

# >> Snapshot

**Sean Connolly**

**Actor & Voice Artist**

**Equity**



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**Can you tell us a bit about your career to date?**

I've been an actor and voice artist for 26 years now. I started off largely in radio drama at BBC Pebble Mill. I am currently in the Radio 4 drama Home Front and The Archers, though my character in The Archers is currently in prison.

Early on in my career I was in Stig of the Dump in the West End. Since then I've done lots of film and TV roles including playing opposite Paul Bettany and Stellan Skarsgard in the feature film Kiss Kiss (Bang Bang). I've also played Davros' dad in The Audio Adventures of Doctor Who, so my claim to fame is being able to say I'm the 'grandfather of the Daleks'.

I guess I'm primarily known as a 'voice man' and this year I voiced 10 of the characters in the Aardman Animation's Shaun the Sheep Movie. Attending the premier for that was fun – the red carpet was actually green!

**What do you like most about your work?**

My working week can be so varied. I sometimes look back after doing voice overs, auditions, writing and developing, and think, what a week! Each calls on different skills and disciplines, and all are creative. I enjoy working and creating with so many different and talented people. I also love the reaction and interaction you get from a live audience with theatre.

**What are the biggest challenges of maintaining a freelance career?**

It's an industry where rejection is inevitable, so it can be difficult to stay positive and proactive. Many times you just don't hear back after auditioning, and you have to learn to deal with this. The lack of financial security can be scary.

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

I've started writing a blog, after attending FEU Training's

'Drive Traffic To Your Website'. The course made me realise that my old website was not really helping me, so I scrapped it and built my new one from scratch. The course got me thinking about what to include, the blog was the perfect way to keep the content changing and current. I then went on the 'Blogging for Creative Freelancers' workshop to learn more about that.

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

Finding the time outside of work is a big challenge. Money is also an issue. I think that it's wonderful that the FEU Training courses are free – similar courses would cost several hundred a day in the commercial world.

**What FEU Training courses have you attended?**

I've attended Running a Successful Media Campaign, Blogging for Creative Freelancers, Time Management and Drive Traffic to your Website.

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

All the courses have been useful but 'Drive Traffic to your Website' was an absolute game changer for me. Setting up my blog was the single most impactful thing the workshops have helped me do.

The other one that still blows my mind is 'Run a Successful Social Media Campaign'. It allowed me to access amazing things on line and on social media. It was like internet black magic!

I am now about to run a one-month campaign to promote



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the British horror film that I co-produced – ‘The Casebook of Eddie Brewer’. I wouldn’t even have thought to do that if I hadn’t attended the workshop.

I’ve used social media and my blog to promote my work on ‘Shaun the Sheep Movie’. I’m currently involved in 4-5 animation projects that were initiated from that online presence, so what I’ve learnt certainly helps.

**What has encouraged you to attend FEU Training sessions?**

The courses are relevant, well delivered and exactly what I need to be learning about. It’s fantastic that they are available in Birmingham too. I love that you meet a mix of

: creative people and get the chance to network as well as learn new skills.

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

: Not that I can think of.