

Actor's Centre for Transformation VANCOUVER

www.ACTvancouver.ca

THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the students, friends, family members and supporters who made the Fall session a great start for ACT Vancouver. For years, the seeds of this school have been germinating. Today, we've got classes up and running for four separate age groups, terrific students who never cease to surprise and amaze us, experienced and dedicated instructors who work well together and constantly learn from one another and ACT Toronto, our franchise school opening in Toronto within the next few months. We couldn't be happier with our progress and all the thanks is due to you- our students and community supporters.

NEW CLASSES

2009 is shaping up to be a busy year. We will be initiating PHASE II of our DISCOVERY PROGRAM and FOCUS PROGRAM. We will also be opening up new PHASE I sections for the ACTOR'S PLAYGROUND series for the little ones, the DISCOVERY PROGRAM for pre-teens, ACTOR'S BRIDGE PROGRAM for our teenage actors as well as our FOCUS PROGRAM for adults.

The new schedule kicks in Sunday, February 6th, 2009 and it looks like this:

Saturdays

10am-1:00pm FOCUS I
1:30-2:30pm PLAYGROUND I
2:30-3:30pm DISCOVER I

Sundays:

4:00-5:00pm DISCOVER II
5:00-6:30pm ACTOR'S BRIDGE I, II
7:00-10:00pm FOCUS II

FROM THE SET

TV Movies and Their Heroines:

Our lead instructor, Patrick Sabongui recently completed filming a TV movie for Space Channel called *Merlin and the Book of Beasts*. It's a new legend from the time of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The story takes place twenty years after the fall of Camelot. An evil wizard now sits on the throne. King Arthur's daughter, Avlyn sets out with a small group of knights (including Tristan, played by Patrick) to restore Camelot to its former glory. First they must find the wizard Merlin and fight their way through mythical beasts and magical enemies. "I get to swing swords, ride horses and play a medieval knight- in other words I get to live out every kid's fantasy... I love my job!"

Fast forward to Baltimore in 2008 where Patrick's next project is set. This time, he plays the anti-hero: a belligerent cop who challenges the authority of the film's heroine. The film is called *High Noon* and is an adaptation of Nora Roberts' best-selling novel by the same name. "What is fascinating to me about these last two films," says Patrick, "is that they both feature strong female protagonists". In *Merlin* it was the Princess Knight Avlyn trying to regain her father's kingdom. The story of *High Noon* centers around Phoebe McNamara, a high-ranking hostage negotiator and single mother who, with the help of her Mom and close friends is able to set things right. "I think this says a lot about today's culture. I've got a daughter of my own, so I'm proud to be part of stories that depict strong, positive role models for young women".

Happy New Year!!!

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ACTING 2.0

There are nearly as many approaches to acting out there as there are actors. We've all heard of Shakespearean acting, "Method" acting, Meisner technique, Film Acting, Sit-Com style etc... We've also heard about those legendary acting teachers like Stanislavsky, Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler, Uta Hagen and so on... So which one do we, at ACT Vancouver work with? The answer is simple: a little bit of each of them.

Our philosophy is that each actor is unique, and our job as teachers is to help you channel your individuality into the performance. Our approach is to first set out a process for understanding a scene by using the G.O.T.E checklist (Goal, Others, Tactics and Expectation) to analyze the script. Once a character's goals, relationships, obstacles, actions and expectations are established, instructors call upon whatever tool will help the individual actor bring the character to life. We are trying to fuse methods, incorporating highlights of each acting technique, and trying to implement the next generation of acting theories. In a sense, we are exploring the newer versions of teaching acting that pick up where our teachers left off, hence "Acting 2.0".



All the
BEST
in 2009!!!

New Year, New Home?

We couldn't be happier with how 2008 has gone. We felt right at home working in the Ammara Dance Studio space. Downtown New Westminster is a great location for many of our students traveling from Delta, Surrey, Coquitlam and all those outlying areas.

Since we do share the space with several dance teachers who have held class in there for years, we have been wary of potential scheduling conflicts. In anticipation of this issue, we've been keeping an eye out for suitable alternative spaces in the area. We'll keep you posted, but it looks like we might need to move the classes into a new space sooner than later. If you're already enrolled, we'll be sure to confirm with each of you in writing, over the phone or in person. If you're thinking about enrolling in the session starting in February 2009, we'll let you know upon registration where our new home is. In either case, rest assured that it will be in the Downtown New Westminster area.



Ideas, questions or comments?

We'd love to hear from you. Whether you're in class with us now or are thinking about it- we'd love to hear your input. Send us an e-mail or call and let us know what's on your mind regarding our classes, the art of acting or the acting business. If your contribution can help illuminate an interesting topic we might share it in next month's newsletter!



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