

IS TODAY THE DAY WHERE EVERYTHING CHANGES?



By Alan Shires

I accept that it is a journey and will take time, but I ensure that every day, as soon as I get home, I am in my booth fighting for that dream and loving every second of it. What's next? Only time will tell but from my perspective the future has never looked so attractive!

All my life I have loved cartoons and videos games. As a child, I would imagine myself as the characters, taking on their moves, mannerisms, facial expressions and their voices. I never dreamt that this could ever actually be a reality. As the years went by I studied acting and began to work in said industry.



Forward ten years to early 2017 at an actor's conference, Rachael Naylor; the founder of The Voiceover Network shared her journey with me in a seminar about voice over acting. I went to that seminar thinking maybe it was just another strand of acting that I could do on the side but what I learnt instead was my childhood dream was actually possible.

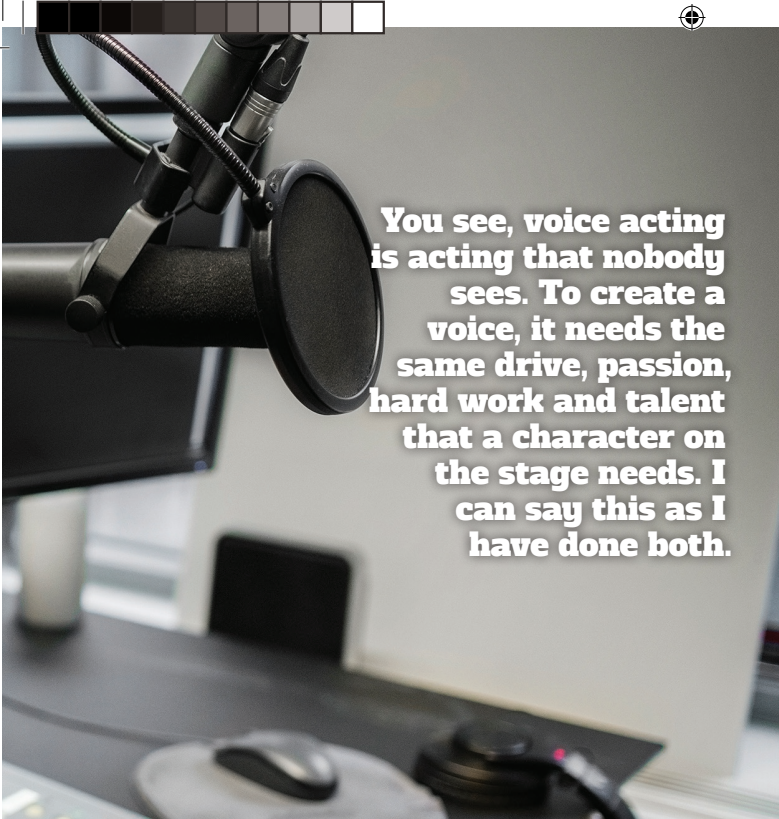
You see, voice acting is acting that nobody sees. To create a voice, it needs the same drive, passion, hard work and talent that a character on the stage needs. I can say this as I have done both.

Sure, anyone can put on a voice, right?

Well, this may be true but the difference between putting on a voice and bringing a character to life is that drive, passion, hard work and talent I have just spoken about and that is the fundamental difference. I believe we are all wonderfully unique, everyone is different and thus our voices are different. This means we have something no one else has and it is royalty to me.

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After leaving that seminar I had a long think and decided to pursue voice acting. At this point I had over 10 years of acting experience behind me but no voice over experience what so ever. So, I studied for a year, learning the ins-and-outs of the industry as well as the disciplines needed for my voice. I built my own home studio, made a website and recorded some reels. The fascinating part of my story was what happened next. Within the first week I had an audition for an animation across seas, though I never heard back from the client It broke an internal obstacle that



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always said it was never possible. Within my first month of being a business I got my first paid job, then to follow that a convention company asked me to speak on how to get started in voice over in the North of the UK. The only words I can think of was a sheer gratitude to this wonderful industry for creating such amazing opportunities for me. So where am I now? Well I am still making coffee by day for now, I accept that it is a journey and will take time, but I ensure that every day, as soon as I get home, I am in my booth fighting for that dream and loving every second of it. What's next? Only time will tell but from my perspective the future has never looked so attractive!

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