



Equity

Can you tell me a bit about your career to date?

As an actor I have worked across the board on TV, theatre and film as well as doing voiceovers. I started off performing my own work at the Edinburgh Fringe, which I then toured with before taking it to The Chelsea Centre in London.

I got an agent then worked at the Royal Opera House and the Arcola Theatre as an actor. I was in the TV comedy drama 'The Spa' with Rebecca Front, and the feature films Hackers and Jean Charles. I've created short films, which I've written, composed the music for and acted in. These have been screened at various festivals including Video Forms in France and the Arlene Grocery film festival in

I've done music collaborations that I've performed at the Hackney Empire and Canterbury Arms. I also do visual art and have exhibited in Crystal Palace. I've written and performed solo shows at the Camden Peoples, White Bear and Tristan Bates Theatres.

What do you like most about your work?

I love the feeling of freedom and exploration in creating. I just love the thrill of performing in front of people and sharing stories.

What are the biggest challenges of being a creative freelance?

The biggest challenge is continually looking for work. Personally, it's also a challenge to find a meaningful destination that I am happy to call success. I've followed a unique path and have developed my own concept of success. This can be tough when other people compare what I've done to more conventional routes, and use that as a measure

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Have you added new work/skills to your portfolio over time?

With regards to my core work, I've not so much added skills rather than expanded them. I'm constantly developing my creative skills and interests.

Learning creatively has never been a problem. Business skills have been a much bigger challenge. It's so different to anything I've previously done. Understanding it took much longer. I had to take a lot of time to assimilate the skills and knowle dge. I found absorbing this kind of information and really understanding it was a lot to take in.

What is the biggest challenge of learning the skills that you need?

Investment in time and money are the biggest challenges.

What FEU Training courses have you attended?

I've attended several courses including Finance for Freelances, Business Motivation, Diversifying your Portfolio and Get Hired (which is about interview techniques).

What are the most important things that you've learned?

The interview workshop was the first one I attended and it became clear what I needed to do to improve in this area. I now understand how important it is to stay engaged and positive, even when I don't know the answer to a question.

I have learned to push on and to keep the interview positive.

> I've learned so much from the social media and blogging workshops about how vitally important it is to network and keep your online presence up to date and regular. The blog writing workshop

has helped me create a new weekly writing habit, which I then promote on Twitter.

> The workshops have helped increase my clarity of purpose. I now set goals and priorities on a

>>Snapshot

Roberta Gotti

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weekly basis and there has been a fundamental change in my attitude to work. I have a much more professional attitude that makes a difference across the board.

I've learned to maintain a continuity of activity that exists regardless of whether I am in work or not. My writing and networking are now an integral part of the job. There's a constant flow where before it would have been scattered. It's all so much more fluid. I've really benefited from the workshops, I now know what to do, and I do it better. I know what's required and that has a knock on effect across the board

What has encouraged you to attend FEU Training?

I went to one, and found it so useful I kept coming back! I really enjoy meeting like-minded people and have made some great contacts. I like the mix of unions as it gives fresh perspectives on issues actors would tend to view in the same way. I find it stimulating and always come away with fresh ideas.

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I'm really pleased this was on offer as it has really helped me. There's a great sense of community and the courses are always current and useful. I really hope FEU Training continues and expands.

Do you know any other organisation that offers business skills courses for creatives?

Not really. Networking for actors and the Actors Centre offer some workshops, but not exactly like FEU Training.



