

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank May 26, 2021

Suzanne Ceretta - Voice and Accent Coach

Shelby Hightower

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My biggest takeaway was underlining the stressed words and focusing on those, especially in a pinch. Also using your voice to punctuate your intention. Both favorites!

Maribel McIntosh

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When you stray away from an accent, use your physicality to bring you back.

Colleen Wyse

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Lock into the posture. Critical to your character and sustaining the accent.

Sandra Bulk

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I don't even know where to start! Suzanne was so fun! I've always loved doing accents and impressions, but I'm always nervous if I have to do more than a line or two and I end up annoying my loved ones going around speaking in an accent for days. "OMNISH" and the GMU accent library are going to be my new best friends!

Dina Laura

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Practicing the accent in gibberish aka OMNISH. What a brilliant way to lock in on the sounds and the intonations of the accent you're trying to do!!! And removes the issues of struggling with real words when you're first trying to tackle an accent.

Kelly McCaughan

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My takeaway was that there are many, many, ways to learn an accent/ dialect. You don't have to narrow it down to just listening.

Rosalyn Jamal

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My takeaway is that practice equals performance; posture is critical and George Mason University has an extensive accent archive.

Lindsay Reed

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My biggest takeaway was underlining the stressed words and focusing on those, especially in a pinch. Also using your voice to punctuate your intention. Both favorites!

Erin Ashley

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This was such a fun surprise!! She was amazing!! What I got from today was how important it is to give ourselves the freedoms to play and have fun!!! Go be that character and / or accent at the coffee shop! Just relax and let it happen!

Mike Provenzano

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What a great session, I loved her point about going outside in public and practicing the accent you need to work on. Along with the voice notes idea even when you're just recording someone else talking and they don't know it. Great session today, thank you very much Suzanne!!

Rich Henkels

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If you are in a place where other accents are prevalent, like a casting room, lock into your accent, type, posture, as well as a phrase that can easily bring you back, so you aren't affected by the other accents in the room. Make it a part of your character.

Lydia Gilbert

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Your ability to manipulate tones and inflections was infectious! I so appreciate the importance of the physicality and the connection to the accent, the lip formation, the air passage..... Centering yourself back to your posture.

Luca Cundo

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Wow Suzanne was great. Very talented with her wide variety of accents. Not bad for a Brooklyn girl. VERY TALENTED

Craig Woolridge

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Practice. Spend a day or half a day speaking in another accent

Shelley Brietling

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One of the most important tools to have for accents is to be able to improvise in your accent.

Go out of your comfort zone and use the accent while you are in your community. Be it shopping, at the grocery store, talking on the phone or even using your accent around the house while you are doing basic chores.

Understand that an accent is like music. You need to find the tone and rhythm of the accent which then allows you to follow through and explore the language.

Really great class! Thanks Rich for fooling us. That was so fun!!

Stacey Marie Keba

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Root yourself in physicality and posture in order to stay in the accent if you're in a scene with people speaking different accents.