right now but some of you may be saying, "I don't know Deb, I know some women who have no manners at all". You're right, there are exceptions to every rule, but I'm going by the stereotypes.



Boys, you're not off the hook here. You men are also judgmental of each other. It's called "EGO". The difference between ego and judgment in this case is that the women are judging looks and attitudes, while the "Ego" is all about worth. How much you make, what you own, what you do etc. So we each have "EGO" but in different ways.

Men go through more struggles than women in this industry, at least when they are choosing it to begin with. For example I know of SEVERAL men who are judged and ridiculed for becoming a voice talent or actor. They're supposed to get a "Real Job". They are supposed to be the breadwinner, not have fun for a living. Men are teased and tested beyond what women go through and if they're strong, they survive and are successful, but with much judgment and ridicule along the way, truly testing their ego.



Photo courtesy Tom Edwards www.demos4dummies

Women aren't tested in this way as much. Women are given more permission to take on risky jobs such as Voice...the problem is they don't take enough risks. Men are far more risk takers than women. Most women play it safe and the reason, fear of judgment. This is the killer for women in this industry.

I highly recommend talking to a studio, casting director or producer/director and request that you sit in on an animation being recorded. The best way to accomplish this is to volunteer to help out in the room. You could help get coffee, take notes or anything they may need. There are two reasons for this; first of all it's a foot in the door. What better way to get involved in animation than by watching it first hand so you can know if you're cut out for this type of industry. You will show the casting director that you are dedicated and hopefully earn some brownie points and help you to be top of mind. Top of mind is very important in today's aggressive marketplace.

Secondly this is one of the best educational tools you could ask for, to watch the pros in action and watch as both men and women take risks. I've done this several times and it's

always beneficial to me, no matter where I'm at in my career. As I would sit in these sessions, I would watch the men scream (in character), physically jump or fight, make tons of grunts and groans, spit water on themselves to create the realism of being under water (be very careful with this one) and so much more. The point is they take risk to look stupid.... this is what separates them from the amateurs and this is what many women are most afraid of.

I have sat in on animations both as a talent and as a guest and I've seen it many times.... the girl gets up to mic and she does a good job, but she plays it safe. She doesn't want to look stupid. Well ladies can I encourage you to put on your "Ugly Face" and quit judging yourself while you work! The first animation I voiced, "Benjamin Bluemchen" there was a talent by the name of "Maureen" who walked in one day to play the role of a crotchety nurse. She commanded the attention of the room just by her appearance. She was dressed in purple head to toe, short fun haircut, glasses and the funnest shoes to match. She really looked FUN to me. She had her own unique style and I admired it greatly.

She went up to the mic and put her hands high in the air before she even began. To be honest, I thought she looked silly at first.... but she later explained that she did this because she's very physical and she hits her clothes while she voices, making unwanted noises etc. She was SO animated when she voiced.... she was a big personality with a wild flare. She was a gift to watch. She wasn't worried about what anyone thought, she was there to have fun and make it her own and that's exactly what she did.

I didn't realize at the time but I was learning by watching her. She put on a funny face and became a brilliantly funny character each and every time and I believe we all admired her presence and her talent. This was an eye opener for me. I am not a judgmental person, so this helps a great deal, but I now put on the ugly face. Not only do you need the ugly face for animation but also in conversational deliveries. I can't type it out, but when I'm being sarcastic for example, I tuck my chin into my neck and make the ugliest face, but this brilliantly realistic read comes out. Obviously those that are perfect in every way and careful about what they say and how they say it are going to have a hard time with the ugly face.

Are you afraid of the ugly face? I hope after reading this that I can encourage you to stop judging and get out there and have some fun. After all that's what this industry is. Why do you think we like kids so much? Because they're not conditioned to judgment.... so reverse your process.

If I could I'd teach each and every one of you to stop judging each other (That includes ego boys). It's not up to you to decide what someone should wear, or how he or she should act or what they should do for a living...it's just not your place. The only person you have a right to judge is you and if you spend all your time judging yourself, you'll never truly let go. So quit judging and get out there and have some fun. Take the risk to look stupid, after all this is what the pros do best. We're kids at heart and we just want to play.... we're just darn lucky that it pays

Until next time everyone

All my best
Deb Munro
My Voice, Your Way!
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