

ON YOUR MARK



DAN PAYNE



ALEX ZAHARA

BIOGRAPHIES



Dan Payne has extensive experience in comedy, drama, prosthetics and stunts in an ongoing and growing career appearing in over 125 films and episodes of television in the last 15 years. He has a unique perspective that he can share with you to enhance your own skills and abilities in the industry. Having been a reader for many casting directors Dan can offer behind the scenes info you need know. Dan Payne has worked with actors such as Kate Beckinsale (*Underworld Awakening*), Joan Cusack, Chris Hemsworth (*Cabin in The Woods*). Dan has performed for directors such as Joss Whedon (*Cabin in The Woods*) and Zack Snyder (*Watchmen*). Dan's on-screen credits include lead roles in the comedy series, *Alice I Think*, in the critically acclaimed and the award-winning feature *Mulligans*, and has also been a lead in numerous MOW's and episodic television shows.

<http://dan-payne.com/>



Alex Zahara has been working in the film industry for the past 17 years, appearing in over 100 episodes of TV and feature films. After graduating from UBC in 1996 with a Degree in Acting Alex has worked with such notable actors as Kevin Costner, Robert Duvall and Annette Benning, (*Open Range*). Directors with whom he has worked includes John McTiernan (*13th Warrior*), John Landis (*Masters of Horror*) and Roland Emmerich, (*2012*). Alex has been involved in casting from the beginning of his career, in every facet of the process, from the audition, to being a reader for several casting directors to Casting Associate, as well as casting several indie films such as the award-winning, *The Vehicle* starring Garry Chalk and Gillian Barber. Alex has also produced the TV Pilot *Bandwagon* and is about to direct a short film starring Carmen Moore and Justin Reign (*Blackstone*). As well Alex has been an acting coach on and off set for the past 15 years. This gives Alex an extensive knowledge base in the world of television and film.

<http://alexzahara.com/>

TESTIMONIALS

"For the past 15 years I have been inviting actor Alex Zahara in to my class room to talk about what it takes to become a working actor in the film and TV industry here in Vancouver. Time after time I have been amazed at his ability to inspire my students with his passionate, direct and insightful talk. As an instructor he is dedicated, caring and talented. Alex is as gifted of teacher as he is an actor." — **Paige Hansen, MEd, Drama Teacher**

I have learned so much with Alex as my teacher for voice and audition class. He has taught me a great deal of importance of what I need to bring to a scene in order to bring it to life. Alex's presence is very memorable and he is very present with each and every student. After my first coaching from Alex I got a true sense of how passionate he is for his craft and how much he loves to expand his knowledge onto whoever is prepared for it. I am very grateful to have met Alex Zahara and hopefully work with him in the future. — **Gina Brinkmann, Actor**

"I can honestly say that Dan Payne's expertise in the acting world has immensely aided me in developing my craft. The way he approaches scenes and characters makes it very easy as an actor to understand, and portray. Dan is my go-to acting coach for comedy, drama and everything in between." — **Connor Price, Actor**

"As a mom of a working actor, I can honestly say that Dan Payne has what it takes. He not only understands the actor's craft, but his direction and feedback when coaching are always insightful, specific and helpful. The knowledge and devotion he extended to Connor through his acting techniques has inspired my son to embark on his journey to become the best actor that he can be." — **Linda Price, mother of actor Connor Price**

We are looking to provide a safe and exciting environment for passionate and committed students who want to truly pursue every and any aspect of their art. It does not matter what level of experience a prospective student has as much as how hard they are willing to work. When all the students are driving themselves and each other then the benefit to all involved is far greater. It also allows us to all feel safe enough to be truly vulnerable and experience and share universal truths when we are all on the same page.

AUDITION CLASS:

4 week evening class from 7:30-10:30pm Cost: Approx \$250 (12 Hours) Event details TBD.

We will cover every aspect of auditioning. We will cover basics to tips that only industry experience can provide. Learn to deal with marks, eye lines, movement, props/no props. Learn to break down scenes in terms of arc, character, moments, relationships, environment, and 'in your own words'. Learn how the process can affect you — the practicalities — delays, other actors, your own worst enemy. Understand your space and have the confidence to own it. When applicable, students can bring in actual auditions to work. Each week will be a different format to the class.

Week 1: We break it all down! Open discussion, Q & A about auditions. Everyone auditions in class and we break down process for each student. End of class assign partners for next week.

Week 2: Work together in groups of 2. And each group gets individual attention to maximize their audition experience. From both sides of an audition (as the reader and as the one auditioning)

Week 3: Women vs. Men. The women all get same audition to prepare and the men all get same audition to prepare. Women wait outside and are called in while men watch them work. Then vice

versa. We will create as close to true audition process as possible. Guest directors may attend to assess students.

Week 4: Each student will be given an individual audition to prepare that is specific to them and what they may experience in the 'real world.'

SCENE STUDY CLASS:

6 weeks evening class from 7:30-10:30. Cost: Approx. \$375 (18 Hours) Event details TBD.

Students will be assigned scenes from plays and assigned partners with whom they will work and rehearse outside of class time in order to fully explore the work within class. We will set up system of support and freedom from within the group to fully allow ourselves to plunge into the work of acting. Class will always start with a discussion of the industry, address any questions and a warm up exercise.

Week 1: Scene breakdown to find out what is really going on behind the words by analyzing the text., specifically looking at the individual characters within the assigned scenes. Environment, setting, time, the world of the characters will be fully examined. We will set up the boundaries from within which we shall have complete freedom to explore our characters.

Week 2: We will use various exercises to help you develop your own personal techniques to discover the characters that you are playing, to live their lives as truthfully as our own. We will work with our partners to mine the gold from the text and find the core of our characters.

Weeks 3 & 4: We will continue to build the roadmap of the scene. Each pair will continue their exploration of character, and fully perform the scenes in preparation for the final performance. We will strive to create a fulfilling and dynamic performance. This will be done through exploring the scene with one on

one coaching to discover where the character lives in you and how to bring your characters wants and desires to life within the scene.

Week 5: How do we live truthfully within these imaginary circumstances of the scene? We will push each other to really get into the heart of the character. And tear down all the things stopping us as actors. We will go beyond our comfort zone and breakout into a new area of our acting in order to fulfill the lives of the characters and at the same time find a new pathway for us as artists.

Week 6: The scenes will be performed, as they would be on-stage without interruption. We will then have a post-performance discussion/reaction from inside the scene (the actors themselves) and (outside the scene) the audience, of the final performance. We will go scene by scene, so that all reactions are immediate, rather than waiting till the end of the night. We have now completed a journey of professional and self-discovery that will catapult our work to a completely new world!

EVENT: FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS

TIME: APRIL 13, 2013
1:30-4 P.M. & 4-6:30 P.M.

PLACE: STUDIO 3 MEDIA

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