

They say laughter is the best medicine; well it is also a terrific teaching tool. This is the motto that Claudette Roche, the Accent Coach, lives by. And her raw talent for discerning and teaching the way we speak is nothing to joke about.

Born in London, England, Claudette moved to Montreal, then Toronto, Canada before making Los Angeles home. Consequently, she found her accent ever changing as she adapted to her new surroundings. She developed a love and respect for accents and an exceptionally keen ear for phonetics from living in four of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world.

Claudette is an award winning actress and a veteran of stage and screen, as well. She has appeared on more than 100 television shows, numerous theatrical plays and many commercials throughout her career, using her gift for accents to create a broad range of characters in many of her roles. She draws on her own experience when working with actors to help develop full characters.



By: Brea Tisdale

She states, "Foreign actors working here need an American accent. It's crucial to being versatile and more cast-able." As her students' testimonials attest, she is astonishingly adept at teaching the way we Americans really speak. Her attention to detail is impressive, pointing out to me how we very often use the word 'innernet' for 'internet', removing the middle T and barely using the final T. And 'I'll go' becomes 'all go'. She picks up on the slightest sounds that many Americans don't notice we make. Fascinating.

And Claudette's foreign accent repertoire is amazing. As we chatted, she spoke in a perfectly neutral American accent but in a flash she switched to Cockney, Irish, New York, French, Texan, Chinese, Jamaican and Russian. And what's so wonderful isn't just that she can do accents, it's that she can teach them. Within 15 seconds, her accessible technique had me speaking with a British accent. She wrote down the word PART and then underneath, wrote PAHT, saying, "AH is the sound you make when you see a cute baby." It's this rare combination of charm and talent that sets her aside, it's not something we're all born with. It's a true gift.

Claudette teaches well-established and aspiring actors, working one-on-one in her office, on film/TV production sets or Skype. She adds, "There's no accent I can't do or teach." As part of her dedication, she's in contact with people from all over the globe, absorbing their delicate liits and rhythms. And she generously Tweets accent how-tos every week.

Claudette encourages actors to build a repertoire. Her advice, "Assess your look and learn accents for which you will most likely be cast. Be prepared to land that next role, no matter what the accent. Book the PAHT and become a STAH."

www.theaccentcoach.com
www.twitter.com/TheAccentCoach

