



# **TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BUSINESS OF ACTING**

**EQUITY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**&**

**GENERAL FEEDBACK**

**2008 - 2020**

### **BUSINESS OF ACTING SEMINAR/SESSIONS**

I found the coaching sessions with Helen Raw to be invaluable. She imbues her coaching with integrity and a friendly honesty which I found refreshing and assuring! Before coming to Helen I had absolutely no idea about my first steps into the Entertainment industry following my Performing Arts degree, but now I feel empowered to command the direction of my career with full preparedness - and to do so without getting in trouble with HMRC! Thank you, Helen!

***Olivia Olsson, North East Lincolnshire***

Really enjoyed the straightforward honest nature of Helen's talk. She is so knowledgeable and passionate. You know you've got someone to back you up as an actor when it comes to being treated fairly. A great session!

***JJ Williams, Glasgow***

Fantastic passionate woman who lives to make a change for the good. The industry needs people like this otherwise it will fall apart.

***Callan Gallacher, Glasgow***

Helen is direct, forward and to the point. Her advice is valuable and very usable!

***Ronni Fich, Glasgow***

@helenraw thank you for such an informative, insightful & hilarious seminar today! :)

***@MariaJoseBavio via Twitter for iPhone***

Just finished the no bull "Business Of Acting" seminar with @helenraw A fountain of information!

#KnowYourWorth @actorexpo

***@TheCallsComing via Twitter for iPhone***

Hi Helen... I just wanted to thank you and say the parts that I did manage to catch were absolutely brilliant. I forgot how ridiculously funny you are! I also forgot I've actually met you and been to your workshops before! I think it must've been about 4/5 years ago at a previous Actor Expo. Thanks for sharing your knowledge, See you on BAN! (the British Actors Network)

***Matt Downton, London***

Helen Raw's 'The Business of Acting' seminar gave me some brilliant insights as well as practical steps to gaining a foothold in a career as a professional actor. I came away with a more realistic idea of the whole business which was both inspirational and scary! Definitely worth while!

***Deborah Whyte, Edinburgh***

I just sat in on your last seminar. I wanted to thank you for the refreshingly honest advice and to say your direct attitude was hilarious! My favourite seminar of the day.

***Gayna Millican, Actor Expo, London***

My name is Roberta Mann and I was at your session on Saturday at Actor Expo. I just wanted to

write to thank you for the incredible amount of information you gave us in that short space of time. I came away with reams of notes and after sorting through them I have started a rather comprehensive 'career tip book' for myself covering almost every aspect of the business! Your session wasn't just informative, it was inspiring too and I came away feeling very excited about working that bit harder on my career.

**Bertie Mann, Actor Expo, London**

Hi Helen and really thanks for your inspiring session on Saturday at Actor Expo. It's always lovely to be in your presence and the energy you radiate. I read your interview in Equity yesterday:)

**Davoud Rastgou, Actor Expo, London**

...I just had to email you and say how much I genuinely enjoyed the 45mins/hour that you spoke for at Actor Expo today. It is so refreshing to meet someone so blunt and honest in this business and who is able to get straight to the point and skip all the bullshit (pardon my french) and I was literally hanging on your every word. It makes me wish everyone else in this industry was as Scottish as you!

You have definitely given me the kick up the backside I needed to get back on the old proactive bandwagon and I thought you might appreciate a quick line to let you know that your message has got across to at least one person!

Once again lovely to have met you and I sincerely hope our paths cross again in the future,

**Chloé James , Actor Expo, London**

If I learned one thing (two things) from Helen, that is self belief and a sense of worth.

**Scott Collins, Glasgow**

The Business of Acting workshop with Helen really opened my eyes and made me realise how not to be taken for a ride by a lot of people promising to get you a visa and work in LA. I also felt encouraged to make my own material and I left feeling adequate as an actress without having gone to one of the leading high profile drama schools in London. I now have a plan put together and feel that my dream can come true by being organised and aware of what not to do and what I should be doing.

**Erica Emm, Actor Expo, London**

## **EQUITY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBER & GENERAL FEEDBACK**

While having an issue with a commercial contract buyout, I contacted Helen to get some advice and utilise her expertise on the situation. She read through all of the material I sent her, took the time out of her busy schedule to chat on the phone about it all and then she had some great suggestions along with additional people to contact. After speaking with Equity Commercials and Legal team in regard to this matter, they appeared to be unable to help as didn't think they could do anything with it, which I was very disappointed by. My union, that I have spent the last 10 years as a member, was unable to provide any help or assistance with the legal problem I was facing, and indeed many other members have probably experienced over the years. So instead I followed the advice of Helen and went back to the company again, pursuing it further myself, and ended up settling with the client out of court for a fee we were both happy with.

I found Helen's support and advice much more beneficial than any conversations I've had with the [union's] commercial or legal team.

***Name withheld, Wokingham***

Helen's invaluable help was recommended to me by a friend and fellow actor who knew I wanted someone knowledgeable to check over a representation contract for me. Helen was quick to respond, and in the few email exchanges I have had with her, I have found her to be extremely supportive and helpful. Helen is very much the kind of reliable, empathetic and professional person I would want in my corner!

***Cathryn Gahan, Kent***

Couldn't have been happier with what Helen did to help me out in a difficult situation. Her professionalism, diplomacy and advice is second to none. I didn't make her life particularly easy in a few respects, but the way she dealt with the situation led to a speedy and satisfactory resolution. I'd encourage anyone in need of support, help or advice to make contact and draw upon her wealth of experience and knowledge.

***Kieran Brown***

**Actor & Musical Theatre Performer, London**

I'd like to thank Helen Raw, my Christmas Angel, who instantly reacted to my cry for help on this post [in British Actors Network Facebook Group]. She took charge of the situation and contacted the employer who wasn't paying up. Let's just say I've now been paid. Thank you, Helen. You're amazing xx

***Celine Dunne, West London***

Helen is a star! She not only exudes professionalism but is also highly knowledgeable. She has been a huge help to me, and I can happily recommend her to others. She is exactly what this industry needs.

***Rowena Diamond, Somerset***

Helen has been present on my Facebook for sometime and has always been a positive, inspiring presence full of constructive and positive advice. I came to Helen to request help on future ideas and projects of mine. Helen kindly offered support and guidance and more importantly helped me ground myself to understand potential pitfalls and problems that may occur and to start thinking of how to tackle them. Through speaking with Helen, it has enabled me to think and plan more effectively to allow myself to hopefully be successful in my future ventures and to not rush in without serious thought and consideration. Thank you Helen for always helping others become the best version of themselves that they can be.

***Carl Backhouse***

**Firelight Studios**

I have known Helen Raw for over 10 years and have interacted with her most closely in her role as Secretary of the East of Scotland Equity Branch.

I have had occasion to request her assistance with a number of matters over the course of her tenure and I cannot overstate how helpful, supportive, informative and fair Helen has been in every

instance. She has quite simply always been there to provide me and many other actors with friendly, approachable support and practical advice time and again.

She has demonstrated the highest regard for fairness and has fought tenaciously and successfully to defend actors, sometimes in the face of severe bullying from those seeking to manipulate, frighten or exploit them. She is a skilled communicator and negotiator and has always taken great pains to be available at any time to assist actors at all levels, from newly graduated students making their first forays into the industry to seasoned performers with decades of experience under their belts.

Helen has demonstrated tact and courtesy where appropriate, but equally has refused to be cowed by those who have blustered and threatened to try to get their own way. For me personally, she sensitively investigated issues and maintained complete confidentiality when I raised concerns about a particular production company which I feared may be exploiting actors. Her manner and approach were tremendously professional throughout and I had complete confidence that the advice she offered me was correct.

I have the greatest respect for Helen as an advocate for actors and also as a person and would have no hesitation in recommending her.

***Karen Bartke, Glasgow***

Helen is one of the most impressive people I know. She is a self-starter in every aspect of her work and is brilliant at getting projects going, keeping the creativity high and motivating people around her. And she does it all with good humour and a smile. What more could you ask for?

***Douglas Dougan***

**Screenwriter, Producer & Education Consultant**

Helen is passionate about, and committed to, her numerous projects and - by example as well as instruction - inspires others to pursue the best of their potential.

***Danielle Farrow***

**Actor and Director of Discover Fine Acting**

Helen knows acting inside out. She is thoughtful and exactly the type of person you would want to do business with. She is smart and knows her field.

***Catherine Balavage***

**Author & Editor of Frost Magazine**

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*I look forward to working with you*

