

## MonthlyUpdate

It is with respect and admiration that we honor the celebration of life for Don LaFontaine. At the age of 68, we lost a dear friend of the industry. Known for his signature phrase "In a World..." Don has set the pace for generosity, skill, community and friendship. Don wrote a letter explaining his situation. He stated, "I do work from time to time, but my voice is nowhere close to where I need it to be." This is the section that gripped us most. Even in his state, Don continued to LOVE his career. This is a man that didn't need the money, but loved the job and the family that came with it. We are very blessed to love what we do and Don showed us how. Honor Don, by honoring you. He has created a family in all of us and we are forever grateful. We have included a dedication to Don in our VOICE BUZZ section on page 4. Here is Don's full letter; [click here](#). Our best to the LaFontaine family.

The good news this past month is, of course, the incredible experience that was shared by all who attended VOICE 2008 at the Hyatt Century Plaza in Los Angeles. Our most special thanks go to the amazing team that produced this event, headed by James Alburger and Penny Abshire. Nearly 18 months of planning and preparation resulted in an extraordinary event, featuring some of the most dedicated voice talents in the business. On behalf of all that attended we thank you for your hard work, dedication and the many opportunities for growth that you have shared with us. We'll be back again next time, and **you** should be there too ... don't miss it! The next VOICE event will be announced very soon, and you'll find all the details right here in Chanti News.

## ChantiPromos

### **Pat Fraley Coaches in Vancouver October 25 - 26**

Pat has created voices for over 4,000 characters, placing him among the top ten animation performers of all time. Most recently Pat directed and performed in the pilot for the animated series, *Origami Warriors* and voiced roles in feature films, *I Am Legend*, *College Road Trip*, and *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. Pat has received *Clios*, *Addys*, *Audies*, an *Emmy*, and the 2008 *Voiceway* Lifetime Achievement Award. He has taught vocal performance for 34 years and now has agreed to come to Vancouver, B.C. We are honored to host Pat Fraley for the opportunity of a lifetime. For more info on how to register [click here](#).

### **Mic 'n' Me - VoiceLympics Cruise**

*Mic 'n' Me 'n' Porky - Making Waves Voiceover Cruise* has evolved adding 3 more top coaches to its lineup, so we had to change the name! Still featuring special guest coach **Bob Bergen** (*Porky Pig*, *Tweety Bird*) and 2008 *Voiceway* award winner **Deb Munro**, now we've added WB promo and trailer casting director **Joyce Castellanos**, the fabulously talented **Julie Williams**, and the incredible talent and humor of director **Bill Holmes**. We'll set sail September 21 - 26, 2009 from beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia to Los Angeles, California with ports of call in Astoria, Oregon and San Francisco. It's a 5 day, 4 night adventure you'll never forget! In LA we'll meet **Susan Blu** and **Cynthia Songe**, two of the top animation talents and directors of our time. [Click here for more](#)

## Promos

• We completed our latest book, the new fully revised Second Edition of *The Voice Biz Handbook*, which is now ready to ship. As part of our ongoing branding overhaul we've created some cool new promotional posters, too. And you can now find us on **VOICEOVER UNIVERSE**, created by Rick Party. It's similar to Facebook, but designed specifically for the voiceover industry. If you're a working voice talent this is a site you need to join, and you'll be in great company when you do - the best of the best have already joined this great site that caters specifically to the voice industry. It's a fabulous resource, so take the time to check it out and join in. [Click here](#) to go directly to Voiceover Universe.

• As you may already know, **Chanti Productions** is the flagship company that houses all of our operations. **Chanti Productions** has three divisions: **Mic 'n' Me** is our voiceover education brand, **Chanti Studios** provides audio and video production services, and **Debbie Munro** is our resident talent. We're sporting a great new look this year, and we're continuing to improve our website to better serve you. Watch for new web upgrades coming soon!

• Debbie has been busy again with many new voice projects, including several commercials, narrations for Hype Publicity, ICOM, Huet Productions and more.

• We've been receiving rave reviews for our latest demos thanks to incredible talent, creative writing, solid direction and our exceptional engineers, Seann Shaffer and Dave Cockram. Congratulations this month on new demos by Jodi Krangle, Susan Sierra, Sarah Groundwater, and John Spackman. Great work! Listen to our latest demos at [www.micnme.com/demoproductions.html](http://www.micnme.com/demoproductions.html)

• Associate Producer Eric Pollins invites you to check out his new website at [www.ericpollins.com](http://www.ericpollins.com). Designed by Peg Gabor, the site features Eric's video clips, voice demos, and cool links.

• **Save Chanti News!** *If you are reading this, we need to hear from you or Chanti News may be discontinued.* [Click here](#) for our Chanti News discussion *Is it Worth It?* We know this newsletter is a valuable service, but it takes over 3 days of intense labor each month to produce it. We need to know how valuable it is to you, so we're asking for your comments and suggestions. Please send us your thoughts and join our **Facebook Mic 'n' Me Group**. [Click Here](#).



# CONGRATULATIONS

To the following VOICE 2008 attendees

## **1 Creating Voices CD-Rom Workshop**

*Valued at over \$210.00*

Sande Sherr also from New York

## **1 Voice Biz Handbook**

*Valued at over \$43.00*

Daria Dutzmann from Massachusetts

## **1 Mic n Me n Porky, Making Wavs VO Cruise**

*Valued at \$350.00 towards workshop fee*

Erik Sheppard from New York

## **1 Private Coaching Session with Deb Munro**

*Valued at over \$100.00*

Mike Laponis from California

*Thank you to the lovely Brandi & Melissa  
Munro for their help in drawing the winners.  
We will have another contest regarding  
our VoiceLympics Workshop Cruise, so  
keep watching*

[www.MicnMe.com](http://www.MicnMe.com)





# Workshops

Our fall schedule has been revised due to popular demand. We have had an extremely successful run this summer with our **Getting Loopy** ADR workshop. This fall we'll be bringing back our Industry-leading **VoiceOver Workout**, which caters to all levels of voice talent. We work on script analysis with on-mic practice sessions all day long. You'll get multiple mic sessions and tons of one on one direction. Work on commercials, narrations, dialogue and characters from a wide variety of scripts. All your sessions and director's notes are recorded and sent home with you for review. Also available online.

Don't miss this month's **TeleVoice Workout**. We are having tremendous success with each returning talent. Whether you want to improve your skills, work on current auditions, advance your training, or you're just beginning, each talent will receive equal instruction time all from the comfort of your home telephone. With the increase in gas prices, travel is not as accessible as it once was. Fortunately, in the voice industry, we only need to *hear* you. We have been successfully providing TeleVoice training for over two years with proven success. Can it get any easier than this? All this only for \$75.00 per session. Join us on September 30th or the last Wednesday of each month. Two session times are available, 2-4 p.m. or 8-10 p.m. EST, for maximum convenience.

The **Voice Biz Workshop** is the perfect supplement to the new **Voice Biz Handbook 2nd Edition**, and now is available online in two 4-hour sessions that you can attend from the comfort of home or anywhere with an Internet connection. Discover everything you need to know about the voiceover industry. Connect via Skype or telephone as we guide you through the essentials of demos, marketing, unions, equipment, and more ... and that's just *Session 1!* Then tune in for two more weeks of training with *Session 2, The Voice Mix*. Two 4-hour sessions that cover *Hooking up your studio and Editing 101*. Working along with your coach Deb Munro, she takes you step by step through the studio hookup process and options. Then you'll record and edit audio live via webcam and become an audio editor in no time flat! This crash course will save you endless hours of research, trial and error, and headaches. A more than \$450 value, now at a special introductory priced of only \$315 per person. See our schedule on page 3 for online dates and times, or join us for an onsite workshop at a location near you.

## Editor's Corner

By Eric Pollins

A few months ago I received an email from a subscriber asking to be removed from our workshop mailing list. His message said, "I'm a professional actor. I need more work, not more workshops." I removed him from our list as he asked, but I was saddened by his apparent inability to understand why he clearly wasn't getting the work he wanted. As I've said before in this column, it's a truism in this business that "Those who do the work get the work."

Last month I attended VOICE 2008 in Los Angeles and was privileged to meet and work with some of the most legendary voices in our business. While attending the various programs and workshops that were offered, I noticed that the most acclaimed talents who were there as speakers and presenters were also

### THE HIGH COST OF NOT TRAINING

attending as students in the courses and workshops put on by other presenters. In fact, these name brand talents were the most eager students in the room. They asked more questions, volunteered more, and were the ones who most actively sought to *learn*. This, in my opinion, is why they are name brand working talents - and why the gentleman who sent me that email I referred to is obviously not.

Ongoing learning is a critical component of all professions, and voice acting is no exception. If you want to work more, then train more. When you're not working, you should be training. Always. No matter how experienced we think we are. That level of commitment to our craft is what sets us apart as professionals.

The Mic 'n' Me Voiceover Workshops offer numerous cost-effective ongoing training options, including the TeleVoice Workout for as little as \$75 per month. Ongoing training is an investment that pays for itself. Invest in yourself. [Click here to check out our fall schedule.](#)

## Special Promos

- VOICE 2008 Recap Podcast - hear it from Deb herself [click here](#).
- Voiceovers on demand podcast coverage of VOICE 2008. This terrific podcast was put together by Terry Daniels and Trish Basanyi. Deb and Brandi Munro were one of the lucky ones interviewed. This was the first time Deb heard herself as Speedy Gonzales and is focusing on slowing down. She can sure get excited! [Click here to listen.](#)
- The legendary voice talent/actor Rodney Saulsberry has just released a new hit single. We couldn't wait to share it with you. [Click here.](#) Rodney is also hosting a commercial intensive workshop in LA Sept. 20th. 2008. Check out Rodney's site for more. [Click here.](#)
- Marc Cashman (coach/casting) would like to share an incredible voicing opportunity with you. Volunteer to read for the blind and visually-challenged. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Bobbin Beam is thinking ahead. Have you completed your TO DO list? This is a great time to get organized. [Click here for more.](#)
- Congratulations goes out to Glenn Howard of RainMakers Studio in Calgary. PBS booked him to voice their new podcast bumpers and 2 x 30 sec. national TV spots. Way to go Glenn. [Click here for more](#)
- Meghan Leach of Regina, SK would like to invite you to catch her at the Vancouver Fringe Festival - "Learning the Game". [Click here.](#)

- Producer/director extraordinaire Larry Raskin presents "Make Or Break" TV Series premieres Sept. 4th on TVTropolis. at 9:00 p.m. Way to go Larry.
- Talent - Jean Marc Berne shares his first monthly newsletter. [Click Here](#)
- L.A. Director Tom Logan comes to Canada. Deb Munro's favorite film mentor/coach is coming to Edmonton, AB Oct. 17, 18, 19th. Contact MaryLou Drachenberg at 780-460-4607 or drachenbergml@shaw.ca
- Colleen Wynia of Vancouver, B.C. wanted to share this exciting event free event Sept. 18th. Help improve the quality of your life. [Click here](#)
- The VoiceActing Academy, presents their Masters Class with coaches James Alburger & Penny Abshire. San Diego, CA, Sept. 19 - 21st [Click here](#)



# WorkShops

*Earlybird Prices Available. Various price options offered.*

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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. [Click here](#) or go to [www.micnme.com](http://www.micnme.com)**

## **Vancouver, British Columbia 2008**

**Sept 13** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All levels)

**Sept 14** The Voice Mix **VM**-Recording & Editing 101

**Oct 25-26 Special Event! Featuring Pat Fraley**

## **Calgary, Alberta 2008**

**Sept 20** Getting Loopy **GL**(ADR/Dubbing/Looping)

**Eve** The Voice Mix **VM** - Recording & Editing 101

**Sept 21** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All levels)

## **Edmonton, Alberta 2008**

**Sept 27** Getting Loopy **GL**(ADR/Dubbing/Looping)

**Eve** The Voice Mix **VM** - Recording & Editing 101

**Sept 28** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All levels)

## **Regina, Saskatchewan 2008**

**Oct 11** Getting Loopy **GL** (ADR/Dubbing/Looping)

**Eve** The Voice Mix **VM** - Recording & Editing 101

**Oct 12** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All Levels)

## **Red Deer, Alberta 2008**

**Nov 15** Getting Loopy **GL**(ADR/Dubbing/Looping)

**Eve** The Voice Mix **VM** - Recording & Editing 101

**Nov 16** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All Levels)

## **Winnipeg, Manitoba 2008**

**Nov 22** The Voice Biz **VB** - Business of the biz

**Nov 23** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All Levels)

## **Toronto, Ontario 2008**

**Dec 6** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All levels)

**Eve** The Voice Mix **VM** - Recording & Editing 101

**Dec 7** VoiceOver Workout **VW** (All levels)

## **Prices (earlybird prices in effect until 2 wks prior to class)**

Full Weekend (3 workshops) - \$475 (\$400 earlybird)

2 Workshops combined - \$395.00 (\$315.00 earlybird)

One Day Only - \$230.00 (\$210.00 earlybird)

Eve Only (4 hours)- \$125.00 (\$105 earlybird)

Prices include taxes

## **Special Online Workshop**

**Nov 2 & 9** The Voice Biz **VB** (4 hours each day)

**Dec 7 & 14** The Voice Mix **VM** (4 hours each day)

## **MIC & ME Private Voice & Film Acting Services**

\$105.00 per hour (Student discount available)

*Available in person or online or via telephone*

*All sessions recorded and uploaded for review*

## **TeleVoice Workout**

For All Levels [Click Here](#)

Economic and environmental concerns make studying from home a smart alternative. Directing yourself isn't easy and constant training is key to your success. We have the solution! TeleVoice workshop will do exactly as it suggests a full VO workout. Choose the scripts and genres that suit your goals. Use current auditions, giving you a better shot at landing the job. All sessions recorded for home review.

All levels encouraged

2 incredible hours only **\$75.00** per session.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Last Wed of each month (with exceptions)

**Sept 30th (TUES), 2008** 2-4 p.m. EST & 8-10 p.m EST

**Oct 29th, 2008** 2-4 p.m. EST & 8-10 p.m EST

**Nov 26th, 2008** 2-4 p.m. EST & 8-10 p.m EST

(All Dates are subject to change)

## **MIC & ME The Voice Biz Handbook 2nd Edition**

Only **\$43.00** [click here](#)

*Discover everything you need to know about the BIZ; equipment, demos, where to find work and more.*

## **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.

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**. [Click Here](#)

## **MIC & ME Demo Production/Direction** [Click here](#)

**\$105.00** per hour (Direction Only)

**\$315.00** Flat rate Direction/Editing (you do music/sfx)

**\$525.00** Flat rate Complete Demo, Full Production (prices the same for most genres, except Animation)

**\$790.00** Animation Demo **All Prices Include Taxes**



photo credit: swindlemagazine.com



This month I am honored to be one of the many contributors celebrating the life and legacy of Don LaFontaine. I thought I would share with you Don's letter describing the events surrounding his sudden passing and the incredible letters written by his loving wife Nita and his 3 beautiful daughters. We will also link you to the touching memorial websites posted in Don's honor.

The Chanti team would like to personally thank each of you for your kind words, prayers, support, kindness and generosity. It is our passion for this industry that pull us together in times of need. Don and his beautiful family needed us and we were there. His family and friends are forever grateful for all the wonderful words and gestures of kindness shown for their loving Father, friend and husband. Although the loss is grand, the family that has united in his honor is something Don would be very proud of.

Sadness is one emotion we don't want to face. Actors tend to express their emotions freely, so for many this a time of mourning. I am greatly saddened by Don's loss but admiration takes over. When I think of Don, I don't think of him gone, in fact he's more present now than ever before. Can you imagine loving what you do so much, becoming a great success and then discovering with each passing day that you are admired by all, that your talent is truly admired and respected? I think each of us want to be well received....to be respected and admired. This is a man who fulfilled his dreams and turned them into reality. You need to do the same in honor of DON!

## DonLaFontaine in loving memory

Don's **Letter** - The many letters written from Don, his wife and best friend Paul Pape [click here](#)

From **YOU** - Many of you sent well wishes so we have put them all together [click here](#)

Voiceover**Universe** - Thank you Rick Party for this amazing celebration of life [click here](#)

Voices.**com** - Stephanie Ciccareli wrote a beautiful tribute with amazing links [click here](#)

Voiceover**Xtra.com** - Thank you John for your coninued support and touching article [click here](#)

**K-Rock** - Morning show with Terry Evans - Don LaFontaine received overwhelming response [click here](#)

Bobbins **Blog** - Thank you Bobbin for keeping us updated and your loving words [click here](#)

**These links will take you through Don's journey - Truly incredible!**

One of my students wrote a very touching letter regarding Don. He said that it affected him more than he knew. He was very surprised as he didn't know the man, only admired him. One thing he said really caught my attention and I wanted to share it with you. He writes:

"When I look at Don, and listen to him, and how good he is, it just makes me think - you know - I can never see myself being even 1/100th as good as that. And then I'm annoyed at myself for not putting in as much effort as I should be in the down-time between our lessons and stuff."

My response to him was that he was comparing himself to one of the greatest voice talents of our time. Don has a voice and style that is admired by all, but I'm sure if you were to hear his first demo, learn of his struggles (as there were some), his efforts, his dedication, his creativity - he had a major hand in creating movie trailers, not just voicing them. If you were to hear everyones story, you would know that they too had to work very hard. I loved what Eric said in our Editor section...the top coaches attending VOICE 2008 were sitting in as students. Don set out and created the work himself instead of waiting for the work to come to him. That's exactly what we must do. Once you've put in the amount of years

and efforts that the top have put in, then you can start comparing to them. In the mean time, compare yourself only to YOU!

Don worked hard for what he created. We can do this too....one world....one voice.....one YOU.....and one DON! The world of voice isn't about competition, it's about individual success. Don't compare, find your own identity. Hard work, dedication and passion will get you great success, just as it did for Don!

With loving wishes to the LaFontaine family and friends  
Our hearts are with you at this time

Deb Munro - Director / [Deb@micnme.com](mailto:Deb@micnme.com)

Eric Pollins - Editor / [editor@micnme.com](mailto:editor@micnme.com)



Special thanks to Julie Williams for forwarding us Don's letter. Don explains his condition so eloquently and leaves us with a lasting message for all to hear. This may be hard to read after the fact but for those of you that want to know exactly what happened, it's all in here.

"I thought it was about time that I brought everybody up to speed with what's been happening in my world.

You haven't been hearing a lot from me lately, and that's because I have been fairly seriously ill for the last several months.

In order to give you the complete picture, I need to go back over some material of which many of you are already aware, but this thing needs to be seen in its full context.

Last fall, I began to notice that I was having trouble catching my breath during exercise. Subsequent tests revealed a suspicious growth on my lymph nodes and left lung. This required an exploratory surgery called a Media Stenotomy, which was performed At Cedars Sinai Hospital in late November of '07. The biopsy ultimately proved negative for any tumor, but there was a spot on the lung that still needed to be checked. Unfortunately, sometime during the operation, one of my lungs was nicked, and I developed Pneumothorax, which basically means that the lung collapsed, releasing all the air into my upper body, causing a condition called Subcutaneous Emphysema - Which blew me up like a balloon from the ribs up to my eyebrows. This happened three times over the next six days. The "cure" for this condition is to place chest tubes and small catheters under the skin to drain off the excess air.

Unfortunately, all that air also accumulated around my vocal cords, causing me to sound like an ambassador from Munchkinland. This condition, I was told, could last for a number of weeks.

We decided to put off a Bronchoscopy to determine the status of the spot on my lung until after the new year, by which time, my breathing had become even more labored.

Again, the test failed to reveal anything more than a few "suspicious" cells - but no cancer. I had also scheduled, months before, a standard Colonoscopy, which I had in January. This revealed a growth on my colon.

Are we having fun, yet?

So - I go back to Cedars to discuss laparoscopic surgery to get rid of that growth, after first undergoing CAT and PET scans. During my consultation with the surgeon, my Oncologist came in with another doctor to tell me that I had a tumor growing under my lung and threatening to encircle my Aortic Valve to my heart.

Suddenly, the surgery was put on hold, and I was scheduled for thirty-seven sessions of intense radiation and four sessions of Chemotherapy, which stretched over the next seven weeks. This included four blood transfusions.

During this time, the effects of the Subcutaneous Emphysema had worn off, and I was able to work

again.

After treatment, I was told that it was completely successful, and the growth had been completely eradicated! I was also told that the radiation therapy would continue to work in my system for a number of weeks.

Well, it did.

In rare cases - like mine - it spreads into the lungs and causes a very persistent condition called radiation pneumonitis. This reduces the lungs capacity to about a quarter, making it almost impossible to walk ten paces without having to stop for air.

The treatment for this condition is massive doses of steroids, which balloons the face and body, and it also settles on the vocal cords in a major way, creating a good deal of gravel and hoarseness. In short - it has brought my career to a near stand-still.

Steroids can also have a major effect on one's heart rate, and blood sugar count - each of which sent me back to Cedars on two separate occasions for four and three day stays within a week of each other. Because of the blood sugar influence, I now have a temporary form of diabetes, and need to take insulin.

This condition will pass as soon as I get the pneumonitis under control, but it's a balancing act between doses of steroids and insulin.

As I mentioned earlier, this lung thing is incredibly resistant, and to this date, I am still looking for some improvement.

I do work from time to time, but my voice is nowhere close to where I need it to be. Fortunately, I have incredibly faithful friends and clients who have shown me what loyalty really means by working with me, even in my diminished capacity.

I am now recovering from the recovery. When this is cleared up, I still am facing the laparoscopic stomach surgery, but that will be a cakewalk.

But the real point of all this is the Genesis of the condition. I was a smoker, on and off, for thirty years. I quit nearly twenty years ago, but that crap has a tendency to lie doggo in your system. It finally caught up with me, and as you've just read - it ain't pretty. For those of you who are in the Voice Over business, and you think that smoking is adding some wonderful quality to your instrument - WAKE UP! Quit! Today! Whoever you are - if you smoke - Stop! All you are adding is garbage to your vocal cords, and a nice deep layer of tar and poison on the linings of your lungs.

I tell you all this, because I need to clear the air, because there has been a lot of speculation out there, and because it should serve as a cautionary tale. Even though the growth on my lungs has been erased, there are still a few miles to go before I'm back to 100%. "

-Don



Want to get terrific practice on your voice-over skills and do something great at the same time?

Volunteer to read for the blind and visually-challenged.

AIRS L.A. has been doing this for years, and now it's easy to do if you have a home studio. Here's are some messages from Ed Fallin, the Director of AIRS L.A.:

*Hello, All, It has been suggested that AIRS-LA begin producing short daily podcasts.*

### *Why Have Short Daily Podcasts?*

- *Daily podcasts can bring many listeners to AIRS-LA on a continual basis, thereby making AIRS-LA more relevant, more "alive," and drawing the attention of regular listeners to other new podcasts as they are added to the site.*
- *Short podcasts are a minimal burden on volunteers. Words associated with this concept are "quick" and "easy."*
- *Short means 5 to 10 minutes. Longer is permissible but not sought.*

### *Who Will Do the Podcasts?*

- *It is believed that AIRS-LA has a resource that is not being used to its fullest. This resource is the estimated dozen or more volunteers who have their own recording equipment and studio and who have the time, energy, and desire to do more AIRS-LA podcasting than they are currently doing.*
- *Each volunteer will do a single day per week. (This is flexible.) Thus, each volunteer will do only one 5-minute or 10-minute podcast per week. (The duration of each podcast can vary, depending on the material, and can be shorter or longer than the nominal 5 or 10 minutes. For example, a Wednesday podcast might be 7 minutes long one week and 11 minutes long the next week. Thursday's podcast might be 8 minutes.)*
- *As mentioned, the podcasts will be quick and easy to prepare.*

### *What Subject(s) Will the Podcasts Cover?*

- *This important question must be answered before a group of volunteers to record the podcasts can be assembled.*
- *It is requested that each recipient of this e-mail submit his or her suggestions for podcast material. (Some of you will not. You will be quickly forgiven [probably].)*
- *Podcast material must be of broad interest and of a type not easily found on other media. Still, the volunteer must be able to find his or her material easily and quickly. The volunteer is not expected to write any material. Politics? Economics? Hollywood gossip? Movie reviews? Editorials? Commentary? Other?*



- *Daily podcasts most likely will rely on daily publications. These might be newspapers or blogs or other daily sources.*
- *There may be copyright issues to address.*
- *The podcasts will be quick and easy to prepare.*

### *A Day in the Life*

*A volunteer goes to the web site or publication that has the day's material. He or she quickly reviews the material for suitability. The volunteer then records and edits the material. The volunteer then sends the recording (probably an MP3 made through Audacity) to a designated destination. The volunteer then begins a cup of coffee and turns on the television -- or does something of equal or greater pleasure. All in all, the podcast takes anywhere from an estimated 30 minutes to an hour from start to finish. The volunteer is then done for a week! It was quick and easy!*

### *More Thoughts*

- *It is possible to record directly from a web page without having to print anything. One brings Audacity up on top of the web page and adjusts its location on the monitor screen to facilitate recording. That's what Windows is all about!*
- *Both local volunteers -- those close to the studio -- and distant volunteers -- those in all parts of this country and the world -- can participate in this effort. Imagine, for example, commentary from a London newspaper!*
- *Daily podcasts are supposed to be quick and easy to prepare.*

### *Final Word (and Plea)*

*We really, really, really, really need to choose one or more good subjects to be covered in daily podcasts. Please submit your suggestion(s) to the writer.*

*I almost forgot to mention: Production of daily podcasts is intended to be quick and easy.*

*Ed Fallin*

*Hello, All! This seems like a good time to see how many readers there are who are eager to participate in making short daily podcasts for AIRS-LA.*

*To refresh everyone's memory, here's a description of what a typical volunteer does for a short daily podcast: The volunteer records and edits a podcast of between 5 and 10 minutes' duration (it can be longer). This is done by 10 AM. The volunteer sends the podcast to a destination that gets it onto the AIRS-LA web site. The volunteer is then done for the rest of the week, since only a single podcast per volunteer per week is planned! It is estimated that making such a podcast will require between half an hour and an hour.*

*There are some important details:*

- *The volunteer must have, or must have ready access to, recording equipment and a quiet place for recording. The volunteer will not record at the studio but will, instead, record wherever the "quiet place" exists. This will, in most cases, be in his or her home.*
- *Podcast subject matter is currently undecided. There may be a single theme or a new theme every day, repeated week after week.*
- *The volunteer must have time to commit to his or her podcast for the foreseeable future and must be eager to do it.*
- *Repeating for emphasis: Each volunteer will be responsible for only one podcast per week.*
- *Volunteers do not need to be within easy driving distance of the Tarzana studio. He or she can be virtually anywhere as long as podcast material (such as from a newspaper web site) is available, as well as suitable recording equipment and a quiet environment.*

### What You Should Do

*If you'd like to be one of our corps of short daily podcasters, let the writer know as soon as possible. If you know of someone who is not currently an AIRS-LA volunteer but would possibly like to participate, let that person know about this opportunity and urge him or her to contact the writer.*

*Thank you!*

*Ed Fallin*

If you're interested in volunteering a bit of your time, go to [www.airsla.org](http://www.airsla.org) for info, or contact Ed at [Falliniii@aol.com](mailto:Falliniii@aol.com), or call him at AIRS L.A.: 818-705-6434. And tell him I referred you!

Sincerely,  
Marc Cashman  
[cashcomm@earthlink.net](mailto:cashcomm@earthlink.net)  
661-222-9300  
[www.cashmancommercials.com](http://www.cashmancommercials.com)



## Talent Takes

Hey Deb -

Things with me have been very good - no complaints whatsoever. Voice work is going well and now that I'm being rep'd on both coasts, the number of opportunities / auditions has nearly doubled. So far this year, I've had some excellent gigs through VOPlanet, IBE as well as through VoicesOnlineNow.

Awesome news... earlier this month, PBS booked me to voice their new podcast bumpers. Two hours later, another producer at PBS called saying they wanted to book me for 2 x 30 sec. national TV spots. YIPPEE!!!

My goal for this/next year is to be booked on at least two decent VO gigs every day of the week. I think it's very do-able so long as I keep myself "out there" and keep developing.

Yes, glad to say I did join VO Universe. Thanks for the reminder! : )) It's a great resource and I plan to check-in often.

All my best to you too, Deb. Take care and I'm sure we'll be chatting again soon : )

Glenn

**therainmakers** music, voice + sound design

**tel.** 403. 264. 7400

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**email.** [rainmakerstudios@telusplanet.net](mailto:rainmakerstudios@telusplanet.net)

**web.** [www.rainmakersmusicandpost.com](http://www.rainmakersmusicandpost.com)



Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

For more info contact:  
Megan Leach: (306) 533-4074  
Ice Time Theatre Collective  
Regina, SK  
[megan.leach.22@gmail.com](mailto:megan.leach.22@gmail.com)  
[www.meganleach.com](http://www.meganleach.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Playing in the 2008 Vancouver Fringe Festival, the Ice Time Theatre Collective Presents the "FRINGE ROOKIE". . .*

*Megan Leach in "Learning the Game"*



*Life on the Edge*

Meet Lanni, teenage female hockey player with a secret - she has a learning disability. On the ice Lanni is cool, calm and in control, but when she steps into the classroom, Number 23 just can't keep up. Will her secret get out? In this new 55-minute one-woman comedy, Lanni shares jokes, tears, and her experiences exploring hockey as a metaphor for life. Fun, physical, sharp and uplifting, "*Learning the Game*" plays out one girl's life on the edge, asking audiences across Canada how they connect to the world.

Directed by Five-Star, One-Man Fringe Veteran, John D. Huston ("*Wooster Sauce*", "*Under the Lintel*", "*Shylock*", "*Kind Hearts and Coronets*.") Written by Saskatoon playwright/hockey mom Janice Salkeld, join Saskatchewan actress/athlete, "Fringe Rookie," Megan Leach, ("*Just So*" - *Globe Theatre*), ("*Maggie's Getting Married*" - *Moose Jaw Repertory*), in a six-character, one-woman comedy, where life is as unpredictable as a hockey game – at the disadvantage.

"Sharp humour, explosive physicality, and a singing voice that will knock your hockey socks off, Megan Leach and the six characters she portrays (*Lanni*, *Ms. M.*, *Ms. W.*, *Mr. Rasnik*, *Beige Beth*, *Oppositional Hockey Player*) will leave a lasting impression." (*Regina Fringe*)

"The show has much to offer older kids and adults about how children with learning disabilities are, in the end, just regular kids." (*CBC, Winnipeg Fringe*)

"Engaging and fun for all ages. A worthwhile adventure." (*Saskatoon Star Phoenix*)

*Learning the Game* played in a successful thirty-show Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC) school-tour in Saskatchewan schools March/April 2008 and will make it's fifth and final stop in Vancouver, while on a five-city Western Canadian, Fringe Festival tour. Please join us!

## **WHERE?**

**Playwright's Theatre Centre, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC.**

**#201 - 1398 Cartwright Street**

## **WHEN?**

**Opening:** Fri. - Sept. 5th at 5pm  
Sun. -Sept.7th, at 8:15pm  
Mon.- Sept. 8th at 5:30pm  
Weds. - Sept. 10th at 10:30pm  
Sat. - Sept. 13th at 3:30pm

**Closing:** Sun. - Sept 14th at 8:15pm

## **COST?**

**General Admission:** \$10.00-\$14.00 – Discount passes available

**Tickets on the Web:** [www.vancouverfringe.com](http://www.vancouverfringe.com)

**Tickets in Person:** FRINGE BOX OFFICE,

**1494 OLD BRIDGE ROAD, GRANVILLE ISLAND**

*Festival Programs available at BLENZ, COMMUNITY CENTERS and PUBLIC LIBRARIES.*

## **HOW TO PREPARE?**

Check out [www.meganleach.com](http://www.meganleach.com). An interactive website with video-teasers, articles, photos, and audience reviews. Click on MY BLOG and WHAT'S SHAKIN. See reviews from ALL AGES . . . oh, and wear your favourite jersey.

"She really portrayed how a lot of us act nowadays!" Keziah Duga (*Saskatchewan school tour patron*)

"If you love Canada's national game and/or delight in watching a charismatic new actor, don't miss "*Learning the Game.*" (*Winnipeg Fringe*)

Megan and her team, *The Ice Time Theatre Collective*, are strong believers that the play of theatre and sport stimulate emotion and innovation and in the larger picture can create change. Fans and critics agree Lanni's story is universal because it speaks to the challenges of figuring out who you are and how you fit into the world.

**Please invite family, friends, community groups, teammates, theatre groups, youth groups, bands, media personality, and ANYONE you think would enjoy the "Good Ol' Hockey Game" from a new perspective.**

**PUCK DROPS, Friday, SEPT. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5PM – PLAY ON MY FRIENDS!**







Hi Folks,

Welcome to the first edition of the B-ME Newsletter, bringing you updates from Berne Media Enterprises – your home for Voice Overs, Songwriting, Translations, and a Whole Lot More...

I'm inviting all of you to check out my profile and full list of services:

- Voice Overs (English, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole)
- On Camera Acting
- Songwriting, Jingles (English, Spanish, French)
- Characterization, Cartoon Voices
- Looping
- Modeling
- Translations (English, Spanish, French and Finnish)
- Copy Editing, Proofreading (English, Spanish, French and Finnish)
- Copywriting (English, Spanish, French)

It's been an amazing couple of months... Here's what's been cookin':

- I landed a National Radio spot as the voice of a Dominican baseball pitcher for Western Union! My voice is being heard in all Hispanic markets in the U.S...
- I recorded a National Radio spot for the National Fair Housing Alliance, playing the role of "Latino Man." I also had the great pleasure to work alongside fellow VO talent David Dartley, who also did an amazing job. Besides getting paid for what I love doing, I think my greatest reward was to share in this experience with a fellow VO colleague. You can hear the spot by clicking on the following link:  
<http://aricherlife.org/downloads.html>
- I recorded several spots for HOLA (Hispanic Organization for Latin Actors), including a testimonial for the Lee Strasberg Technique Workshop, a promotion for a fundraiser for HOLA, and an announcement for the Friends of HOLA Program. You can listen to my latest recording by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.hellohola.org/fohola/fohola1.html>
- I translated the script for the TV Pilot "Famous In Vegas" into Spanish... Hopefully the show will get picked up by one of the networks!
- I am happy to report that I have my first repeat client, TK Digital, who's hired me to record several Spanish Voice Over projects for a major family-oriented game company.
- We've gone international! I was booked by Braahmam, a company in India to record a French African Voice Over for an e-learning program. My voice was set to the cartoon of a professor who is teaching the basics of how to use a computer in the course called, "Nous Maitrisons L'Ordinateur".
- Hopping over the U.S. Northern border, I was selected by China Syndrome, a production company based in Toronto to record a medical narration in French called "Souffles Cardiaques." It was an amazing feeling to have the client on a conference call while I recorded from my home studio... Gotta love it!
- I was recently interviewed by HOLA... you can watch the interview by clicking the following link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9Z014W43PU>
- I just completed my Character Voices Demo! You can listen to it on my Voice123 or Nextcat pages included at the bottom of the newsletter...

- And last but not least, I was in an educational video shoot last week for Channing Bete/Motion Inc. in Simsbury, CT, playing the role of the father of a 10-year-old boy who's being bullied at school. I had an awesome time being in front of the camera... Also, it made it so much easier that the whole cast and crew was exceptionally nice.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- Manuel Herrera for teaching all his amazing techniques for Spanish Voice Overs, and for recommending me to Wendy Curiel.
- Wendy Curiel, who sent me out to audition for the Western Union gig... and I booked it! She's also been sending me out on a regular basis...
- Ingrid French, who sent me out to audition for National Fair Housing Alliance, and who's been sending me on auditions on a fairly regular basis.
- HOLA, who have been instrumental with all their wonderful workshops, including:
  - o Manuel Herrera's Spanish Voice Overs Workshop.
  - o The Lee Strasberg Technique, with Mauricio Bustamante.
  - o The Mental Game of Auditioning, with Herman Chaves.
  - o Business of the Business, with Wendy Curiel.
- TK Digital, for becoming my first repeat client! It's been a real pleasure working with them, and I look forward to maintaining a long, and wonderful business relationship...
- Tom Dheere, for recommending Voices.com as one of the sites where I should put up my Voice demos... That is how Braahmam discovered me and hired me... all the way from India!
- Braahmam, for taking a chance on me and selecting my voice for their e-learning program.
- Paquito Hernaci, one of my Nextcat contacts, who recommended me to China Syndrome for their French medical narration. Merci, Paco!
- Pamela Lewis for her amazing coaching and for getting the best out of me for my Character Voices Demo.
- Jen Duckworth for her great patience and for having the magic touch in engineering my Character Voices Demo.
- Tom Falcone, for your time, your great advice, and all the music and sound effects that I used on my Character Voices Demo.
- Mauricio Bustamante, for teaching me some wonderful acting techniques to get more easily into character for Theater and Film.
- Luis Lopez, for thinking of me for the translation of "Famous In Vegas."
- Sam Riddle, for hiring me for the translation of "Famous in Vegas."
- Herman Chaves, for demystifying the Hollywood hype and for raising my level of confidence in front of the camera.
- Doris Silk, for casting me as the father in the educational video shoot.
- HOLA again... for releasing the casting notice for the educational video shoot where I played the role of the father... Muchas gracias!

\* For more info about HOLA, please check out their site at: [www.hellohola.org](http://www.hellohola.org)

**TIP OF THE MONTH:** Dream big, plan big, but also plan small... By this, I mean: set several mini-goals that will lead you to your big goal...

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** I am living my dream. I am making a living as a creative person and I am ecstatic! How about you? Are you living your dream? What mini-goals can you set for yourself to reach the big goal of accomplishing your dream?

Until next time, stay tuned for the next edition of the B-ME Newsletter... Thanks!

May 'The Voice' Be With You,

Jean-Marc Berne  
President/Talent, Berne Media Enterprises  
914-420-3022 Mobile  
[jbuitar2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jbuitar2001@yahoo.com)

Please check out my Voice Over Demos, Music and Profile at:

<http://jeanmarcberne.voice123.com>  
<http://www.nextcat.com/jeanmarcberne>  
<http://resumes.actorsaccess.com/jeanmarcberne>  
<http://www.hellohola.org/hp5-resume.php?recordID=1207015>

**Berne Media Enterprises. Voice Overs, Songwriting and a Whole Lot More...**





Hello Friends

HeartLink Consulting specializes in helping improve the Quality of Your Life. *We are Expanding our Client Services!*

**YOU ARE INVITED to attend a FREE Informational Seminar hosted by Colleen Wynia to learn more.**

Date: **Thursday, September 18, 2008**  
Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Location: **Delbrook RecCentre - North Building - near the Parking Lot  
Cedar Room  
600 West Queens Rd  
North Vancouver, BC, V7N 2L3  
604-987-7529**

Here is a link to google map: <http://maps.google.ca/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

**Please R.S.V.P. Colleen at 604-984-6202** and invite Guests you think will Benefit. You will enjoy some refreshments too!

Learn more about *HeartLink Consulting* below and see us featured on Page 2 of the September 2008 Raven Woods Market Report (attached file) by **Tazmeen Woodall** of **Re/Max Crest Realty**: [www.tazmeenwoodall.com](http://www.tazmeenwoodall.com). Tazmeen is fabulous and specializes in the Purchase & Sale of Strata Properties.

To Your Health & Abundance  
Colleen Wynia

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Do You Want to Improve Your *Health* or Enjoy More *Wealth*?

**Are you:**

- Experiencing physical pain or discomfort?
- Suffering from chronic fatigue?
- Feeling disconnected due to personal loss?
  
- Worth more than you are earning?
- Earning \$ while you are sleeping?
- Craving Freedom?

Colleen Wynia of [www.HeartLinkConsulting.com](http://www.HeartLinkConsulting.com) has extensive experience helping people find solutions to improve their Quality of Life! Colleen will assist you to Realize Your *Health* or *Wealth* goals FASTER than you ever could yourself!

Schedule your **FREE interview today!** Call **604-984-6202**

In addition, Colleen represents the *#1 Anti-Oxidant FOOD in the World*, to assist in improving your health concerns. For more information, please visit: [www.HeartLinkConsulting.com](http://www.HeartLinkConsulting.com) .

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*Colleen Wynia*  
**HeartLink Consulting**

604.984.6202

[www.HeartLinkConsulting.com](http://www.HeartLinkConsulting.com)

[www.ColleenWynia.MyMangosteen.com](http://www.ColleenWynia.MyMangosteen.com)

[www.XanthoneEducation.com](http://www.XanthoneEducation.com) - Research studies!

"Thank you for always being so incredibly open and intuitive. You have an amazing ability to be able to see my journey and where I am at in this moment as well as in the bigger picture and I *know* that you always have my best at the forefront of your heart and mind. The work you do is amazing - the level of care you consistently have shown me is above and beyond anything I have felt from other practitioners, and I thank you for that so much as well."

- **Fiona S.**



*We've included some of the correspondence we sent out in our mid-month promo. We will share with you Don's letter explaining his condition and Don's best friend Paul Pape as he breaks the news to the world*

Special thanks to Julie Williams for forwarding us Don's letter. Don explains his condition so eloquently and leaves us with a lasting message for all to hear. This may be hard to read after the fact but for those of you that want to know exactly what happened, it's all in here.

"I thought it was about time that I brought everybody up to speed with what's been happening in my world.

You haven't been hearing a lot from me lately, and that's because I have been fairly seriously ill for the last several months.

In order to give you the complete picture, I need to go back over some material of which many of you are already aware, but this thing needs to be seen in its full context.

Last fall, I began to notice that I was having trouble catching my breath during exercise. Subsequent tests revealed a suspicious growth on my lymph nodes and left lung. This required an exploratory surgery called a Media Stenotomy, which was performed At Cedars Sinai Hospital in late November of '07. The biopsy ultimately proved negative for any tumor, but there was a spot on the lung that still needed to be checked. Unfortunately, sometime during the operation, one of my lungs was nicked, and I developed Pneumothorax, which basically means that the lung collapsed, releasing all the air into my upper body, causing a condition called Subcutaneous Emphysema - Which blew me up like a balloon from the ribs up to my eyebrows. This happened three times over the next six days. The "cure" for this condition is to place chest tubes and small catheters under the skin to drain off the excess air.

Unfortunately, all that air also accumulated around my vocal cords, causing me to sound like an ambassador from Munchkinland. This condition, I was told, could last for a number of weeks.

We decided to put off a Bronchoscopy to determine the status of the spot on my lung until after the new year, by which time, my breathing had become even more labored.

Again, the test failed to reveal anything more than a few "suspicious" cells - but no cancer. I had also scheduled, months before, a standard Colonoscopy, which I had in January. This revealed a growth on my colon.

Are we having fun, yet?

So - I go back to Cedars to discuss laparoscopic surgery to get rid of that growth, after first undergoing CAT and PET scans. During my consultation with the surgeon, my Oncologist came in with another doctor to tell me that I had a tumor growing under my lung and threatening to encircle my Aortic Valve to my heart.

Suddenly, the surgery was put on hold, and I was scheduled for thirty-seven sessions of intense radiation and four sessions of Chemotherapy, which stretched over the next seven weeks. This included four blood transfusions.

During this time, the effects of the Subcutaneous Emphysema had worn off, and I was able to work again.

After treatment, I was told that it was completely successful, and the growth had been completely eradicated! I was also told that the radiation therapy would continue to work in my system for a number of weeks.

Well, it did.

In rare cases - like mine - it spreads into the lungs and causes a very persistent condition called radiation pneumonia. This reduces the lungs capacity to about a quarter, making it almost impossible to walk ten paces without having to stop for air.

The treatment for this condition is massive doses of steroids, which balloons the face and body, and it also settles on the vocal cords in a major way, creating a good deal of gravel and hoarseness. In short - it has brought my career to a near stand-still.

Steroids can also have a major effect on one's heart rate, and blood sugar count - each of which sent me back to Cedars on two separate occasions for four and three day stays within a week of each other. Because of the blood sugar influence, I now have a temporary form of diabetes, and need to take insulin.

This condition will pass as soon as I get the pneumonia under control, but it's a balancing act between doses of steroids and insulin.

As I mentioned earlier, this lung thing is incredibly resistant, and to this date, I am still looking for some improvement.

I do work from time to time, but my voice is nowhere close to where I need it to be. Fortunately, I have incredibly faithful friends and clients who have shown me what loyalty really means by working with me, even in my diminished capacity.

I am now recovering from the recovery. When this is cleared up, I still am facing the laparoscopic stomach surgery, but that will be a cakewalk.

But the real point of all this is the Genesis of the condition. I was a smoker, on and off, for thirty

years. I quit nearly twenty years ago, but that crap has a tendency to lie doggo in your system. It finally caught up with me, and as you've just read - it ain't pretty. For those of you who are in the Voice Over business, and you think that smoking is adding some wonderful quality to your instrument - WAKE UP! Quit! Today! Whoever you are - if you smoke - Stop! All you are adding is garbage to your vocal cords, and a nice deep layer of tar and poison on the linings of your lungs.

I tell you all this, because I need to clear the air, because there has been a lot of speculation out there, and because it should serve as a cautionary tale. Even though the growth on my lungs has been erased, there are still a few miles to go before I'm back to 100%. "

-Don

THE EMAIL BELOW WAS SENT TO VOICEOVER UNIVERSE FROM PAUL PAPE, DON'S BEST FRIEND AND BROTHER. THIS IS WHEN WE LOST OUR DEAR FRIEND DON.

IT IS VERY HARD TO WRITE THESE WORDS. MY FRIEND, DON LAFONTAINE, THE HUSBAND OF A MOST BEAUTIFUL WIFE, NITA AND THE FATHER OF THREE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, PASSED AWAY TODAY AT THE AGE OF 68. IN A QUITE SUDDEN REVERSAL OF THE PROGRESS HE HAD BEEN MAKING THE LAST FEW DAYS, DON TOOK ILL AGAIN AND PASSED AWAY AT AROUND 1:50PM THIS AFTERNOON (9/1/08).

OUT OF RESPECT FOR DON'S FAMILY, MORE DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN AT A LATER TIME. NITA IS A WONDERFUL MOTHER AND SHE IS BEING VERY STRONG FOR HER CHILDREN AT THIS MOMENT. YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF HER. WE NEED TO GIVE HER AND HER FAMILY SOME TIME TO ABSORB THEIR LOSS. AS FOR ME, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WHO HAVE GIVEN EVERYTHING THEY HAVE FOR MY BEST FRIEND. I WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW...

PAUL PAPE





Thank you so much for your many kind words and loving support. In his memory we have posted many of the loving comments both before and after Don's passing:

### After Passing:

Debbie...This is Omari harrigan from Antigua. I am moved by the series of correspondence in the last few days. Don was in my paryers as requested and my intuition is that he is sitting in a higher place right now...the support of friends family and all who didnt even know him only elevates his status. It seems to me that he was cherished here on earth, which says to me that he must have made a great many people happy. This in itself is blessed.

In my thoughts i also feel that i am truly blessed just to be a part of your correspondence...I joined your mailing list out of curiosity and ofcourse for improvement of my own vocal abilities...and i am very priviladged to have witnessed such togethernes and love!...I am pleased to be a part of this extended family and i offer blessings to Don's Family and Friends..and to yourself! If at all possible I wish to meet you on my next trip to Canada....Until such time - One Love!

J.Omari Harrigan

[My sympathies to his family and his brother.](#)

[But I trust his legacy he left in the VO industry will be remembered by many who never knew him -- like me, but know about his voice. So for all of us who hope we leave this planet with some kind of positive mark that we were here and did something special. Don, can rest knowing he did exactly that.](#)

[MaryLou Drachenberg](#)

I am very sad to hear this. I was hoping this update would be positive...

Sincere condolences to the family.

Marthe

[Thank you "very" much for sharing this about Don's passing with those of us you did, Deb!](#)

[Have a blessed day!](#)

[Very sincerely,](#)

[Linz... a guy who got his name when us men owned it. You know, before there was a "Bionic" woman. That, literally, is when the name gender for Lindsay, Lindsey, Lindzey got all messed up. Trivia for the day. The end.](#)

Debbie, this is very very shocking news. I have been praying for him ever since I received this email. I am so sorry.

Love, Laura

Heya Debbie,

Yeah I can't believe it - normally when I hear of passings of people I don't know on a personal level, obviously it's sad but it doesn't usually effect me more then that.

For some reason though - in this case - it hasn't left my mind all day. I can't believe how upset and gutted I am (and I had never even met him!). And then on top of that, (this is going to sound really selfish) after checking out loads of videos of him on youtube and stuff, it's even gotten me thinking about my skills as a voice over.

When I look at him, and listen to him, and how good he is, it just makes me think - you know - I can never see myself being even 1/100th as good as that. And then I'm annoyed at myself for not putting in as much effort as I should be in the down-time between our lessons and stuff. I mean the soundbooth frame is up and we have half the wood for it - so I am thinking in my head that once it's up and functioning and I can do higher quality recordings that I will be more motivated as I will be able to finally get my demo done and send it out to people.

I guess maybe different people get like this with whatever field there in sometimes - I'm just so worried that I am going to send out my demo, and do auditions, and never get anywhere with it

Luke

**Words escape me.... This is so sad.... I can only believe that there was a special voice assignment "upstairs" that no one else could do.... I am quite saddened....**

**Rich Owen**

Debbie:

Thank you for forwarding the news. I am very sorry to read about Don. My deepest sympathies and condolences to his family and to Paul. My thoughts and prayers will be going toward his family and friends during this most difficult time. Please let them know how much he is loved and respected throughout the voiceover community and throughout the entertainment industry.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Mike

Debbie, thank you so much for sharing.

I send heart-felt blessings to Don's family and honour your wonderful acknowledgement of this respected and very special man.

*Colleen Wynia*  
**HeartLink Consulting**

Deb

So sad the news, my thoughts and sympathy go to Don's family and friends. Thanks so much for keeping us aware of the sad news. He will be missed by many down under.

Regards Robert

Thanks for sending this, Deb - a huge loss. He was an icon in the industry, of course. But the saddest part of all is that he left a beautiful wife and children behind. That's the biggest loss.

But he left two legacies - his unparalleled career - and the warning he dictated to others about the health evils he succumbed to over his life.

I'll be going to the radio studio today, and one of my news colleagues is still in the saddle at 70 and still smoking as hard as he was when he was a teen. I just shake my head.

Rest in peace, Mr. LaFontaine. There will be many imitators--and there have, and are--but no one will ever replace you.

Gordon Gibb

If there is any fund being set up in his name.. please let me know.

Wendy

Wendy Brown  
Voice Talent  
727-808-7358

This is truly a big loss. I never met him, but I'm sure he was an incredible person. His voice will ring forever in the entertainment world in which he left an indelible footprint.  
Brent

Thanks for keeping me in the loop on this, Deb. My oh my, 68 is much, much too young. Sad stuff. Very sad.

Alan

Dear Debbie,

I am completely speechless of the news that has been reported. I feel as if I have known Don for years even though I have never met him personally. Don has been a huge inspiration to me in the VO world and I will forever think of him when I sit in a movie theatre.

My thoughts and prayers go to his family and I do hope that they will receive privacy during their greivance.

I thank you Debbie for giving us an update as I and everyone else was praying for a healthy recoveryfor Don.

Sincerely,  
Shane Phebus

Deb,

Please accept my condolences over the loss of your friend, Don LaFontaine.

I was in the VOICE 2008 Promo Panel when Joe Cipriano made several attempts to call Don. Despite of Joe being thwarted by tons of steel and concrete, I could tell that the audience was thrilled to be as close as a poorly connected cell phone to "The Voice of God."

Sincerely,  
Shane Shellenbarger

I'm so sorry to hear that Don has passed away. Please pass on my condolences to his friends and family.  
Thank-you.  
Marie E LeBlanc

Before Passing:

Please tell Don and his family that my thoughts and prayers are definitely with them. I had everyone give me the same courtesy when I was fighting Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma from Sept 2007 to March 2008. It worked! I'm now tumor and cancer free.. knock wood!

Wendy

Wendy Brown  
Voice Talent  
727-808-7358

<http://www.wendybrownoicetalent.com>

Thank you for the information. I will keep Mr. Lafontaine and his family in my prayers. You are right about how strong our energy is...thanks for helping harness it.

Best,

Mike

Dear Nita and Family and of course Don:

I have had family go through blood clots and strokes and it is truly tragic, and scary. So my understanding of your concern is there, but there are brilliantly talent medical folks all around you. And knowing that you are at Cedar Sinai, you are at one of the FINEST facilities of medical care -- that truly is a blessing!!!! I know many people will take the time to read your note and actually pray. I don't know you at all, but because you are a friend/colleague of my friend Deb I sat here silently at my computer as I read and asked for God to help you through all of this and that the blood clot would dissipate and pass without incident and that he would be home with you all with in a week or so, laughing and enjoying life with his loved ones.

Wishing you all God speed, and belief in his work that this will turn out okay.

Sincerely,

Mary-Lou Drachenberg

Father God in the mighty name of Jesus Christ I ask you to heal Don today. May he continue to give his family his love and continue to bless us with the talented voice that you have given him. Thank you Father God for healing Don. Thank you Father God for continuing to bless Don and his family. Thank you Father God in Jesus name.....Amen! Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Don is healed. But you have to believe.

Any and every time you think about Don, just say, "Thank you Father God for healing him". In Jesus name...Amen.

Raquel Punter  
Virtuous Voices

Thanks for keeping us informed, Deb.. Our prayers will be with Don and loved ones..

Bob Tomlin

Thanks Deb. I put his name on my numerous prayer request lists.  
Wonderful to see you and meet your beautiful daughter at Voice.  
Hugs,  
Martha

*Hi Deb-*

*WOW---that's about all I can say at this point after having just read Don's accounts of his "adventures" this past year! It's so good that he was able to write about it, to clear the air, and in such a human yet un-clinical way! It makes me want to meet him and know the man better---*

*Thanks for sharing this with us--we all need inspiration and reminders that our day-to-day "troubles" are minor compared to so many others fighting the ultimate battle for life!  
I grew up asthmatic and with chronic bronchitis so can definitely relate, in some small way, to the struggle to catch one's breath---but for all that Don's been through, one thing becomes clearly evident--he's a true positive thinker with a love for life---that should be applauded and highly respected.*

*Aren't you the lucky one to have such a powerful role-model in your life??!!*

*Again--thanks for sharing Don's story--it will remain with me forever.*

*Lynne*

Hey Deb-

Thanks for sending this. I hadn't seen it and appreciate your sharing. Wow. Of course we all send our prayers.

Sincerely,  
Talmadge

Greetings, Deb

Thankyou for passing along this information. Don has been sent healing energy. He is a very strong person and has already faced an enormous battle with success. I respect his courage, upbeat attitude, and accountability for having created the challenge. He is not only a great voice artist, he is a great human being. Don LaFontaine will be with us for a while longer. Continued Success!

Howie

Hi,



I work in palliative home care and wanted to send my best regards to Don and his family.

I am always amazed by the courage that I see in the clients I work with.

I do believe in the power of prayer and positive thoughts.

Don has mine.

Sincerely,

Kisa Mortenson

Hi Deb,

We will post a prayer for Don on our sites at VOplanet and VoiceCasting and ask all of our talent to hold him and his family in the Highest Light. Please keep us posted as to his progress.

Thanks,

Hi Debbie. Thanks so much for keeping us in the loop about Don, and sending the update with his message. I sent him and his family a note of support and blessings via his MySpace account - please keep us updated on how he's doing, and let me know if there's anything the family needs that I can help with!

Hope all is well with you. :)

~Carol

Heya Debbie,

Thanks for all the updates on Don, I and I am sure everyone else really appreciates it.

I have got something I'd like to send him (a yoyo basically - as I often give yoyos to kids when I goto hospitals and stuff to help with their recovery) and you never know it might help Don too (or at least make him chuckle :-P)

hes a big inspiration to me and I'd really like to help

Cheers!

Luke

Just want to let you know that we are praying for him.

Catherine

I thought you were probably getting some heat for "nothing" so I wanted to shine some love and brightness your way as a reminder that we positive ones, thankfully, are still the majority. Especially in this world of VO's... don't-cha think?

I reeeally enjoyed what Mrs. LaFontaine wrote about her husband!! Thank you for sharing it with me.

LL