

Taking a Holiday Voice Acting Style

I can't think of a better time to write an article about taking holidays, than while I'm attempting holidays myself. Meanwhile I'm planning the VoiceLympics cruise events, editing an Audio book, answering emails and writing this article. If you're like me, you live, eat and breathe this stuff. I read a great blog recently talking about portable studio options that you use for holidays. If you're a serious voice actor and working, you too have a traveling studio. As more people posted I was refreshed to know so many other voice talent "love their craft" as much as I do and deal with the same trials and tribulations.

So I propose the question, "Can you love what you do too much?" My answer to this question is "NO", however if you asked my family and friends, they would tell you otherwise. If my life only affected me that would make it easy to focus on what gives me such value. Working in the entertainment industry (whether voicing, directing or coaching) is more than a job or even a business. This is an artistic industry and only those who truly love it survive. This isn't an easy craft to take on because there is a huge learning curve and really there is no security.

One thing I've learned is that even the top talents have their ups and downs. The times when they too have to worry about the inevitable, paying the bills. The difference between an actor and a regular business person is that actors love what they do, despite the crappy pay in the first years of development; in fact many would do it for free. Business people work to live and pay bills, even though they might love what they do, they like that they can turn it off and take a holiday. Voice actors are just blessed that what we love what we do and it can pay the bills (if you work hard enough that is).

There are many struggles an actor must face in this industry. So most people wouldn't choose to struggle, yet we consistently find people choosing the arts. One contributor on the blog compared it to an artist who never truly leaves his canvas...what a fantastic analogy. Our work is everywhere we go, this is how we create our masterpiece....we learn by watching others and turning our experiences into our creative process.

But I digress. There is much to cover on this topic, but let's just keep it focused on taking holidays. It was fascinating to see commonality with all that contributed to the blog. We all seem live the same lives. We take a studio with us wherever we go and create our own recording studios; in the car camping, the hotel closet, or in the Cayman Islands, we find a way to please our clients, get our fix and pay our bills.

I've had a great deal of struggle in bringing my studio with me wherever I go. My family accepts it, but it's very hard for them to understand. Most people don't in fact. Not only do we LOVE what we do, but most of us can't afford to turn down jobs. Turning down one client, could mean 10 years of work. There is always someone at the ready to take on any project you are willing to turn down. There are MANY talented Voice artists and they are easy to find in today's incredible world of technology.



When I'm on a holiday (which is too rare these days) I try to get any voice or email jobs attended to by 12:00 noon. The family will usually go have breakfast or whatever they'd like and then I can join them in their festivities after that point. Sometimes even sooner, some days I don't need to work at all. It's a big hinder on their lives and I respect that and do feel that guilt, however I am content to do what I'm doing and if they weren't with me I wouldn't hesitate to voice a project. Not only because I truly enjoy it, but I will have made enough to pay for the holiday and it just makes sense.



Unlike most jobs, Voice Actors don't get paid holidays or days off. I realize there are many benefits when you are union but despite union status our projects don't take holidays. We are our product, which again makes us unique but keeps us in demand 24 hours a day. Our business is 100% dependent on us.

In some ways I suppose this goes back to who we are as a society.....always trying to get people to do it OUR way! I know that my work affects my time spent with family and friends, but truly it only affects me. It's me who chooses to work the way I do, so it's me that it affects. Why do people insist that it should be done one way or another? I'm doing it my way, and my way is working so far. I try very hard not to judge others and hope to ask for that in return.

I tried to take as much time off as humanly possible this summer while spending time with the family. I noticed however when there was down time, they would go for a nap or just hang with friends or just do nothing. In these times I found myself bored. I've learned that I don't do nothing well, so I would get up and clean, or craft, paint or do something. As I would do other activities I thought to myself, "Why can't I be working?" It just doesn't make sense to me. If I'm crafting that's okay, but if I'm working, I'm taking away from others.

We have an advantage that we are able to take our work with us wherever we go. This means we have the control of taking frequent time outs to do other activities on a daily basis that a regular business person may not have the luxury to enjoy. Some days our VO career is all consuming and other days minimal enough to go sit on the beach or participate in other things we love.

It's interesting, when someone has an addicting hobby, oh, I don't know, let's say a SPORTS FAN, and they spend every moment of free time they have on it, spend tons of money investing in it and in fact sacrifice nearly anything to be a part of it.....that is okay and sensible to most people, but when someone has that same kind of hobby but they've actually found a way to make it their living, the support just isn't the same, the understanding, not as clear.

Holidays are what YOU make of them not what others make for you. At the same time know your boundaries and how your schedule affects others. Make occasional sacrifices for their sake, and your peace of mind, but do what you love and enjoy life. After all it's only you who has to live it!

Until next time everyone
All my best
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