The Art of Voice Acting

by James R. Alburger

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Inside Anime
by Deb Munro

Anime

The term *anime* refers to a style of animation that originated in Japan, but has become associated with dialogue replacement voiceover work that requires matching lip-sync and timing to the original foreign-language animation. Anime is among the most challenging types of voiceover work.

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Debbie's specialty is character voice work for animation and anime. She has voiced roles in *Dragon Ball*, *Dragon Ball GT*, *Benjamin Bluemchen*, *Neverwinter's Night*, and *Max and Buddy*, among others. She runs her own production company where she writes, voices, and produces a variety of audio and video projects. Debbie is also one of Canada's top VO coaches.

Inside Anime

Anime is an art in itself. Fans take anime very seriously. Many watch the original versions (in Japanese or whatever the language) because they get the true intent of the author.

Have you ever watched English dubbed anime's like *Dragon Ball* or *Pokeman*? It's often hard to watch because the mouth doesn't always match the words. Let me explain why. Imagine learning all there is to learn about creating characters (which is A LOT) then trying to implement that in your session, not memorize your script, watch TV, and match voice flaps THAT AREN'T EVEN IN YOUR LANGUAGE—all at the same time? It's near impossible!

It truly takes a gifted person to match voice flaps, adlib, and die 5000 different ways. Seriously! Three quarters of a session is sound effects: falling, dying, running, etc. It all must be done to PERFECT time, matching beeps, mouth work and body actions. Anime is the hardest of all forms of animation voice work.

On top of it all, it pays less. WHY? I asked too! They say that the original voicer is the one who created the character and we are just mimicking it. Although I respect that very much, it's hard to understand, when the anime dubbing work is far more difficult than any other form of voiceover.

If you want to voice animation, learn to act and how to voice anime style. There are a few amateur dubbing sites out there to help get you started from the comfort of your own home, but with anime dubbing, you will more than likely voice in their studios.

Although anime is more work for less pay, animation in any form is one of the most exciting and fulfilling jobs you'll ever do.

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