

STREET SCENE

Taking a flying leap

Ed Lamb and Eric Bryson don't quake in their shoes when someone tells them to "take a flying leap." They don't get upset when they're hit with a bottle either. Why? These are the men behind Silver Screen Stunts, the men who teach others how to do the things that astound and amaze filmgoers day in and day out. Please turn to Page 8D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Monday, November 20, 1989 O&E

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photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY/afari photographer

Sandra Broad of the Performance Workshops offers suggestions to Michaella Dionne of Redford and Robert Papineau of Detroit about their film acting techniques.

A 'Broad-way' to make it in films

'For television commercials, about anyone can do it; it's a 30- or 60-second spot.'

— Sandra Broad
president, Performance Workshops

By LeAnne Rogers
staff writer

You are sitting at home being a couch potato when a commercial comes on and you start thinking, "Hey, I could do that."

Well, you might be right, according to Sandra Broad, president of the Performance Workshops, which trains actors to work in commercials and industrial films.

"For television commercials, about anyone can do it; it's a 30- or 60-second spot," she said. "A good director can get a good performance from anyone. What most people need is to move naturally on camera."

Broad's students range in age from children to senior citizens and in experience from newcomers to acting veterans.

Her workshops focus on helping actors break into television, film and radio as opposed to techniques used in theater.

"Our main beginning class is on essential audition techniques," she said. "It's on how an actor gets work and marketing themselves."

"I prepare them for working on a set. I've worked with my students on sets and they say it was like I told them it would be, no surprises."

Students perform mock auditions and commercials as part of their class work. They also receive instructions about being camera ready, Broad said.

"That means showing up on time, memorizing your lines and not bumping into the furniture," she said. "I say I'm not a teacher; I'm just their guide."

MOST ACTORS don't work in commercials or industrial films as their ultimate goal, Broad said, but it provides income, experience and opportunities to break into the business.

"Detroit is one of the largest markets for industrial films in the country and it's one of the best kept secrets," she said. "There aren't a lot of people who come to Detroit trying to become a star, but you can get film credits to get your union cards."

The Detroit market includes many industrial films being produced for companies with national headquarters in the Detroit area, including the auto companies, K mart and Unisys.

The headquarters or major offices for top advertising agencies in the area also provide a great deal of work for actors, according to Broad.

"The bulk of the market here is industrials and that is a tremendously good training ground," she said. "People have god given talent and I have to draw that out and motivate them."

An actress with 300 industrial films and too many commercials to count to her credit, Broad began the Performance Workshops five years ago.

Starting out with a few students in her Mount Clemens home, Broad had her own space in Berkley until May. She now teaches out of Paladin Productions on Ten Mile Road in Southfield.

Paladin Productions started out basically as an audio production house, said owner John Paladin. A former disc jockey, he teaches audio techniques for the Performance Workshops.

"TALENT HELPS talent," he said. "You're in a catch-22 situation. You can't get work without the tools, and you can't get the tools without money. Here is where people can break that."

Non-union work and smaller production companies regularly use student performers, according to Broad and Paladin, which helps them get audio and visual tapes needed for auditions.

Students also can work in Paladin's own audio productions, including information on hold tapes, a hot part of the market which produces information tapes that telephone callers hear while being left on hold.

In addition to Broad and Paladin, Performance Workshops often brings in working professional actors, casting directors and other industry as instructors.

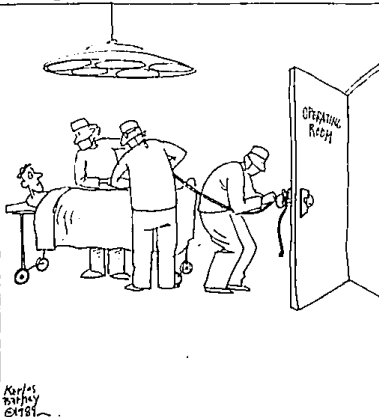
Classes are scheduled in 10-week sessions three times annually along with six-week follow-up classes.



Detroit resident Robert Papineau and Michealla Dionne work on their video acting technique while Performance Workshop founder Sandra Broad operates the camera.

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



Karlos Barney 5/18/89

"Yes, this surgeon *did* used to be a dentist. Why do you ask?"

Buying airline tickets for faraway

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

I am hearing from a lot of readers who want to arrange air travel during the next three months. A college graduate flying to interview. A couple trying to buy plane tickets for the holidays. A few people who are already looking beyond the exhaustion of Christmas to some early January getaways in the sun.

Q: I'm flying to a job interview in Columbus, Ohio, and another interview the next day in Chicago. How do you find out who flies from one city to another. I work all day and I don't have time or money to call all the airlines in Columbus.

A: Travel agents have an airline guide that lists all flights in and out of a city. If you don't have a travel agent, call the Automobile Club of Michigan or make a few selected calls at night. Most airlines are open until midnight, many are open all night, and some



MICKY JONES

Sometimes charter companies have specials on specific days when their planes aren't full and offer good rates to Mexico and the Caribbean.

have toll-free numbers. You don't need to make a long distance call.

Northwest flies more planes out of Detroit than anyone else, so stay there. Call toll-free (800) 225-2525. Southwest at 562-1221 and Midway at toll-free (800) 621-5700 have great fares to Chicago. Southwest doesn't fly to Columbus, Midway does.

I collect airline schedules, and the Midway map shows that all their planes fly through Chicago before going anywhere else, so your Detroit to Columbus ticket will bring you back through Chicago. But there is a catch — you must catch your Chicago to Detroit flight within four hours or pay extra. It is probably still worth it.

And remember, Midway flies into Midway Airport and not O'Hare.

Q: What's the best way for me to fly to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, so that I can catch an evening plane to Europe?

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