

# Actors LAB 2011



## WELCOME TO ACTORS LAB!

Actors today need to initiate their own work, understand and value what they do and behave like a business - while taking responsibility for their own artistic growth. Peter Feeney's Actors Lab supports actors as they make their way from initial steps to a professional career, and keeps them acting fit once they get there. To this end Actors Lab offers a variety of complementary and progression courses built around a regular four term structure.

Our emphasis as always is on maximizing employability; work, in the end, is the best teacher. We keep fees low to make regular attendance easier. Classes are carefully streamed. This helps create a strong ensemble in every group. Group numbers are kept small so that each actor gets a good acting workout most sessions. Our technique is applicable to both theatrical and camera outcomes. Where needed we're happy to recommend other reputable voice, acting or accent coaches. We provide support and encouragement for participants to form their own scene groups independent of us. All our guest tutors are industry professionals.

## Audition & Camera Acting Workshop

with  
**Peter Feeney**

**Wellington**  
9-10 April, 2011

## ➔ ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

In this intensive two day workshop participants will glean practical tools and insights into preparation, professionalism and performance for camera and audition. This will not only enhance your chances of being cast, but make the casting process and resultant on-set work more comprehensible and enjoyable.

### Testimonials

"Peter is a very gifted young actor who will always be genuinely interested in exploring his work and finding new approaches to it, and opening this out to his fellow actors."  
*Cicely Berry, Voice Director, Royal Shakespeare Company.*

"I can thoroughly recommend Peter as a Producer, an actor, and also as a marvellous proponent of the principles and techniques he has encountered and uses himself in his acting processes. He is a gifted man with much to contribute to his profession."  
*Dean Carey, Director, Actors Centre Australia*

"I found this course really valuable. You had no ego about teaching us - which meant I never felt you were imposing your own views on us, rather you let us discover things ourselves but also shared your wisdom and experience freely. Awesome!"  
*Hannah Banks, Auckland Participant*

"You are a wonderfully insightful and optimistic actor, and this allows you to draw the very best work out of everyone. But what is unique about this course is that you aim and succeed in giving everyone involved the skills to be this for themselves. And - above all, the classes were FUN and challenging and filled with great people! Thanks!"  
*Lotte St. Clair, Bell Shakespeare Co Actor & Sydney Participant*

[www.feeneymcsweeney.com](http://www.feeneymcsweeney.com)

# COURSE CONTENT

## DAY ONE

- 1 Registration and individual goal-setting.
- 2 Introductions, Peter's briefing and Q & A.
- 3 Participants present their first scene, one following another without re-direction until all have been performed.
- 4 We discuss technique; the three key areas of activity for actors:
  - Preparation: key concept = relevance to outcome;
  - Professionalism: key concept = castibility;
  - Performance: key concept = the love and joy of performing.

Your preparation should not be focussed on 'how' you are going to do it - in film spontaneity is king - but should create a structure that will allow your intuition to invent the performance in the moment.

- 5 We apply specific tools of *Preparation* to the scenes we have just performed:
  - Script investigation of what is really being said and why, importance of not settling too soon on choices;
  - Given circumstances: where, when, sometimes called the five 'w's';
  - Objectives and emotion - want; do; feel;
  - Character;
  - Pausation and 'beating' out the script;
  - Line learning using actioning & keyword;

Some of these tools will be new, some will make for a useful revision. They are offers of fruitful possibilities for scene analysis, not laws set in stone tablets.

- 6 Some scene pairs then present their scene again.
- 7 Debrief. Scenes for Day 2 are distributed.

## DAY TWO

- 1 Presentation of the scenes which students have worked on overnight using the techniques covered on the DAY 1. Scenes are reviewed, critiqued and re-directed as we go. Some participants may perform two scenes. Techniques are introduced to do with *Professionalism and Performance*:
  - Dealing with nerves;
  - Professionalism at audition and on set;
  - Translating preparation into performance;
  - Technical: what works;
  - Vocal work and clarity.
- 2 Our final chat recaps and covers career strategies, including tips for setting up your own scene groups. We end with a Q & A session, preceded by a review and discussion of our goal-setting from the previous day.

Participants will be emailed their first scene a week before the course starts. Only this first scene used on DAY 1 needs to be prepared prior to the commencement of the Workshop. The two scenes for DAY 2 are handed out at the end of DAY 1.

## DATES / FEES / DETAILS

- 9/10 April 2011 at The Actors Studio Level 1, 39 Dixon Street, Te Aro, Wellington
- Workshop hours: 9.30am-5.30pm Saturday; 9.45am-6.00pm Sunday.
- Fee: \$280. Includes GST. Discounts: StarNow members; NZ Equity; NZ Actors Guild all 10%.

## TO APPLY

Numbers are limited. To apply send your resume and photo to [admin@pfeeney.com](mailto:admin@pfeeney.com). Successful applicants will be notified by email and will have one week to make a \$150 deposit. Deposits are non-refundable

but can be used as a credit in any future Actors Lab workshop. The balance is payable on registration on the first day of the course.

*NOTE: participants must have had some training, acting experience and have reputable representation.*

## ABOUT PETER FEENEY

Peter has acted extensively in TV, film & theatre since 1994, appearing at the Fortune, Court & Circa theatres in NZ & The Queensland Theatre Company in Australia. Recent TV & film credits include *30 Days of Night*, *Legend of the Seeker* & *Spartacus* (US); *Rude Awakenings* & *This is not your Life* (NZ). His NZ films include *Toy Love*, *Black Sheep* & the internationally acclaimed short *The Platform*.

Peter has worked or trained with Cicely Berry (RSC), Robert Benedetti (Film producer/ Theatre Director), Rob Marchant (TV/Film Director), Dean Carey (Director, Actors Centre Australia) & most recently Tom McSweeney (Casting director). He is a published author, occasional magazine writer, and has worked as a casting director for TV and as a presenter/trainer at TVNZ.

Since 2001 - in Australia, New Zealand, and at Toi Whakaari - Peter has taught acting. In 2005 he directed and acted in the play *Milo's Wake*, touring in 2006 throughout NZ. Peter's screenplay from the play is now in development. His one man show *A Night with Beau Tyler* toured NZ in 2008 & 2009 to over 30 centres around NZ, and will do again in July 2011 with AOTNZ.

Peter has an Honours degree in Politics and History from the University of Melbourne (1991) and a Diploma in Drama from the University of Auckland (1993). He was a Nominee for Best Actor at the 2003 NZ Film Awards.