



Voice with Song Connecting

We professionals all know how crucial it is to find training that propels us to break through our barriers of expectations and craft to possibilities that otherwise lie just outside our grasp. For those who study and work with Suzanne Lukather, that training takes

the form of a dedicated vocal coach who inspires her students to think outside the box.. In today's professional environment it isn't good enough to be good. You must bring something fresh and original to the table. Tapping into your uniqueness and authenticity is what makes us hireable and gives our careers longevity.

In her Alhambra studio Suzanne trains students to do just that. "It all begins with developing sound vocal technique," says Suzanne referring to her use of the time-honored Bel Canto method, "The speaking and the singing voice are the same voice. There is one voice; but many styles of singing." Suzanne guides her students through the discovery of this connection navigating the technical requirements of the music which paves the way for creating compelling moments in your performance. "This is what engages the listener—critics, casting directors, musical directors, and audience members included. It's those moments that tip the balance in your favor and separates you from the other hundred people they've heard," explains Suzanne. "Which is exactly what happened in my career. I was cast in the first Broadway show I auditioned for. I was the only one called back out of the three hundred other singers auditioning that day because I had a moment that stood out from the crowd."

Suzanne points out that today's talent are no longer given the same opportunity for preparation as in the days of the Hollywood studio system when studios took young talent under their wings and trained them

to sing, dance, and act. This system produced stars like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, who were not primarily singers, but had the voice training to introduce some of the most famous standards in the Great American Songbook.

Suzanne's undergraduate and post-graduate study at University of California and Julliard as well as thirty years of what

Suzanne humbly refers to as "on the job training" in over 28 shows on and off Broadway, Tours, including a sixteen year affiliation with the Disney Company, are the foundation for her practical approach. "It's all air compression. In singing, your body is the instrument; your voice is the music. You sing with a still open throat. It takes both physical and mental coordination to accomplish this, much like playing tennis or dancing," explains Suzanne. Summing up, she adds, "When a student stops listening to the sound of his or her own voice and starts focusing



By: Brea Tisdale

on the visceral experience of singing, they are on the right track."

Suzanne struck me at first impression, as someone who is honest, passionate, and confident. I am happy to report after getting to know her more, first impressions are lasting.

Suzanne Lukather's professional affiliations include AEA, SAG, AFM, and NATS.

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