

Title:

Ethnicity and regionalism in voice over, is your race or culture a burden?

Word Count:

3901

Summary:

We all know how quickly an article about race, color or culture can spin out of control, so all

Keywords:

voice acting, actors, auditions, voice over, home studio design

Article Body:

This article has been on the shelves in the back of my mind for a while. I was waiting for the

So ok already, enough with the justification for writing it. Get on with it

In several years of learning the ins and outs of the voice over business, I have always wonder

In no other business would it be acceptable, or for that matter legal, to post a job opportuni

But in the voice over industry, the ability to pick and choose between male or female, black,

No one will ever be able to tell the true intentions behind the people hiring for the project,

Wait a minute... I can feel this article spiraling Apply breaks, return to original intention

Ok, I think I got it.

Suffice it to say, that people's true intent is generally buried so deep it is pointless to be

Breaking Down Barriers.

When I have the opportunity to coach voice over talent with ethnic backgrounds different from

Much of my ability to break down these barriers is simply a developmental approach to building

Reality dictates that societal pressures and socioeconomic status along with cultural backgrou

Becoming better versions of ourselves.

So many people pursuing voice over or broadcasting careers are forced by some unwritten word o

Producers and even regular people who might be casting voice talent are looking for the voice

When we see a familiar face, or hear a familiar voice and it is one we want to see or hear, it

Understanding the brisance of the word "discrimination" I ask that you please entertain all de

Embracing our natural character.

I can think of nothing more hurtful, insidious or nefarious than telling a person of any color

Our natural character, more than how we sound when we speak, is what makes us whole. Though so

However, if our natural character is one that speaks with a southern draw, an urban accent or

On every forefront, in every corner of our society forces are struggling to preserve their cul

My first opportunity to coach an African American student came several years ago. She was a young woman who was very talented and had a great sense of humor. After some discussion about the concept of having her demo be ethnically neutral, she and I both wanted to embrace her culture. My overwhelming desire was that she got a fair shake when it came to her demo reel. When it came time to select cover art for her demo reel, the question became whether or not she should have a picture of her on the cover.

Isolating your abilities

One of my greatest concerns when a new talent comes to my studio is that they understand the concept of being a professional. In my early days of coaching, commenting on someone's cultural background as a hindrance to their success was a common occurrence. I usually try to explain the process of installing a switch that rather than completely ridding someone of their cultural background, it allows them to use it as a tool. Though it may sound cruel or untoward, when most students decide to back out at this point I am usually the one who is left with the bill. I have known for a long time that the truth hurts and people's perception is their truth. However, if you are a voice actor who feels some of the characteristics of your voice may have something to do with your culture, you should embrace it. There are walls all around people of culture in this country, let alone the world. Some are made of brick, some are made of stone, and some are made of paper.

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