

Sharon, a Philadelphia native, has been a professional actor, writer, director, entertainer and teacher for over 20 years. She has appeared on SNL multiple times with Improv acting being her love. Sharon has a YouTube series “Knock, Knock Jews There” and when theatres reopen, she is part of the traveling show “Old Jews Telling Jokes.” She is a guest host on QVC (which currently uses Skype for her segments). Sharon also teaches Comedy Improv at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philly, Corporate Theatre and Improv for Lawyers. Although her classes are currently taught via zoom, they are fun, involve bonding with others, tackle communication skills and teach the importance of body language and problem solving. Her Beginners Comedy Improv class starts Tuesday, March 1 from 6:30-8:30. To enroll, call 215-574-3550 x110.

During the Covid pandemic, Sharon was challenged with the task of learning Zoom and shifting her in-person improve classes on line. She also had to learn how to audition remotely. Her living room has now become her studio. She purchased a ring light and shared a funny story related to the technology side. She was having difficulty using the ring light, and it came with no instructions. She watched YouTube videos and still could not use the ring light. While walking with friends near the art museum in Philly, she saw a young lady using a ring light and asked for instructions. They quickly realized that Sharon’s ring light was missing a critical part. The part was ordered, and now Sharon is a pro 😊 Her take home message is “If I can do it, anyone can do it!”

Sharon agrees that it is difficult to not be in person while teaching. Furthermore, the lack of interaction is challenging. However, she takes a positive approach to the restrictions and believes “if we push ourselves we will grow.” Sharon walks daily for 2-3 hours with friends and whole heartedly believes the outdoor interaction helps her mental outlook, especially in the winter. A side note – Sharon swears by the positive reaction to her SAD lamp 😊 Zoom has also allowed her to interact with more people at one time than if events were in person. For example, her Passover Seder included 50 people from all over the world. She was also able to celebrate her Aunt’s 100 year birthday via Zoom.

Sharon strongly believes that it is important to connect with people. It is very difficult to be creative when we are isolated. She knows that teaching makes her a better actor, keeps her out of depression and allows her to keep everyone engaged. She suggested we take classes, network and stay active.

Sharon was asked to give her opinion on short form versus long form. She prefers short form because it is quick, fast, more entertaining, and for most people it is not only difficult to get the point of the story across but also hard to do it well.

Sharon gave feedback on our slates

She liked the interesting and unique facts we each shared.

The slates were warm and intriguing.

She liked the blue backgrounds best.

She mostly liked those who said “Hi Sharon” using her name made it more personal.

Sharon emphasized that **the first impression we make is important!** “You don’t get a second chance to make a first impression.”

Prior to an audition, Sharon does research. She looks at the production company's previous work, which may include other commercials. It helps her set the tone for her audition. She reminded us that just because you may not book an audition, it does not mean you might not hear back for another opportunity. So, **do the research and always try your best. Be sure to always leave a good impression!**

A dream of Sharon's was to book a national commercial. That dream came true in early 2020 with a commercial for Colonial Penn Life Insurance. The audition process taught her patience. She auditioned in January 2020 with Donald Case Casting in NY. 3 weeks later she received a call back. She did not book the commercial until 2 days before the shoot on March 17 (a day before the Covid lockdown). She continues to get residual checks and believes she was at the right place at the right time.

Sharon provided some great advice

1. Don't say "no" to offers.
2. Don't lie about your skills.
3. Use the Improv rule – "Yes And"
4. Network – people are generous and generally help each other. All people in the business have been a beginner and know what it feels like to be scared. We are all human and have emotions.
5. Think outside the box.
6. Maintain balance in life.
7. Use life experiences when acting.
8. **Get creative in auditions and focus on improve and playing.** Don't focus on booking the job.
9. Be a team player.
10. When auditioning with others, make the other actor look good.
11. Take care of yourself when on set and don't be afraid to speak up. You must be comfortable with your choices.
12. **Don't be afraid of making mistakes.** A lot can be learned from mistakes!
13. Don't be afraid to ask your agent or casting director for details prior to an audition.
14. Take advantage of self-taping auditions at home. Film multiple versions and pick the best audition.