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The Voice of Christina Knowles

Christine Irene Knowles
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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**The Voice of
Christina Knowles**

voice-over demo CD
Senior Honors Project
Spring 2003

**Appendix D - UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
SENIOR PROJECT - PROSPECTUS**

Name: Christina Knowles

College: Arts & Sciences Department: English

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Larsen

PROJECT TITLE: "The Voice of Christina Knowles"
voice-over demo CD

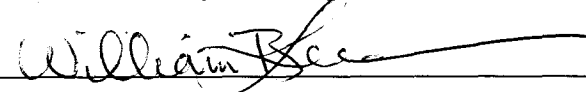
PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Attach not more than one additional page, if necessary):

see attached page

Projected completion date: May 1 2003

Signed: 

.....
...
I have discussed this research proposal with this student and agree to serve in an advisory role, as faculty mentor, and to certify the acceptability of the completed project.

Signed: , Faculty Mentor

Date: 4/30/03

Return this completed form to The University Honors Program, F101 Melrose Hall, 974-7875, not later than the end of your 3rd year in residence.

**Appendix E - UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
SENIOR PROJECT - APPROVAL**

Name: Christina Knowles

College: Arts & Sciences Department: English

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Larsen

PROJECT TITLE: "The Voice of Christina Knowles"

voice-over demo CD

I have reviewed this completed senior honors thesis with this student and certify that it is a project commensurate with honors level undergraduate research in this field.

Signed: William Larsen, Faculty Mentor

Date: 5/1/03

General Assessment - please provide a short paragraph that highlights the most significant features of the project.

Comments (Optional):

My project is a demo CD for the purpose of obtaining professional voice-over work. The samples on this CD are mock radio ads, and they may be used to obtain work not only in radio, but for books on tape, children's CD's, industrial films, educational tapes, video games, cartoons etc. My profession is stand-up comedy, however I have also worked professionally as an actress, and would like my career to include more acting work, as well as voice-over work and fiction and screen-writing. Having a demo voiceover CD is a crucial tool for these plans to branch out. Also, each ad is an original script, written either solely by me, or as a collaborative work with my partner in the project; as a writer, this was a great experience with excellent practice in a new medium.

My partner in this production is Mark Matusof, a fellow stand-up comedian with extensive experience as an actor and voice-over artist, with voice-over credits including portraying the voice of Rudy Feldspar in the Star Music ad campaign and his award-winning portrayal of Hen Youngman in the Birds on a Wire ad campaign, both done in Columbia, South Carolina, and also an off-screen promo for a TV show called "Break a Leg" that ran on the CNBC predecessor, "America's Talking" network.

There were five parts to the process. The first was the initial research phase, in which I obtained sample scripts of actual radio ads to "get a feel" of what the scripts were supposed to be like. The next part was the writing phase. Here is where I used the sample ads as models, and scripted (alone, or with Mark) five separate radio ads, aiming at lengths of fifteen, thirty, or forty-five seconds. Next was another sort of research phase, which was our pre-recording work. Here we listen to actual radio ads, and Mark coached me on specific techniques of how to do the actual reading. Then came the recording phase, which involved practice read-throughs, then recording three to five takes of each ad, timing them to the nearest fifteen, thirty, or forty-five seconds. The recording was done in Mark's recording studio in his home, using a Yamaha MD-8, an eight-channel portable studio; we also utilized a Lexicon MPX-100 external signal effects processor, and the recording medium was a 140MB MD-data disk. The final phase was the post-production, where we selected which takes of each ad to use (or which combinations of takes to be edited together), added in sound effects, like pouring cat food and light music, and eliminated some extraneous noise; then we burned the CD and designed the label, now having an end product.

SCRIPTS

Christina Knowles

“Union Federal Bank” :30

written by Christina Knowles and Mark Matusof

WOMAN: Lesson 3, Useful Phrases (pause). Please call me a taxi.

MAN: Pazhaloosta, vizaviti taxi. Pazhaloosta vizaviti taxi.

WOMAN: Two tickets, please.

MAN: Dva bilyeta, pazhaloosta. Dva bilyeta, pazhaloosta.

WOMAN: Where is the bank?

MAN: Exit 14.

WOMAN: What?

MAN: Union Federal Bank, Exit 14 off Route 9.

WOMAN: We're supposed to be doing useful phrases.

MAN: What could be more useful than Union Federal? Free checking with no minimum balance, no ATM fees, and convenient hours.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: Union Federal. Your hometown bank.

WOMAN: Member, FDIC.

MAN: Member, FDIC. Member, FDIC.

SCRIPTS

Christina Knowles

“Laura’s Dry Cleaners” :30

written by Christina Knowles

WOMAN: Wow, John looks rough

MAN: His girlfriend must have left him.

WOMAN: You can tell?

MAN: Well, check out how bad his suit looks. His girlfriend was obviously the one who took his clothes to the cleaners.

WOMAN: And now he doesn’t know how to take care of himself.

MAN: Yeah. He needs to call Laura’s Dry Cleaning. Not only do they have great service at low prices, but they offer pick-up and delivery.

WOMAN: So he doesn’t even have to remember to get his shirts.

MAN: Right. It’s a bachelor’s dream come true.

WOMAN: What do you mean bachelor’s? I could really use a service like that.

MAN: So call Laura’s Dry Cleaning, at 575-2689.

WOMAN: What’s that again? I’m writing that down.

MAN: Laura’s Dry Cleaning, 575-2689.

WOMAN: Great! So John’s single now, huh?

SCRIPTS

Christina Knowles

“Animal Shelter” :15

written by Christina Knowles

(read by one person, man or woman)

What the? What is that? What in the world? Oh. Oh! Cool. Wow! Unexpected. Definitely different. Very, very exciting. Come check out the new looks at your local animal shelter, and find out why they're called “man's best friend.”

SCRIPTS

Christina Knowles

“Buzbie’s Karaoke” :45

written by Christina Knowles and Mark Matusof

WOMAN: (singing terribly) Love Shack, Baby, whoooooo...

MAN: What’s that racket?

WOMAN: I’m practicing for the big karaoke contest at Buzbie’s.

MAN: You’re kidding. You entered a singing contest?

WOMAN: You bet. Each Wednesday at Buzbie’s in Cooper Township. Cash prizes every week and a grand prize of one thousand dollars awarded at the end of October. It’s open to anyone 21 or over. (singing) I’ve got sunshine, on a cloudy day—

MAN: Hold it. Please. I thought Buzbie’s was just a sports bar.

WOMAN: How little you know. Wednesday is karaoke, Thursday is comedy night, and on the weekends, Buzbie’s is one of the hottest dance clubs in the five-town corridor. (singing) You light up m life—

MAN: Stop it. The neighbors are arming themselves.

WOMAN: Good, because I’ll need bodyguards when I get that big recording contract.

MALE: Yeah. Sure you will.

WOMAN: Don’t miss Buzbie’s big karaoke contest. Every Wednesday through October. Buzbie’s is located on Route 12 in Cooper Township.

SCRIPTS

Christina Knowles

“Champion Cat Food” :30

written by Christina Knowles and Mark Matusof

WOMAN: Here kitty, kitty.

CAT: (with an attitude) Meow, meow.

WOMAN: I have a surprise for you.

CAT: Oh, yeah. Just what cats look forward to – surprises.

WOMAN: It's a new cat food!

CAT: Not again. Last time you changed my food, I was chained to the litter box for a week.

WOMAN: This is Champion Breed cat food. Scientifically developed by a veterinarian.

CAT: A vet? Those butchers?

WOMAN: Champion Breed is all natural and provides all the essential vitamins and minerals you'll need for a long happy life.

CAT: I'll bet the bag tastes better.

SFX – sound of dry food being poured into a bowl.

WOMAN: And it's supposed to be delicious.

CAT: What would you know about it? You're a vegetarian! Even your table scraps are repulsive. Okay, here goes nothing.

SFX – cat eating food.

CAT: Okay, not too bad. Champion Breed cat food. Available at your local supermarket. Buy it. It'll keep your owner happy.

WOMAN: Because I love you this much.

CAT: Please, not the petting! Oh, okay. Purr, purr, purr.