

Arts

## Nicole Papadopoulos Shares Her Voice

January 18, 2018 • by Kass Mitchell • [Add Comment](#)

*Nicole Papadopoulos / Supplied*

### **Award-winning voiceover professional gives back to her home city**

The voice-over craft is all around us. It marks a brand or gives cadence to a character and creates fictional worlds for our imaginations to explore, with tones and tenses strategically designed to aid our ears to find meaning in stories. Consider the emperor penguins; even they had never been as majestic until Morgan Freeman narrated their journey inland.

Edmonton artists looking to break into this multi-faceted world are invited to join award-winning voice-over professional and celebrated performer Nicole Papadopoulos as she offers a series of interactive voice over workshops at a professional recording studio in the city.

The workshops are designed for both beginners in the industry and established professionals, and each attendee will receive a high-res file of their final project to include with their demo. Papadopoulos' classes—Voice Over 101, Commercial, and Video Game and Animation—cover topics such as commercial copy training, handling audition settings and expressing emotion through words.

“The main reason I wanted to do workshops is because it costs a lot of money one-on-one. This way more people can access it,” she says.

Papadopoulos is one of those personalities that engage you within seconds of meeting. Eyes bright and expressions grand, Papadopoulos describes her passion for the arts, the community, and her future endeavours with an inviting excitement.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Papadopoulos began performing professionally at the age of five. By 11, she was enrolled in the National Ballet School of Canada. “At the National, you literally dance from 7:30 in the morning to 10 at night and, of course, you have school in between,” she says.

After leaving the National in Grade 11, Papadopoulos enrolled in classes at Harry Ainlay. Initially, the change in scenery was jarring, especially for a student used to long hours and small class sizes. “I felt like a fish out of water. I was fortunate, though, to meet the people I did, and the teachers were lovely.”

After graduating from Ainlay, Papadopoulos began pursuing her career in the arts at Sheridan College in Ontario, until an unfortunate dance injury left her unable to perform.

“I didn’t want to stop doing anything,” Papadopoulos says. “I was on crutches; I couldn’t really audition so I thought to myself, ‘What can I do?’ Voice-over was that thing.”

“I couldn’t believe how much I loved it,” she continues. “It was interesting because I wasn’t very mobile at the time but I am a dancer so I’m very physical. I couldn’t believe how much satisfaction it gave me and how fulfilled it made me artistically within the confines of what it actually was.”

Today, Papadopoulos spends half her time in New York, where she collaborates with some of the biggest names in the industry, including Pat Fraley and Joan Baker, and her work has been showcased in national commercials, video games, radio commercials, audiobooks and more.

In 2014, Papadopoulos was awarded the prestigious Voice Arts Award (VAA), the voice-over industry’s equivalent to the Oscars, in the Outstanding Local Television Commercial category. Other nominees included professionals such as Kate Winslet, Katy Perry, Jon Hamm, and Lena Dunham.

When she’s in Edmonton, Papadopoulos is actively involved in the community, eager to share her skills, strategies and what is so evidently a passion, with students of all ages.

“I think it’s so important for us as an artistic community to build everybody up, our community and the people in it,” she says.

“Students need to be supported rather than torn down,” she says. “Yes, it’s true it takes a lot of hard work to make it in this business, so why don’t we help each other so the community can thrive?”

Papadopoulos spent time with drama students over the holidays, providing insight into the industry and encouraging students who are looking to pursue their passions post-graduation. “It is the person that cares enough and works hard enough to make themselves what they want to be, to make their dreams come true. That’s what it takes in my mind.”

When asked about the future, Papadopoulos seems encouraged.

“I definitely see myself being active in the community, being an artist and giving back. For me, that’s a big thing. Our professions are so non-linear, you know? I have no idea where I’ll be in 10 years but I am so excited to see where things will lead me. You just never know.”



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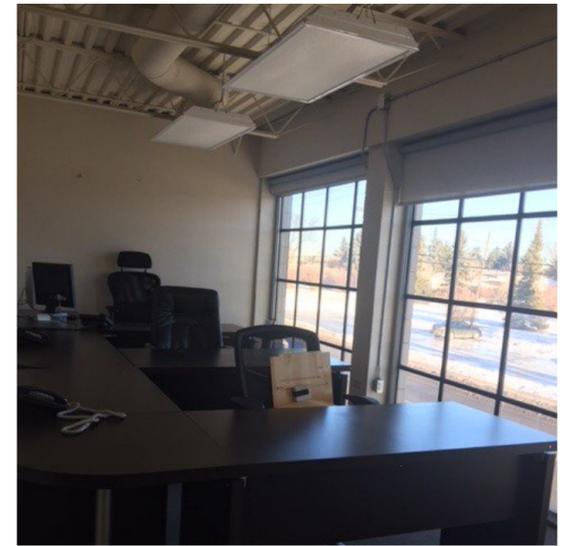


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