

Julia Titus Actor and singer Equity

"It is so easy to feel isolated when you

are a creative freelance but the FEU Training workshops show you that you're not alone. You meet so many great people from the arts in general and the courses really pick you up"

What are the biggest challenges of maintaining a freelance career?

The biggest challenge for me is to stay motivated to keep projects going. It can be difficult to keep on top of everything. The downside of being a freelance is that it's easy not to get enough done because you have no-one checking up on you. This means that it's important to find ways to motivate yourself, stay engaged and focused on your objectives.

It's also very easy to feel isolated, which is why the FEU Training workshops are so important.

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

The Diversify Your Portfolio workshop really helped me explore and find other avenues where I could use my talents. After the workshop I started singing at friendship centres and other small groups and really promoting myself, which has now opened up many more doors.

I was executive producer on my album and created my own web page, which has since been updated professionally. I've also learned how to use social media.

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

The biggest issue for me is time - managing it and finding enough time to learn new things.

What FEU Training courses have you attended?

I've attended Creative Productivity, Diversify your Portfolio and You're Hired.

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

Attending these workshops has allowed me to live my dream. They gave me

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

I have been singing from as far back as I can remember. At the age of 10, I auditioned and was picked to perform in a production of Rock Nativity and this is when I knew that I wanted to be a singer and actress.

I learned to play the recorder, violin and flute and was always picked to sing lead/solo in the choir. However, although I got plenty of encouragement, I was persuaded by my Dad to get a 'proper' job when I left school.

My performing took a back seat for some years but I continued to stay involved in community theatre and won a leading professional role without any formal training. I was well supported by the director and the play was a success.

After losing my eldest sister, I decided that life was too short to not do what I love, so when my son started senior school, I started my Community Theatre degree training, which involved juggling work, single parenthood and being a carer. One role I'm very proud of playing was Saartjie Baartman in 'The Resurrection of Little Sarah'. I am still very passionate and active in community theatre.

On the music front, on my 40th birthday, I committed to finishing my album, which I have now done I currently perform in a number of bands including steel bands, reggae and blues as well as doing solo performances.

I now have a 2:1 degree in Community Theatre, have produced my own album, which I'm currently looking to tour and have just put together a Bessie Smith Tribute Act.

What do you like most about your work?

I love the flexibility. I don't do monotony well and found working 9-5 awful. I love the variety of doing different gigs and I'm always developing different sets and ideas.





Julia Titus

Actor and singer

Equity

the courage to quit the day job, a huge step for me, and one I have not regretted for a minute. Becoming selfemployed is a very daunting step but was made easier knowing that there were other people that had done it successfully.

The Diversify your Portfolio workshop spurred me on to finish my album, which I had been letting drift. I went home, got the songs together and everything else that I needed to complete it and just got on with it.

The first thing I did after the Creative Productivity workshop was to delete all the e-mails that I didn't need. It was great! I now always use a 'to do' list and have put in to action many of the other tips from that workshop.

I've learned to diversify and think laterally and have found a whole new world of opportunity. I am currently thinking about all the creative ways I could combine the subjects I am passionate about with new community theatre projects.



What has encouraged you to attend FEU Training sessions?

It is so easy to feel isolated when you are a creative freelance but the FEU Training workshops show you that you're not alone. You meet so many great people from the arts in general and the courses really pick you up.

It's great to feel part of something bigger. It's fantastic to mix across the creative space with people who are all creatives rather than only performers.

Do you know any other organisation that offers business skills courses for creatives? No.

"Attending these workshops has allowed me to live my dream. They gave me the courage to quit the day job, a huge step for me, and one I have not regretted for a minute"