

>>Snapshot

Michael McClare

Actor

Equity



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

I've spent my career working in film, television and theatre. In TV I worked for the BBC and Thames Television. 'The Common', a BBC Play of the Month I did in 1973 was recently picked as one of BFI's 10 Classic TV Plays, and was shown in 2015 at the BFI.

I have always been passionate about the theatre and co-founded the Hen and Chickens and Rosemary Branch Pub Theatres in London and, when I was in New York, I ran The New Stagecraft Theatre with Daniel Quinn.

My work has included playing Franco in an anti-Franco play State of Siege with the American Modern Dance Theatre and Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest at the National Arts Theatre - both in New York - as well as The Castle by Frank Kafka at the Lord Stanley Pub Theatre in London.

My film projects include The Last Slap, A Last Shot At Dignity, Tea Leaves, One Day at a Time and Hope Machine. I also played Tommy in a film Sanctuary based on the William Faulkner story.

Currently, I'm looking forward to performing in ISIS (Intelligence, Surveillance, Infiltration and Subversion) opening at the Etcetera Theatre in Camden this month. I'm hoping my next project will be producing a film on the life and times of Charles Haughey.

In addition to this, I enjoy writing and was very pleased to become a published poet in 2013 in the Keats Anthology with the City of London. I intend to complete my novel this year.

What do you like most about your work?

I love the fact that no job is the same and no day is the same. I meet interesting people and work all over the world.

What are the biggest challenges of maintaining a freelance career?

The biggest challenge has to be surviving financially. It



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is tough finding and then getting involved in artistically interesting and financially rewarding projects. There is a lot out there but not many tick both boxes.

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

Writing has been a new skill that I've added. I've always wanted to write but other projects have got in the way. I am giving this more priority now. I've been writing a novel for some years and am determined that this is the year I will finish it!

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

I struggle to allocate time to accomplish the things I want to do. So finding the self-discipline to sit down and write is tough. Writing is a solitary occupation and it can be hard to cut yourself off.

What FEU Training courses have you attended?

Write That Book and Get It Published and Get Hired!

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

I learned so much from the Write that Book workshop. It was so incisive and interesting and changed how I think about publishing. One of the strong messages I took away from that workshop was 'don't give up'. I gained so many tips to help stay motivated to write, and so much about the process of marketing yourself and your book and taking it through that last, all-important step of getting it published.

At the Get Hired workshop, I learned how important it is to



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network via social media and now regularly use Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to advertise what I am doing. Networking in this way has directly led to meeting new and interesting people and I have worked on all sorts of projects that I never imagined I would ever get involved in, including my part in the William Faulkner film.

What has encouraged you to attend FEU training sessions?

FEU Training offers excellent courses with such a diverse range of topics that cater for all creative types. Learning with a mix of creatives is helpful and I've met many interesting people including a stand up poet who is also a farmer! It's great that this valuable resource is available to members so we can continue to benefit from it.

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

No.



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