



The Denver Trade

The Writer's, Producer's, Director's and Actor's Paper

ASPIRE'S ASPIRATIONS

by Dana Glass

Aspire Model and Talent just moved to their new location in July. They are now located at 516 Acoma Street. Their new facilities allow more room for auditions and working with their talent. Their staff enjoys the new space because it has more windows and feels more like home. This feeling helps to further promote their sense of family among the staff and the talent.

Aspire was started about three and a half years ago. Tammy Montabon, along with Connie Johnson and a silent partner, wanted to start their own agency that was based on "moralistic values". Honesty is key to Tammy. When asked about the goals of Aspire, Tammy said, "(we are) trying to achieve good morals and leading actors and models in the right direction. (We) try to give them both instruction and agency representation with an honest direction to what is realistic to what they can expect."

In addition to representing talent, Aspire is a full training center. They are approved, regulated and licensed by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, through the Division of Private Occupational Schools. The training topics range from media, voice over, fashion, brush up, kids and teen specialized courses. The longest course is ten weeks and the cost ranges from \$175 to \$895 per course. All courses are taught by "industry professionals that have been doing this for years and are still currently working actors, voice over talent, (and) models."

Tammy and her staff work on fostering a family environment. Tammy enjoys working with "real people that are really interested in working to get the skills that they need." To aid in that means is booking agent Marc Mabry and talent coordinator, Shirley Fenner. Marc has been with the agency since its early years. He enjoys working with the talent but still doesn't get used to the frustration. He feels it's hard to not make it personal. Both Marc and Tammy share the same joy for their work. "It's the scream." They enjoy when they get to call their talent and let them know they got the job and they yell into the phone. "The scream is what makes you keep going."

For the actor or model that is looking for a smaller, but personal agency, Aspire fits the bill. They are on track to becoming the mouse that roared. Tammy, Marc, Shirley and the staff at Aspire work together like a big family. Their energy is very positive and encouraging. They are out to see their talent succeed and enjoy the process. As Marc commented, they may be smaller but it affords him the opportunity to know the talent better and to help match up their talents with the jobs available.

Two of the most recent projects that Aspire was able to take part in were a Ray Mahoney Film with Odessy Filmworks, "Strange Kind of Woman" and Reach for the Stars Fashion Show. Both events brought in over 800 people at their new location. If you are interested in contacting Aspire, they can be reached at 303.733.3888. They are happy to talk to all people interested in acting and modeling. They will do their best to guide you in the right direction. For more information on Aspire you can check them out at their website, www.aspireagency.com

"Smallville" from WB Now Casting

Los Angeles-"Smallville", the new hit show from WB Network, is still taking submissions for the rest of its first season. Produced with Warner Brothers Television. Now headed for its second season, the show's casting directors are currently accepting submissions from **ALL TYPES, ages 18 - mid 40s, all ethnicities, for both one-time and recurring roles on the production. Both non-SAG and SAG actors are encouraged. TYPES WANTED: MALES Caucasian, African-American, Latino, 18 - 40s, all types being considered. FEMALES Caucasian, African-American, Latina, 18 - 40s, all types being considered. Please send email by December 8th. See Trade website to submit.**

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PHELAN ON FAST TRACK

by Steve Ducan

Director *Jim Phelan* wrapped post on six new national commercial spots for **EAS** featuring *John Elway* and *Shannon sharp*. **COLORADO CASTING'S** *Peggy Larson* cast the **EAS** spots in Denver. The campaign was shot in Denver and featured four Denver actors, not including the celebrities.

Phelan also produced and directed the anti-bully spots currently running in Denver. The spots also employed 40 to 50 Denver actors. *Phelan* a 26-year industry veteran will be traveling to Dallas to work on new industrials for **COORS**. **PHELAN PRODUCTIONS** hold many credits and awards including **TELLY'S**, **EMMY'S** and their work has been featured at many commercial festivals across the **US**.



Questions Actors should be able to say yes to.

Do you have a current picture and resume?

■

Does your agent have your current phone numbers?

■

Do you keep your headshot in your car?

■

When you go out of town, do you let your agent know?

■

Are you training or taking workshops?

■

Does your agent know your range?

■

Are you promoting yourself?

■

Do you know what parts you're right for?

TV/FILM COMPANY OPENS IN BIG D

by Steve Ducan

PORTLAND- Co founder of **AEC STUDIOS** *Shilpa Sunthankar* tapped business exec *Brian McCulley* and *John Crockett* of **BLAKE STREET STUDIOS** in a merger of **BLAKE STUDIOS** and **AN ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY** making the long time cooperative efforts of both companies official. **AEC'S** charter includes **TV / FILM** production and development, live **IMPROV** comedy, script development, acting workshops, casting and talent management. **AEC** started day to day operations in D-town on November 1, 2001.

In a deal cut in July outlining *McCulley* as acting **CEO** of Denver operations for **AEC** which includes ongoing script development for a 6 episode **TV** concept which is currently being looked at by **PRIDEVISION**, a national Canadian cable station and an unnamed **US** network, as well as distribution for **BSS'** new **IMPROV** comedy show **V-Funny**. Local writer *Chad Schanckel* will act as **CWO** and will head the writing team.

John Crockett co-creator and co-director of **V-Funny** an **IMPROV** based **TV** pilot shot at **AT&T STUDIOS** in early March. The cutting edge **V-Funny** series is to be produced at **AT&T** in Denver. The project involves 6 local performers and over 20 Denver crew members.

It is also rumored that **AEC** is in negotiation with an unnamed distribution company for these projects and future **FILM** and **TV** productions produced in Denver.

VIEW THE FULL PAPER AT DENVERSTRADE.COM



MEMBERS SIGN UP SHEET

Please fill out and mail back to us at: Members receive all Workshops and programs at no charge and access to the casting web site.
The Denver Trade
1550 Larimer Street #245
Denver CO 80202

Form of payment: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER CHECK

Credit card number _____ Expiration date: _____

(or)

Back account _____ Routing Number _____

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Name of Bank _____

Member Phone: _____

Rate: Full membership only \$38.00 a month

Member E-mail: _____

Circle all that apply: **Actor** **Writer** **Director** **Producer** **Advertising** **Crew**

Casting **Production** **Indy-filmmaker** **Theater** **Recording Artist** **Variety**

See members schedule in the Denver Trade or on line. All programs workshops and events are subject to change. Enrollment is for a minimum of three months and will automatically renew each month unless cancellation is requested in writing.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print name please: _____ If you have questions call us at **303-893-0529** or E-mail us at **DenversTrade@aol.com**

CPG, A DENVER CORNERSTONE

-Dana Glass

TLC, Ocean Journey and National Geographic. They all share a common thread and that thread is CPG. In some way CPG has worked with all three of these businesses, CPG is the Colorado Production Group.

Frank Matson, now President and founding partner, started CPG eighteen years ago. Frank decided to start CPG in Colorado because it is such a beautiful place. Jeanne Kopeck and Anne Fox are also partners with CPG. Jeanne is a creative director and Anne Fox is an Executive Producer. Jeanne and Ann joined CPG 10 and 7 years ago. Jeanne aids in the concept development, directs on set and sometimes overviews the editing process. CPG consists of three sub-divisions. Base 2 Studios, a digital editing studio, CPG which largely works with corporate and industrial projects and the soon to be unveiled Citizen Pictures which deals with more commercial spots and uses motion graphic design. Depending on your projects needs and demands, CPG has a wide depth of talent and skills to pull from.

CPG has worked with TLC and helped to shape the identity of some of TLC's programming. A Makeover Story is a TLC program that takes two or more individuals and gives them a make over, everything from a new outfit to a new hairstyle and make up. To aid in the programs brand recognition and help find a common logo and develop show recognition, CPG created the idea of the shows title going through a makeover itself. In the opening of the show, the audience sees a sign that is dingy, black and white and without much style or pizzazz. People work around the logo and help to "spruce it up" with color, a new font and in essence, its own "make over". It's a creative way to establish a unique look for the show. CPG brought creative talent and technical skill and editing to help create this image.

You may also have witnessed work done by CPG while watching local television. One of their recent projects was an Ocean Journey commercial. You may recall the What Lurks Beneath promotional commercial for Ocean Journey. This was shot at CPG offices and studio here in Denver. As you recall the commercial ends with a little girl at the end of a pier. This specific shot was done on a sound stage and Citizen Productions added in the water and other effects after physical filming. Working with quality people from actors, to director, to editing crews CPG was able to produce this quality commercial.

CPG has many uses for local talent. When building large sets in their studios they have a group of crewmembers they call upon to help them with set construction. CPG is also continually looking for strong acting talent. They encourage actors to send them headshots and bios. If you would like to submit your information directly to CPG send it to 2800 Speer Blvd., Denver, CO 80211 with attention to Shawna Pearson. Shawna is an associate producer who works at CPG and aids in the cataloging of all talent they receive.

Using their wide range of talent and graphical skills, Jeanne is working with CPG's newest client, National Geographic Channel to help develop their television presence and develop show recognition. One of Jeanne's biggest challenges is "to maintain the quality and expertise of the name brand like National Geographic". Just as we identify the peacock with NBC, CPG will try to develop a unique look and feel for National Geographic Channel that will aid in its television brand recognition. For additional information about CPG you can check them out on their website at <http://www.cpgdenver.com/>

SOCIETY MEMBERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

FREE FOR MEMBERS!!!

Members may go to as many workshops as they choose at no charge. Sign up for your free workshops at DenversTrade.net

COMMERICAL / INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP SEMINAR 2002 with *Paul Rohrer* and *Peter DeAnello* on January 26th **DISCOUNT for members!** A one day intensive seminar on the acting profession. Sign up on our web-site DenversTrade.net and receive \$25.00 off. See details on Trade Website or for more information call 303-688-5027. www.CFVI.TV 7:00pm

FILM CLUB with *Tony Fox* on December 13th at **CFVI SHOWCASE at 7:00pm.** Somewhere between book club and fightclub lies FILM CLUB. Watch films and have the chance to talk, analyze and debate them afterward (fist fights optional). The group will watch one film a week. To sign up and to get times see our web-site DenversTrade.net **Free for members!**

BASIC IMPROV with *John Crockett* on December 19th 8-9pm. When was the last time you worked with IMPROV? Get the basics and have tons of fun with Master LA Improver John Crockett. 8pm-9pm at **AEC Studios**, Workshop fees \$75.00 **free for members.** Sign up on our web-site DenversTrade.net

BEGINNING AUDITION with *Susan Moses* on Tuesdays in December. What goes into a winning monologue come find out. See web-site to sign up for this **free workshop for members!**

LA INFORMATIONAL MEETING with *Brian McCulley* on January 19th. Learn the in's and out's, the pitfall's and success' of acting in a large market. From a coach and manager who has advised and consulted LA working actors. 12:30pm-1:30pm at **AEC STUDIOS.** **Free for members!**

THE FIVE STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL MONOLOGUE with *Peter DeAnello* of **BIG FISH TALENT.** Open to all members. 7:30pm-8:30pm at **BIG FISH TALENT.** See the members web-site to sign up for this free workshop.

FREE WORKSHOPS AND DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS!!!

Don't forget to call our Society Photographers to get your updated Headshots. **Members receive a discount** with the following photographers:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Eric Weber | 303-292-0250 |
| Michael Ensminger | 303-292-5446 |

Membership discounts at **THE NEW LAB.** Call **THE NEW LAB** for all your developing and printing needs **303-825-1700.**

For Society membership call 303-893-0529 Only \$38 a month for **all programs event and discounts.** You may go to as many events and workshops as you sign up for.

DENVER TRADE MAY BE LOOKING FOR YOU!

The **DENVER TRADE** will be assembling a board that will help determine the focus of the paper with emphasis on castings, stories, and information Denver actors need.

The **DENVER TRADE** will be looking for one actor from each talent agency as well as other individuals within the industry to serve on this board. The board will meet once a month and will help determine the focus of the paper. If you think that we might be looking for you, let us know. Call us at 303-893-0529.

DEWEY OBENCHAIN FILMS LANDS NEW DIRECTOR, MIKE GRAY

Only a year ago while guest lecturing at the University of Colorado Film School. Academy Award winning producer Donna Dewey discovered a new young talent- Mike Gray.

Says Ms. Dewey, "Mike immediately impressed me with his enthusiasm for making films. He was relentless in getting me to view his reel of spec spots that he had made in school, and after speaking with his professors, I agreed to sit down with him to review and critique his work. My partner, Rock Obenchain, and I were surprised to see such great work done on a limited budget. He has a very original sense of humor and a tremendous work ethic. We signed him after a lengthy background check that came back fairly clean -Just a few minor things... missing props, a light here and there.. things like that (He promises to return everything right after his next shoot)."

And the shoots keep coming (Legit these days). "All kidding aside, we would never risk our reputation on someone we didn't believe could make a considerable contribution to our production company," says Dewey. His reel has to be updated continuously thanks to a great creative from Thomas & Perkins, Scream Agency and TDA Advertising and Design. Stay Tuned. -courtesy Dewey Obenchain

VIEW THE FULL PAPER AT DENVERSTRADE.COM