

Patsy Rodenburg

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [In Print](#)
- [Photo](#)
- [Workshops](#)

About

BIOGRAPHY [Patsy Rodenburg](#) is Director of Voice at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (26 years) and until recently at the Royal National Theatre (16 years). She is recognized as one of the world's leading voice and acting coaches. She has worked regularly with the best-known actors of the British theatre, including Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Antony Sher, Daniel Day-Lewis, Simon Russell Beale, Ralph Fiennes, Joe Fiennes, Imelda Staunton, Sophie Okonedo as well as many of the biggest stars of film and television such as Nicole Kidman, Orlando Bloom, Hugh Jackman, Ewan McGregor, Keira Knightly and Natalie Portman to name a few. She was previously in residence with the Royal Shakespeare Company (9 years) and also works with The Royal Court Theater, Donmar and Almeida Theater, London. She has also worked extensively with many of the great world theatres including the Moscow Art Theatre, Complicite, Cheek by Jowl, Comedie-Francaise, etc. She recently directed a very successful and critically acclaimed production of *King Lear* in Los Angeles.

HUMANITARIAN WORK:

Although it is not advertised by Patsy herself, Patsy Rodenburg has been a major voice for Penal Reform in the U.K.; she has staged Shakespeare in maximum-security prisons and worked with the criminally insane for over 25 years. She has developed methods along with the treating-psychiatrists to rehabilitate child murderers through poetry and Shakespeare. Patsy understands the relevance of Shakespeare in contemporary times to communicate with, and release, the marginalized, and disenfranchised voice. Patsy has spent months traveling and teaching in the most poverty stricken areas of India, taught Shakespeare to mixed groups of Protestant and Catholic women in Northern Ireland, as well as taking her work to Gaza and the West Bank. In Amsterdam, she has conducted workshops with up to 300 prostitutes at a time; worked greatly with various tribes in Africa, and with Aboriginal communities in Australia. And, that barely scrapes the surface of her contribution. Her passion for communication and the spoken word has broken down racial, religious and class barriers the world over.

"Patsy Rodenburg is one of the handful of people in the world who understand that the use of the voice by actors and public speakers engages the heart, the mind and the body. There is no teacher, in my experience, who brings all these together with such wisdom and patience."
- [RICHARD EYRE](#), director

"I am an enormous fan of her work. What is wonderful about her is the directness and clarity of her teaching and her enthusiasm."
- [JUDI DENCH](#)

"Patsy Rodenburg is one of the best teachers I have known; she is a constant source of strength and inspiration."
- [RALPH FIENNES](#)

"I know Patsy to be a gifted voice and speech coach... she provides practical and imaginative means for getting to the heart of the text and making the necessity for the language to be strongly felt by audiences."
- [TREVOR NUNN](#), Former Director of The Royal Shakespeare Company

"Patsy Rodenburg wants to free your voice so that you can express yourself fully and honestly."
- [SIR IAN MCKELLEN](#)

"Patsy is such a unique, dynamic guide in getting us back to the vocal pathway of instinctive expression."
- [JOSEPH FIENNES](#)

"Patsy Rodenburg is one of the best teachers I have ever known. She is a constant source of strength and inspiration."
- [ANTHONY SHER](#), recent Broadway sell-out show *PRIMO* (Patsy worked extensively with Tony on *PRIMO*)

PATSY RODENBURG HAS PUBLISHED FOUR BESTSELLING BOOKS BASED ON HER WORK:

- [THE ACTOR SPEAKS](#), with an introduction by Judi Dench
The essential voice book for students and professional actors alike. Beginning with what every first-year acting student faces in class and ending with what leading professional actors must achieve every night on the three stages of the Royal National Theatre, Patsy Rodenburg's celebrated work as one of the world's foremost voice and acting coaches is fully revealed in this thoughtful and inspirational book about the process of acting through a seven-step process, she takes the actor through an intensive voice and speech workshop tackling the vexing problems faced in rehearsal and on stage: breathing and relaxation; vocal range and power; communication with other actors and the audience; integrating movement, singing and speaking; deciphering and animating a text; adjusting voice to different size stages and auditoria; working in mediums beyond the stage; sustaining a performance through an entire evening and a long run and identifying and overcoming the countless potential problems that face every performer who works in front of an audience.
- [THE NEED FOR WORDS](#), by Patsy Rodenburg
"The Need for Words is an astonishing book. It takes you on an extraordinary voyage of discovery through the worlds of language and texts. Every actor and non-actor should know it and read it" **Declan Donnellan** (director). *"In The Need for Words, Patsy Rodenburg shows herself to be an inspired and inspiring teacher. Her work is an essential tool for today's teachers and students. She enables them to regain power over language, voice and speech so they can speak out and be heard."* **Jenny Harris** (Head of Education, Royal National Theatre)
- [THE RIGHT TO SPEAK](#), by Patsy Rodenburg
"Even a short experience of working with Patsy Rodenburg brings striking insights into the way we use voice and body and how we can change these. Patsy's work releases untapped resources of energy, sensitivity and activity, and I can appreciate how useful this is in professional training, not only for actors but for all persons concerned with the way in which we express and suppress ourselves." **Dr. Malcolm Pines**, Psychoanalyst
- [SPEAKING SHAKESPEARE](#), by Patsy Rodenburg
"You can't act Shakespeare until you can speak him." Those words inform every page of Speaking Shakespeare. Patsy calls this book *"a simple manual to start the journey into the heart of Shakespeare."*

PRESENCE is Patsy's latest book dealing with her work on 'positive presence' and 'the three circles of energy' was recently published in the UK from Penguin. The US version will be available from Norton in January 2008.

● Categories

- [General](#) (1)

● Archives

- [August 2007](#)

● Meta

- [Login](#)
- [Valid XHTML](#)
- [XFN](#)
- [WordPress](#)

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[Day Dream](#) by [Jim Whimpey](#). [WordPress](#) runs this show.