

Dialect Coach

Résumé & Recommendations

Mary McDonald-Lewis

Here are just a few of the films, television and theatre projects on which I have served as dialect coach.

I trained as an actor at CSU, Sacramento (BA); and the University of Portland (MFA).

I am skilled at using all methods to achieve an organic, joyous, authentic accent, dialect and language. This includes the use of IPA and Lexical Sets, along with multiple additional instructional approaches.

Mentors and colleagues include leading dialecticians from around the world.

Professional groups include VASTA, a voice and speech trainers association. I am an AFTRA and SAG member since 1979, and represent Portland, Oregon as SAG's national board member, and AFTRA's president. I serve on multiple national committees for both unions. I am also a member of the Oregon Media Production Alliance.

Theatre work ranges from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Oregon to Reprise Theatre Company in Los Angeles, to the largest Equity company in Oregon, Portland Center Stage, with individual clients at theatres all over the United States.

Award-winning productions:

Carousel • Reprise Theatre Company • 4 awards • LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards

Ragtime • Portland Center Stage • 5 awards • Drammy Awards

This Lime Tree Bower • CoHo Productions • 2 awards • Drammy Awards

The Chosen • Portland Center Stage • Drammy Awards

Snow Falling on Cedars • Portland Center Stage • Drammy Awards

Kindertransport • Jewish Theatre Collaborative • Drammy Awards

References, recommendations and evaluations may be requested, including from any project listed below; individual clients; fellow dialect coaches nationally and internationally; and administrators of schools where I regularly instruct.

Be in touch!
503.295.4997 studio
503.705.1363 mobile
mary@marymac.com

PROJECTS

An incomplete and ever-expanding sample of work I have been honored to do.

FILM

Valley of Light, a Hallmark Hall of Fame production
North Carolina, Tidewater region circa 1945

Twilight, Maverick Films
Pacific Northwest English (British actor)

Without a Paddle II, Paramount Famous Productions, a Division of Paramount Pictures
Pacific Northwest English (British actor)

Front of the Class, a Hallmark Hall of Fame production
Tourette Syndrome

TELEVISION

Leverage
Hundreds of dialects/languages

Dollhouse
Chaucerian Middle English; Received Pronunciation

THEATRE

Henry IV, I • Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Welsh dialect; Welsh language

Carousel • Reprise Theatre Company
New England

39 Steps • Portland Center Stage
Received Pronunciation; Cockney; Highland & Lowland Scots

Christmas Carol • Portland Center Stage
Received Pronunciation; Cockney

Guys & Dolls • Portland Center Stage
"Runyunese"

An Iliad • Portland Center Stage
Greek language

The Chosen • Portland Center Stage
Yiddish-influenced vintage Brooklyn; Yiddish language

Ragtime • Portland Center Stage
Mid-Atlantic; upper-class New York; working-class New York; Boston; Latvian; German; Non-Rhotic Southern; Irish; Hungarian

Snow Falling on Cedars • Portland Center Stage
Issei; Nisei; Pacific Northwest; Chicago; New York; Rhotic Southern

Sunset Boulevard • Portland Center Stage
Mid-Atlantic; Vintage American; Classic American; Roughneck American; Noir American

The Importance of Being Earnest • Portland Center Stage
Received Pronunciation

Grey Gardens • Portland Center Stage
Beale idelect; Kennedy idelect; Working-class Long Island; Mid-Atlantic; Cultured East Hampton; Non-Rhotic Southern

The Imaginary Invalid • Portland Center Stage
Comic French; Silly Latin

House and Garden • Artists Repertory Theatre
County Devon, England

Superior Doughnuts • Artists Repertory Theatre
Chicago; Russian dialect & language; Southern Ireland

Jack Goes Boating • Artists Repertory Theatre
Brooklyn, New York

Sea Marks • Mt. Hood Repertory Theatre
Western Ireland

Address Unknown • Story Federation
German/Yiddish circa 1935

Kindertransport • Jewish Theatre Collaborative
**Received Pronunciation; Mancunian English;
German**

Charlotte Solomon • Jewish Theatre Collaborative
German

He Walked in the Fields • Jewish Theatre
Collaborative
Polish

High Noon • Jewish Theatre Collaborative
Egyptian

Laundry and Bourbon • Readers Theatre Repertory
Southeastern Texas

O'Flaherty, VC • Readers Theatre Repertory
Dublin, Ireland

Riders to the Sea • Readers Theatre Repertory
County Galway, Ireland

By the Bog of Cats • CoHo Productions
County Offally, Ireland

Lime Tree Bower • CoHo Productions
Southern Irish

Scotland Road • Integrity Productions
**Llechryd, County Cardiganshire, Wales; Mid-
Atlantic English**

Eight Views Toward Center • Integrity Productions
North Carolina

Betrayed • GableStage, Miami, FL
Farsi

Chorus Line • Broadway Rose
Puerto Rican New York

The King and I • Broadway Rose
Received Pronunciation; Lowland Scots; Thai

Miss Julie • NW Academy
Received Pronunciation

Robin Hood • NW Academy
Received Pronunciation; Cockney

Crimes of the Heart • NW Academy
Mississippi

Nowhere • NW Academy
Received Pronunciation; Cockney

Ruby Sunrise • Theatre Vertigo
Indiana

*99 Ways to F**k a Swan* • Theatre Vertigo
Italian, New York

Peter Pan • Northwest Childrens Theatre
Received Pronunciation; Cockney

Sweet Charity • Lakewood Theatre Company
Brooklyn New York

Someone to Watch Over Me • Capital Stage
Company, Sacramento CA
Northern Irish

Violet • Staged! Musical Theatre Company
North Carolina

Dearly Departed • Beaverton Civic Theatre
Appalachia

Sherlock Holmes • Northwest Classical Theatre
Company
Received Pronunciation; Cockney

More projects added weekly!

A FEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Mary McDonald-Lewis is not just our dialect coach, she was also the voice of Wonder Woman in the Superfriends cartoon. A fact Downey is just a liiiittle too obsessed with." -- John Rogers, creator, *Leverage*, referring to co-creator Chris Downey

I've had the fortune of working with a lot of dialect coaches over the last 20 years. MaryMac is in the top two of my list, the other now serving as the coach for the Guthrie in Minneapolis. -- Chris Coleman, Artistic Director, Portland Center Stage

Neither Jimmy Wolk or Dominic Scott Kay had Tourette Syndrome in real life... they had a dialect coach to work with them the entire time. Mary McDonald-Lewis, also the voice of OnStar... was their coach. She did an amazing job working with them for over 5 weeks." -- Brad Cohen, real-life subject of *Front of the Class*, a Hallmark Hall of Fame Production

MaryMac approaches the work not only as a coach but as a fellow actor with a director's understanding. In our project together she was extraordinarily diligent, ever-present, always positive and personable and quickly became a highly-valued member of the cast & crew family. She is just the kind of person we all want on our project to raise the level of our game. -- Jay O. Sanders, Actor, *Valley of Light*, a Hallmark Hall of Fame Production

I did an Italian accent in the season opener and I had to speak Russian and a little bit of German. They have an amazing dialect coach. -- Jeri Ryan, Guest Star of *Leverage*

Your services were invaluable, and you'd only think I was flattering you if I told you about all the great feedback we got from both the actors and writers who worked with you. I look forward to seeing you again during Season 3. -- John Rogers, Creator, *Leverage*

Mary's approach to coaching is gentle, progressive and comprehensive. Mary disarms and demystifies the dialect, by providing clear anchors for the actor. She gives a clear intellectual overview, efficiently trains the actor in basics and swiftly incorporates the dialect into the text. Mary models and provides the practice that enables the actor to gradually find their feet with the dialect, build confidence to independent work. Mary's supplemental resources - a CD with the text laid down with explanations, provided continued guidance for the actor for review and clarification and continued practice. -- Sacha Reich, Artistic Director, Jewish Theatre Collaborative

Mary is joyful in her love of sound, and the bodies that carry them. She provides an accuracy that surprises audiences. I felt I tapped only a small slice of all the knowledge and expertise she possesses. Mary provides not only voices, but vibrations from the past. She should coach every actor, if only to experience her love of characterization. -- Rebecca Lowe, Director, *Scotland Road*

MaryMac has the ability to take complex and seemingly impossible dialects and make the sound changes simple and doable. Recently, I went to her in desperation for a difficult West Country dialect that I was struggling with, and it was Mary who gave me useful and specific advice. As an actor, she understands that dialect is more than just changes in sound, but also in rhythm. She worked with me so that my character sounded like a real person and not just an actor doing a dialect. -- Eleanor O'Brien, Actress, *House and Garden*

Mary worked with me in a manner that was both rigorous and patient. By the end of our session together, I felt ready to tackle my character in a more detailed and grounded manner. Thank you, Mary. -- Patrick Wohlmut, Actor, *Sea Marks*

I got a last-minute call from the Sound Designer for GableStage asking me to record the voices of three Iraqi translators. How fortunate for me that I have a friend in MaryMac! Although we're separated by some

3,000 miles, within a few hours Mac provided me with numerous tips and resources. They were spot-on exactly what I needed to turn the assignment around with speed and accuracy. I had all the tools I needed to surrogate-coach the talent; it was as if Mac was sitting beside me. She made me a hero in the eyes of the director. And, how flattering to read the following from the Miami Herald review - the very first sentence: "This is like a drop from the sea of sadness," one Iraqi acknowledges in his plea for U.S. asylum, a haunting voice-over from George Packer's play, *Betrayed*. -- Dave Corey, Actor, *Betrayed*

Portland Center Stage's ebullient production of *The 39 Steps* is a masterful mixture of Alfred Hitchcock and Monty Python, blending spy and spoof genres smoothly... Notable as well are each character's convincing accent; among the many portrayed are Scottish, Canadian, Liverpoolian, Cockney, and many others, coaxed out by the Dialect Coach Mary McDonald-Lewis. – Wailana Kalama, Critic

One final tip of the tam o'shanter to longtime Portland dialect coach Mary McDonald-Lewis who's done wonderful work here [on *39 Steps*], especially with Pierce and Smith. -- Michael McGregor, Critic, *Oregonian*



On the job!

Many more recommendations available upon request!



James Wolk, Zack Miller and MaryMac at work on *Front of the Class*, a Hallmark Hall of Fame Production



Chris Klein and MaryMac at the premiere, *Valley of Light*, a Hallmark Hall of Fame Production