



Karen Strassman

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Karen Strassman

Actress & Voice Over Artist

Born and raised in Washington D.C. alongside her parents and brother, Karen Strassman knew she wanted to be an actress at a young age. After landing her first role as Helen Keller in her local theater's production of *The Miracle Worker*, she fell in love with acting and storytelling. After high school, Strassman didn't know if she had the skills to become a professional actress, so she studied psychology and theatre at Tufts University. It wasn't until she studied abroad in Paris during her junior year that she realized her passion for acting could become a career. While there, Strassman spotted an ad seeking a part-time dialect coach intern to help French actors learn to speak with an American accent for their TV and film roles. Impressed by her skill, the company soon offered her a full-time position and she began lending her voice to children's books on cassette as well as dubbing French films into English. Loving the challenge brought on by this opportunity, she chose to further her acting education at the Le Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique de Paris, the most prestigious theater school in France. Having fallen in love with Paris and its culture, she soon made it her permanent home. This decision launched her own journey into the entertainment industry, leading to 16 years of coaching and acting work in TV, movies, theater and voice over.

During her time in France, she appeared in many films throughout Europe. From artsy indie projects to big studio productions, Strassman worked alongside icons like Gerard Depardieu, Jan Kounen, and Merchant & Ivory. She was also seen on many popular French TV series such as *Haute Tension*, *Orson & Olivia*, and *Class Mannequin*. As one of the leading voice over talents in Paris at the time, Strassman was perhaps most recognized as the main voice for Air France and Disneyland Paris for many years.

Since returning to America in 2002, she has continued to add to her extensive resume. Strassman has brought her talent to guest roles on popular TV shows like *Silicon Valley*, *Workaholics*, *Weeds*, and *Criminal Minds* to name a few. She was most recently seen in a recurring guest role as Dr. Slotnick on the hit AMC series *Preacher*. Strassman has also made a name for herself in the world of voiceover, creating voices for hundreds of characters of all shapes, genders, ages, and species. On the big screen, she can be heard in hit movies such as *Bride Wars*, *Predators*, and *The Purge*. Strassman has also lent her voice to many notable video games including *Call of Duty: WWII*, *Halo Wars 2*, *Call of Duty: Black Ops III*, and most recently *World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth*.

Things are not slowing down for Strassman. She will also next be seen in a recurring role as Deputy District Attorney Laura Tribe in Amazon Prime's hit series *Bosch*. She will also return to the big screen in acclaimed horror director Tom Six's upcoming horror thriller *The Onania Club*.

When she is not busy acting, Strassman is an accomplished dialect coach. She is particularly adept at teaching techniques that help actors lose their accents. Strassman's skills have expanded beyond the entertainment industry, earning her an extensive list of corporate clients including Disney, Microsoft, Netflix, Sony, and Warner Bros. just to name a few.

Outside of acting, Strassman makes staying fit a priority and incorporates physical activity into her everyday routine. She enjoys any kind of exercise including hiking, swimming, pilates or anything that keeps her moving. Strassman also loves to travel and spend time with her family, her cat Juno and dog Chiquita. She is a passionate philanthropist, participating in charitable events and lending her support to charities such as The Covenant House, CARE, Partners in Health, and PETA. Strassman currently resides in Los Angeles.

Karen Strassman on Social Media

Verified on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook

twitter

[@KarenStrassman](https://twitter.com/KarenStrassman)



KarenStrassman ✓



Instagram

[@karenstrassman](https://www.instagram.com/karenstrassman)



karenstrassman ✓

facebook

[@KarenStrassmanFanPage](https://www.facebook.com/KarenStrassmanFanPage)



Karen Strassman
Fan Page ✓



TV Roundup: ‘Stargirl’ Series at DC Universe Casts Anjelika Washington

In today’s TV news roundup, an exclusive first look at the upcoming Netflix children’s series “[Motown Magic](#)” and Anjelika Washington joins “[Stargirl](#).”

CASTING

Karen Strassman will appear in a recurring role on season 5 of **Amazon’s “Bosch”** as D.D.A. Laura Tribe, a dedicated lawyer working on a complex trial. Strassman was most recently seen as Dr. Slotnick, a recurring guest on **AMC’s “Preacher.”**

Read the exclusive here:

<https://variety.com/2018/tv/news/tv-roundup-exclusive-first-look-motown-magic-trailer-1203018464/>



Rep Sheet Roundup: 'Claws' Actor Jimmy Jean-Louis Signs With Buffalo 8 Management

THR's at-a-glance look at the week in representation news

Who got signed, promoted, hired or fired? The Hollywood Reporter's Rep Sheet rounds up the week in representation news. To submit announcements for consideration, contact rebecca.sun@thr.com.

Others on the dotted line

Katz PR has signed:

Karen Strassman, who has a recurring role on AMC's *Preacher* and credits on *Silicon Valley*, *Weeds* and *Workaholics*. She continues to be represented by Aqua Talent and STW Talent.

Read the announcement here:

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/rep-sheet-roundup-claws-actor-jimmy-jean-louis-signs-buffalo-8-management-1134094>



Preacher S:3 | Schwanzkopf E:9 | AfterBuzz TV AfterShow



Hosts Alana Jordan, Chauncey Robinson, and Nate Miller are joined by Dr. Slotnick herself, Karen Strassman for the penultimate episode of Preacher's third season, "Schwanzkopf." Cass is in hot water with his vampire poser club, Tulip is on a bus straight to Hell, and Jesse is forced to make some Messiah-related decisions. Don't be a Schwanzkopf. Watch this episode.

The Preacher After Show:

Just like Jesse Custer is fulfilling a promise to his dad, we'll fulfill a promise to you to deliver the most in-depth insights and discussion on each episode of the series based on the popular 1990s comic book franchise. On the PREACHER AFTER SHOW you'll also get the latest news and gossip, comic book tie ins and interviews with cast and crew so join us and don't be left out.

ABOUT PREACHER:

Preacher is an American television series developed by Evan Goldberg, Seth Rogen and Sam Catlin for AMC starring Dominic Cooper. It is an adaptation of the comic book series created by Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon, and published by DC Comics' Vertigo imprint.

Watch the interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G41E6q0vKVk>

FEM★LES UNFILTERED SHOW
FEMALES UNFILTERED SHOW
FEM★LES UNFILTERED SHOW
FEM★LES UNFILTERED SHOW
FEM★LES UNFILTERED SHOW



Watch the interview here:
<https://youtu.be/S9OjfJgkx4>

VENTS

MAGAZINE

KAREN STRASSMAN

1. Hi Karen, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?

Answer: Thanks so much! It's been a bit of a crazy day, with two on-camera auditions, four voiceover auditions, two coaching clients and a last-minute studio recording session squeezed in amidst everything...but I'm grateful for all the craziness and love that I get to do all these things.

2. You're known for both of your work as a voice and on-camera actress – did one draw you into the other?

Answer: Yes, I suppose so. I've always had the acting bug, ever since I was a very little girl. I did all the school plays and won the theatre award for excellence when I graduated high school. I then went to France as a student to study psychology and theatre in French. There I started training and working as a dialect coach as well, and early on I was somehow offered a job doing voices for a cassette tape (I'm dating myself here) to accompany a magazine called "Hi Kids!" that would help French children learn English. We recorded many editions of this magazine, and I had to do all kinds of characters from little girls and little boys to chipmunks to British ladies, American Indians, pirates, cowgirls, grandmothers, Southern belles and more. I had never done voiceover and had to learn very quickly. There was no one to tell me that I sucked, so I dove in without hesitation. It turned out I was actually good at it. I had never considered voiceover before, and this was the beginning of a very rich and wonderful career. Ever since then I have done both on-camera and voiceover hand in hand.

3. How does one influence the other?

Answer: I think my theatre and on-camera training help me to focus on the inner lives and workings of a character, their wants, needs and circumstances, which really makes a difference in bringing richer dimensions to my voiceover work. There is sometimes a misnomer that voiceover is about "making funny voices," or "doing a voice," but it is really about bringing a character completely to life, even if simply through the voice. This means you really have to know them and be in their world in your imagination. As for how voiceover has influenced my on-camera work? I think it has made me way more playful, more willing to go all out, especially in comedy, and has given me a real sense of rhythm, music and timing in my deliveries.

4. Do you tend to take a different approach depending on whether you're doing voiceover or on-camera?

Answer: There are many technical differences between the two mediums. When on set, you have to hit your mark, find your light, not block the other characters light. You have to memorize lines, walk and talk or do many other activities, making everything seem completely natural and not contrived. For voiceover, you have to create a multi-dimensional character and pull the listeners completely into their world solely based on your voice. What I aim for in both mediums, however, and what guides me into the world that I am helping to create is the ability to dive without self-conscious abandon into the character's reality, and lose myself in the "make believe" like a child. This for me is the key that can unlock the magic of both these mediums.

5. Let's talk about Preacher – what was the audition process like?

Answer: Well, the role was originally written for a man "Louis Slotnick," but for whatever reasons, they didn't find the guy they liked and started auditioning women for the role as well. The breakdown for the character basically said she was a passionate scientist, with no mention of any accent or nationality, so I did a self-taped audition corresponding to that. But it just felt to me like the character wasn't

really American. How it was written just didn't feel that way to me, and I just had this weird urge to do it in a German accent, that I can't really explain. So, I did a take just to get it out of my system. It was really interesting and compelling, so I decided to take a risk and send it along with the other take just for fun. Then later that week we heard back from the Casting Director, Ryan Glorioso, asking me to tape a callback audition, saying that they actually really liked the German accent, and could I retake it with some adjustments...and there you go. A big reminder of how important it is to trust one's instincts...

6. Were you familiar with the show and/or comics prior to becoming part of it?

Answer: I watched a number of episodes before auditioning just to get a sense of the world, became completely hooked on the show, and ended binge-watching the whole first two seasons in the blink of an eye. I haven't actually seen the comic books yet, and really look forward to reading them.

7. Being part of an already existing show – does that make it easier to prepare for the role?

Answer: Always. Because you can really get to know the world of the show, its tone and parameters, and even all the details of the "reality" you will be entering into before arriving on set. There is so much that is concrete to draw on that also fuels the imagination even more. Even though the world of Preacher is so out there, I completely buy the reality of it. One of the things that so struck me when I was watching the series and preparing for my role was no matter how crazy and "out there" a script might be, and how "characterly" most characters in the show are, all the actors in the show make their characters so deeply real, human, and grounded. So, you completely buy their reality and humanity within it, and get truly involved in their lives. You feel for them and with them. As I was preparing for my episodes, I wanted to create a character that was really fun and out there, but also feel as real and believable as all the other characters on the show.

8. With Dr. Slotnick being such a quirky and eccentric character – did you get to stray away from your own persona or did you pour some of yourself into this role?

Answer: Although I'm not a German quirky scientific genius nor do I work for an organization to help create a Messiah, I have always been passionately obsessed with my work. I am a stubborn perfectionist to a fault, am sometimes quite overly zealous about things I am into, and have certainly tried very hard to please certain authority figures in my life. So, it was easy to bring all these very human parts of myself to the role.

9. What else is happening next in Karen Strassman's world? I heard you are working with The Human Centipede's Tom Six – so...?

Answer: You can hear me in the new awesome animated series Subway Surfers based on the huge online game as the lead girl, Tricky, and as Captain Eudora in World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth. I'm also the beloved Aigis in BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle and Persona 3: Dancing in Moonlight.

I just booked another project, which I can't talk about yet, and am working on quite a few video games that are hush hush. And yes... Tom Six's new controversial film, The Onania Club will be coming out late this year. I am sworn to secrecy on this bold and powerful project, but you can find the trailer for it online and catch a glimpse of my character.



Cliché

AMAZINGLY DIFFERENT

“Preacher” Star Karen Strassman Talks About Her Life As An Actress and Voice Over Artist



With talent both on-screen and in the recording booth, Karen Strassman has put together a long list of credits as a television actress and voiceover artist. Recently, she was seen in AMC’s *Preacher* in the role of Dr. Slotnick. When she’s not busy acting or needs a break from reality, you can find her swimming in a pool or lake or even spending time alone in nature. We chatted with Karen about *Preacher*, the experience working on the show and her advice to others looking to getting involved with acting.

Cliché: What was the experience like working on Preacher? What attracted you in joining the series?

Karen Strassman: My experience working on *Preacher* was delightful and exhilarating. No matter how crazy and out there the world of this show might be, and how characterly most characters are, it’s done so well that it still feels so deeply real, human, and grounded. As I watched the series, I completely bought the whole reality and everyone’s humanity within it and got truly involved in their lives. As I was preparing for my episodes, it was exciting to create a character that was extremely fun, quirky, and out there, but also felt as real and believable as all the other characters on the show. That’s such fun stuff for an actor.

Can you describe your character, Dr. Slotnick? Do you relate to her at all?

Dr. Slotnick is a freakishly brilliant, driven, genius German scientist, and although I'm not German, I am part Danish and have family living in some parts of Germany. I'm not terribly adept when it comes to science, and I don't work for an organization to help create a new Messiah. But, like Lois, I have always been quite passionately obsessed with my work. I am a stubborn perfectionist to a fault and I am sometimes quite overly zealous about things I am into. I have certainly tried very hard to please certain authority figures in my life. So, it was actually pretty easy to bring all these very human parts of me to this fun role.



How did you get involved in voice-over work?

I started doing voiceover in France when I was 20-years-old. I somehow got a job doing voices for a cassette tape for a French magazine created to help kids learn English. I cut my teeth doing any role they threw at me, and it seemed I was pretty good at it. That led to dubbing French movies into English. I was the American voice for Juliette Binoche, Emmanuel Heart, Vanessa Paradis, and many others. From there I started getting cast in a lot of original animation, then video games... and I've just been constantly working ever since. I'm a very lucky girl.

on screen?

In voiceover, more often than not, you are usually alone in the booth, working with the director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients on the other side of the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation). You have to imagine all of the other characters interacting with you. You have to imagine everything, really – the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, and the other characters emotions. Since the audience can't see you, you have to let everything come through the voice. But within that world of imagination, you also have a lot of freedom to play characters that you would never get cast in physically. I can play an old grandmother, a tall sexy top model, and a little boy who's a skateboard pro.

How different is that experience for you from acting

What are some other experiences in your career that you've really enjoyed?

I've had so many wonderful experiences over the span of my career. Working on *Weeds* was such a delight. The quirky Jolene Waite was so much fun to play. It was a part that was only supposed to be in one episode, and I guess the producers and writers liked what I did enough in that one episode to keep writing me into other episodes throughout season 7. All of the cast, crew, producers, writers, and directors were all fantastic. I never wanted to leave the set. One night we were shooting way overtime and at about 2 in the morning, Kevin Nealon took out his banjo and started improv-ing songs about everyone there while we were waiting for a lighting change. When we finally wrapped up and they let us go home, I remember being sad and wishing I could have stayed all night.

When did you realize that you were going to pursue acting as a career?

I've been drawn to acting ever since I was a very little girl, making up plays in our basement with my friends, and doing every school play that would cast me. At that time, I dreamed of being reborn as Melissa Gilbert and Laura Ingalls in *Little House on the Prairie*. When I was 13, I was cast in the role of Helen Keller in a beautiful production of *The Miracle Worker*. I couldn't wait to get to the theatre after school for rehearsals, and I never wanted to leave. I blindfolded myself for many of the rehearsals and would spend any extra time trying to find my way around the theatre and imagining what it was like to be blind and deaf. The whole experience was magical, and it was then that I fell irreversibly in love with acting, storytelling, and the empathetic nature of this art. As an aside, I would love to play a blind character again someday. However, at that time, I didn't think I was pretty enough or talented enough to pursue acting as a career, so I pursued studies in Psychology. It wasn't until I moved to France at 20-years-old that I realized my passion could become a career, and I've been making my living doing what I love ever since.

What's the best advice you received on acting and who was it from?

Robert Colt (www.RobertColt.com), whose coaching has been a game changer for me and has helped me fall in love with acting all over again said this in an interview:

“When an actor doesn’t trust what’s unfolding spontaneously at the moment and tries to make something happen, they’re in Ego Acting. When they hold back and play it safe with what’s unfolding at the moment they’re in Fear Acting. And the result is being untruthful in both instances which is painful for true actors. Artists thrive in truth and suffer in falsehood.” Robert DeNiro says, “All you can do is be in the moment. When you try to make something big happen it never works. It never works. All you can do is be in the moment. If something’s going to happen it’s going to happen. If it’s not, it’s not... It’s about the persistence of truth... Everything just starts coming together as you trust what’s unfolding in each moment. Have fun and go for the ride. It’s as simple as that...”

What is your advice to others looking to get involved in acting?

My advice to others looking to get involved in acting is to make sure it’s really what you love and yearn to do more than anything else because it is a ruthless business. Be prepared to be rejected over and over again and still find your love for what you do. You will need a vulnerable, beautiful, playful, empathetic heart of a child, but the discipline, persistence, endurance, and maturity of an adult who has lived and sees the bigger picture. Make sure to live the rest of your life fully, travel, experience as much as you can, and love. Find as many ways as possible to give to others and not make life too much about your little self. Find ways to live and experience life as an artist and not as a salesperson.

In addition, don’t take anything personally. In a world of ruthless criticism, commercialism, skepticism, and fear keep baring your heart and soul, humanity, and quiriness. In a business where you want people to like you, watch your show, cast you in their project, you somehow have to find a way to not care what people think in order to offer of something truly authentic, human, spontaneous, moving, and truly compelling. It’s a huge paradox, and in my mind, this is mastery. I am far from this, but aspire and work toward it every day. I would also add to take not take oneself or what we are doing too seriously either. And for god sakes be a kind, decent human being.

What are some things you enjoy doing outside of acting?

I’m an introvert who masquerades as an extrovert. I love spending time alone or in nature. I love swimming. I swim first thing every morning when I don’t have an early call. I can find a pool, lake, or beach in any city in the world. I also love wonderful deep delicious human conversations with dear friends.

Are you currently working on or will you be working on any future projects?

I can’t speak about anything I’m currently working on because of all the non-disclosure agreement’s I’ve signed on various projects. I’ve got few very cool video games, some cool animated stuff, a big motion capture project, and other things I’ll be shooting in September. I can announce that I have a lead in Tom Six’s new film *The Onania Club*, an exciting new bold and controversial feature, which will be coming out this year. You can check my website for news as it comes out at www.karenstrassman.com or reach out to me via Twitter and Instagram: @karenstrassman.

Read the interview here:

<https://www.clichemag.com/celebrity-news/preacher-star-karen-strassman-talks-about-her-life-as-an-actress-and-voice-over-artist/>

THE HEDONIST

LUXURY LIFESTYLE & STORIES OF SUCCESS

Interview With Karen Strassman | The Hero's Journey



Sometimes, we put too much pressure on ourselves when we think we have to do something in a certain way to please someone else. When we do that, we start to blame others for asking too much, or for expecting us to behave the way they consider is the right one. But it's not about them, it's always about us and what we think about ourselves. We all have a limitless potential to shine the way we want to.

Karen Strassman, the multitalented artist who can be seen as Dr. Slotnick on AMC's series "Preacher" says:

"I was told all the reasons I could never succeed as an actress – not pretty enough, tall enough, thin enough, old enough, young enough, busty enough, connected enough. And here I am doing what I love because I kept listening to that tug in my heartstrings to do it anyway because I kept stepping forward onto my own path like a scavenger hunt, a treasure hunt, not giving up... I faced each obstacle and let it push me to grow, learn, and transform into what it would take to be what my heart was nudging me to dare to be...maybe that's the hero's journey."

Introduction

- **Please introduce yourself briefly. Who, in your own words, is Karen Strassman?**

I'm a human creature bushwhacking my way through this mystery of life like everyone else. I get to make my living doing what I love as an actor, voice-actor, and a dialect and acting coach. I'm passionate about storytelling as a way to dive back into our own humanity.

- **What was your conscious path to becoming interested in the entertainment industry?**

I dreamed of being an actress ever since I was old enough to remember. It was kind of a random thing because I had never met anyone who was an actor. It felt like an inaccessible, intangible dream that my parents probably kept hoping I would grow out of but never did. When I was 13, I was cast in the role of Helen Keller in a beautiful production of “The Miracle Worker.” I couldn’t wait to get to the theatre after school for rehearsals, and I never wanted to leave. I blindfolded myself for hours on end and would spend any extra time trying to find my way around the theatre or my home like that, imagining what it was like to be blind and deaf. The whole experience was magical, and it was then that I irreversibly fell in love with acting, storytelling, and the empathetic nature of this art. However, at that time I didn’t think I was pretty enough or talented enough to pursue acting as a career, so I pursued studies in psychology. It wasn’t until I moved to France at 20 years old that I realized my passion could become a career, and I’ve been making my living doing what I love ever since.



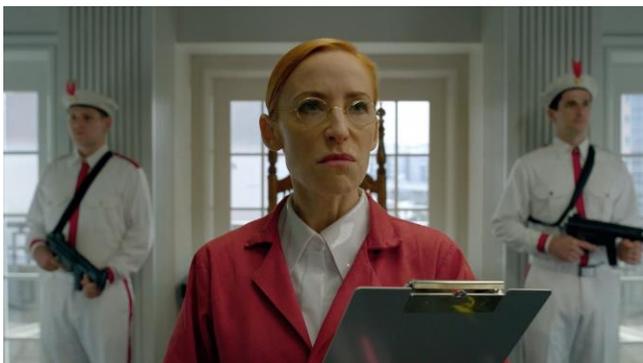
Entertainment Industry

- **Doing voice acting and TV/film acting must be a quite different process. What are the differences and similarities and how do those disciplines enhance each other?**

Well, a voiceover artist’s job is to create a whole reality only through the voice. And in voiceover, more often than not, you are usually completely alone in the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation). The director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients will be on the other side of the glass, and you have to simply imagine all of the other characters interacting with you. You have to imagine **everything**, really; the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, the situation, etc... and you have to make your character and its world come to life out of thin air. It really demands the spirit of a child, the richness of a child’s imagination, and freedom to be playful to make this possible.

Working for TV and film is magical in a very different way. You are on a beautifully created set or at a real location, looking in the eyes of your fellow actors, and completely immersed in the atmosphere and the physical world of the project. And you get to play off of your fellow actors, which is so deeply enlivening. But there are also many more elements to juggle because of this, like making sure you are standing in just the right place for the camera, not blocking your partner’s light, picking up a fork at the same time that you did in a previous take, having to memorize new pages of dialogue at the very last minute, possibly hours of waiting for your scene, and then having to be completely on as soon as you are finally called on set, no matter what state you are in. And still, no matter what, create a moment that feels spontaneous, wonderfully human, real, and yes, magical.

But both these disciplines are about using your imagination and sense of play to dive into the porthole of another reality and make it come to life in a way that is deeply human, spontaneous, and relatable.



- **When you do a character, either voice acting or TV/film acting, how do you create a personality while still keeping your authenticity?**

By coming from the inside out and following the sparks in my heart, which lead me both in drama and comedy.

Acting

- **Does your experience as a voice actor helped you to get a specific role as a TV/film actor you really wanted? If so, please elaborate.**

I think my ability to work with my voice has helped me make some TV and film performances even more interesting. For example, When I auditioned for Dr. Slotnick in “Preacher,” the character description was just for an impassioned scientist. They didn’t say anything about adding an accent, but because I’ve done so many characters with accents in cartoons and video games, I just had an instinct to try the character with a German accent. And that’s what ended up landing me the role. In the end, it is what really helped create the character itself.

- **How does it feel to portray the character of Dr. Slotnick, a role that holds the future of mankind at her fingertips on AMC’s series “Preacher?”**

This quirky, obsessive, scientific genius was so much fun to explore. Honestly, just being a part of this exciting comic book world that was brought completely and entirely to life by so much brilliant talent was such a high. It was one of those experiences you never want to end, like being on a ride at an amusement park. When it stops, all you want to do is run back in line so you can get on it again.

- **What fascinates you most of Dr. Slotnick and what is the most significant impact she had on you as a person during the process of studying this character?**

Well, Dr. Slotnick is a freakishly brilliant, driven, genius German scientist. Though I’m not terribly adept when it comes to science and don’t work for an organization to help create a new Messiah, like Louis, I have always been passionately obsessed with my work. I am a stubborn perfectionist to a fault, am sometimes quite overzealous about things I am into, and have certainly tried very hard to please certain authority figures in my life. It was fun to just be that obsessed control freak out in the open and not have to hide it and pretend to be normal. I think in general, acting gives us permission to let those more human parts of ourselves run loose for a while, and let down the charade we all play of being “normal” in everyday life. None of us are really as normal as we keep trying to appear. Being actors, we get to let our quirky hair down under the guise of “acting.”

- **What was your most memorable moment during the filming of “Preacher” with such a fantastic cast?**

I really enjoyed the first day when I got to set and we all gathered for a run through and blocking my first scene. Nobody knew me and they had no idea what I was going to do for the character since there was a very little indication in the script about who this doctor was. When I first opened my mouth during the first rehearsal and people on set heard my German accent, it was really fun to register their surprise and delight at what I had chosen to do, especially because I hold this brilliant cast and crew in such high esteem. As an artist, it’s always exciting to feel that you have surprised people. It’s so enlivening to experience surprises in life, and even more exciting to be able to surprise others.

- **You will be seen as Barbara Dowels in the upcoming horror thriller “The Onania Club.” What is the message behind the film’s plot?**

At this time, I am sworn to secrecy on this project. But I will say that this film will “hold a mirror up to nature” (as Shakespeare would say) in a most disturbingly accurate way...

- **A voice actor embodies different characters through voice paired with emotions. What kind of technical skills do you use to make it as real as possible?**

It’s actually really simple, I just have a pact with myself to really “go there.” To really visit that emotion and experience in myself. Whether I’m a little girl chipmunk trying to keep up with and impress her brother chipmunk, an absent-minded grandmother who has lost her magic hat, a dragon after revenge, or a robot who wants to be human, my job is to really go there instead of just doing “a voice” or phoning it in a hollow or predictable way. If I really go there, the character will automatically come to life, actually taking

me over, making the performance so human and spontaneous that the audience it's being pulled in and enthralled.

Personal

- **What does inspire you most as a person of having the possibility in your professional life to become different characters?**

What inspires me the most is what terrifies me the most. It's being out of control and letting the experience have a life of its own. Like when a character just takes you over or pulls something so real and human out of you. This inspires and thrills me. This and the experience of deep empathy for a new experience of the human condition that you inevitably end up experiencing through it.



Good Soul

- **Do you support any charitable organization you want to mention? If so, please do.**

My all-time favorite charity is The Covenant House – <https://covenanthousecalifornia.org> – they can literally change the life and destiny of a homeless youth, it's an amazing organization. I also love charities like CARE, Partners in Health, and PETA.

Close Up

- **The spirit of The Hedonist Magazine is “The Essence of a Joyful Living.” How does joy during the creation process affect your own experience, and in consequence the final manifestation of your actions?**

I find that joy is what helps me connect to my heart, where the real intelligence is. I find when I'm acting, if I'm having a good time, then the work will come to life. If I'm stressing, taking myself too seriously or putting a harsh pressure on myself, my work is never any good. I also think there is a more subtle version of “joy,” which has its seed in gratitude. Any time I'm coming from a sensation of gratitude, it brings me strain into my heart, where real life abides and everyday magic can occur.

- **When you hear: “You can be, do and have anything you want,” Words by Abraham Hicks. What is your take on such a statement?**

I think I am proof of that. I was told all the reasons I could never succeed as an actress – not pretty enough, tall enough, thin enough, old enough, young enough, busty enough, connected enough. And here I am doing what I love because I kept listening to that tug in my heartstrings to do it anyway because I kept stepping forward onto my own path like a scavenger hunt, a treasure hunt, not giving up... I faced each obstacle and let it push me to grow, learn, and transform into what it would take to be what my heart was nudging me to dare to be...maybe that's the hero's journey.

Read the interview here:

<https://www.thehedonistmagazine.com/2018/10/09/interview-with-karen-strassman-the-heros-journey/>



Pop-Culturalist Chats with Karen Strassman



Karen Strassman's voice may sound familiar to you. She's the voice behind many popular anime shows (like *Bleach* and *Code Geass*), animated movies, and video games (like *Persona* and *World of Warcraft*). But, she's also an experienced actress on screen in shows like *Weeds* and *Workaholics*.

P-C: What appealed to you about playing Dr. Slotnick?

Karen: When I auditioned for the Dr. Slotnick, the character was not very specifically defined, so there was a lot of room for me to create something. In fact, when I got the audition sides, there was no mention of nationality or accent. I did a take without an accent for my audition, and then I did a second take with the German accent, just because it felt like it would be fun to do. Apparently, everyone liked what I did with the German thing, so we went ahead with that choice. I did my own work of deciding who she is and some backstory. From there, between wardrobe choices, the strict hair and harsh make-up, we continued to mold the character. Once on set, the director Wayne Yip chose the cool glasses you see me wearing on the show, and Dr. Slotnick really came to life. The creators/writers/producers gave me a lot of freedom and encouragement to really create an original character.

P-C: Can you describe Dr. Slotnick in five words?

Karen: Freakishly brilliant wounded driven genius.

P-C: *Preacher* is in its third season. What was it like stepping into a cast and crew that have been working together for some time?

Karen: Firstly, I want to say that it's a fantastic set to work on. Every single person is really welcoming and makes you feel like you belong there immediately. There is a constant sense of collaboration between everyone. I worked mostly with Dominic, Pip, and Jonny. What an honor! These guys are so committed and so real, no matter how wacky the material becomes. You completely believe them every second.

One of the things that so struck me when I was watching the series and preparing for my role was no matter how crazy and "out there" a script might be, and how "character-y" most characters in the show are, all the actors in the show make their characters so very real, human, and grounded. So, you feel they are completely real and get truly

involved in their lives. You feel for them and with them. As I was preparing for my episodes, I wanted to create a character that was really fun and out there, but also feel as real and believable as all the other characters on the show.

P-C: You also do quite a bit of voiceover work. How did you get into that?

Karen: I started in France when I was 20, dubbing French movies into English. I was the American voice for Juliette Binoche, Emmanuel Heart, Vanessa Paradis, and many others. From there I started to get cast in a lot of animation and then video games. I've just been constantly working ever since. I'm a very lucky girl.

P-C: Do you find voice acting versus acting on screen more challenging or less? Why?

Karen: Each medium has its own challenges. In voiceover, more often than not, you are usually alone in the booth, working with the director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients on the other side of the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation), and you have to imagine all of the other characters interacting with you. You have to imagine everything, really—the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, the other characters emotions, etc. Since the audience can't see you, you have to let everything come through the voice.

Working for TV and film is magical, as you are on set or on location, looking in the eyes of your fellow actors, and completely immersed in the atmosphere and the world of the project. But there are many more elements to juggle because of this, of course, like making sure you are standing in just the right place for the camera, not blocking your partner's light, picking up a fork at the same time that you did in a previous take, having to memorize new pages of dialogue at the very last minute. In the end, you still have to create a moment that feels spontaneous, wonderfully human, real, and yes, magical!

P-C: Is there a genre of TV or film that you have yet to explore that you'd like to with your acting work?

Karen: I have a new film coming out soon called *The Onania Club* by Tom Six. This bold, daring social commentary is a very new genre for me, and I'm very excited about it.

Pop-Culturalist Speed Round

Last TV Show That You Binge-Watched

The Handmaid's Tale

Favorite Movie

I just watched the movie *Frances* again! I think Jessica Lange is amazing, and the film in many ways is more relevant than ever...

Favorite Book

It's hard to say what my favorite all time book is, but I'm just re-reading *The Surrender Experiment* by Michael Singer, which is fantastic.

Artist/Musician You Could Listen to on Repeat

Joni Mitchell

Place You Most Want to Go

I love traveling, but if someone offered me a choice of a luxury hotel in the most beautiful place in the world or to be on a film or TV set with an amazing group of creative people, weaving a deeply human and magical world together for audiences to be able to travel along with us in the fabric of life and human experiences...I would always choose that.

Person You'd Most Like to Meet

Darrell Calkins

Read the interview here:

<http://pop-culturalist.com/pop-culturalist-chats-with-karen-strassman/>

FEMALE FIRST

Karen Strassman reveals what it's like to be a voiceover artist, in-demand actor and quiet introvert

"As much as I love people and live in a whirlwind of activities, I am actually very much an introvert..."



Actress, voiceover artist and dialect coach Karen Strassman is riding an incredible wave of success. Recently starring in the hit AMC series *Preacher*, based on the comic books of the same name, she's somebody who has made a name for herself both in front of the camera, and in the recording booth. Whether she's recording for television shows, or lending her voice to video game characters, she's someone you've likely come across at some point in your indulgement of entertainment!

Here, she talks all about her career so far; the highlights, how the industry has changed and more.

The world of voiceover is one that's quite mysterious to anyone who's not in it! Can you tell us a little bit about a typical day working in voiceover, and what you get up to? If indeed there are any 'typical' days!

Each day is so different and ever-changing! So ever-changing that sometimes I have to reschedule a dentist appointment four times before I can finally get there. Since I do both on-camera, voiceover, and also coach actors, and it's hard to disentangle them from each other and only do one of them in a day, I'll just share one of my days with you to give you an idea...

- **7am** - Wake up and have warm lemon juice and honey (for my voice which is healing from an intense video game the previous day) and then coffee.
- **8am** - Go to nearby pool to swim laps (I swim or do some kind of exercise most every day - my body is my instrument and I need to keep in in tune).

- **9:45am** - Home for telephone interview for internet gaming publication.
- **10:20am** - Beautiful Iranian actress I've been working with arrives at my house for a coaching session (I'm helping her lose her accent in English).
- **11:30am** - Skype session with a brilliant Irish actor who lives and works in NYC (I'm helping him perfect his Standard American accent too).
- **12:30pm** - Record two last-minute voiceover auditions at my house and email them to my voiceover agency.
- **1pm** - Eat lunch in my car as I'm driving across town to my acting class.
- **1:45pm** - Arrive at my acting class with my amazing coach, Robert Colt (www.robertcolt.com). He does his best to fit me in to do a scene because he knows how important it is for working actors to keep training, even when it gets crazy busy.
- **3:15pm** - Run out to my car to record another quick last-minute voiceover audition on my iPad and send it out.
- **3:45pm** - Return a call about scheduling a new voiceover job I just booked from an audition the previous week.
- **4pm** - Arrive at a studio for a 2-hour cartoon session.
- **6pm** - Call my dad and work on some lines I need to learn while driving home.
- **7pm** - Get on Skype with an actress I'm coaching to help her prep for an on-camera audition the next day.
- **8:15pm** - Work more on my lines for an on-camera TV show I'll be working on the following day.
- **9pm** - Eat a little dinner and watch an episode of the TV show in preparation for the shoot.
- **10pm** - Return some emails and prepare my clothes and belongings for the next day.
- **11pm** - Get to bed because I have to wake up at 5:30 am the next morning to be on a TV set in Long Beach for makeup at 7am).

You recently guest-starred on *Preacher* as Dr. Slotnick; what was that whole experience like?

Working on *Preacher* was delightful and exhilarating. No matter how crazy and "out there" the world of this show might be, and how "character-y" most characters are, it's done so well that it still feels so deeply real, human, and grounded. As I watched the series, I just completely bought the whole reality and everyone's humanity within it, and got truly involved in their lives. As I was preparing for my episodes, it was exciting to create a character that was really fun, quirky, and out there, but also feel as real and believable as all the other characters on the show. That's such fun stuff for an actor.

You've also lent your voice to a number of different video games! Do you have any favourite titles you've worked on? Or any you'd love to work on in the future?

Yes, I've actually done several hundred video games! A few of my favourite experiences include playing Chromie for *World of Warcraft*, Rouge the Bat for many of the *Sonic* games, Mileena and Kitana in *Mortal Kombat*, Aigis and Nanako in the *Persona* series, Izsha in *Starcraft 2*, Poison in *Street Fighter*, Maria in *Wolfenstein*, and all the characters I have played in *Fire Emblem* games and in *League of Legends*.

The way in which we indulge in entertainment nowadays is constantly changing, with streaming services and the like. What do you make of all that's going on and the evolution of the industry?

It can be a bit overwhelming, but once you get past that, there are just so many more opportunities for people to tell their stories. So many possibilities for people to get their projects made, and so many opportunities to be part of such a variety of projects.

You've been in some great shows throughout your career, but are there any you've not yet been a part of that you'd love to in the future?

I'd love to be in *The Handmaid's Tale*, *American Horror Story*, *Godless*, *Stranger Things*, *Better Things*, *This is Us*, *The Good Doctor*, and *Orphan Black* to name a few.

What advice do you have for people out there who'd love to carve out their own career in the entertainment industry?

Make sure it's really what you love and yearn to do more than anything else because it is a ruthless business. Be prepared to be rejected over and over again and still find your love for what you do and life itself. You will need a vulnerable, beautiful, playful, empathetic heart of a child, but the discipline, persistence, endurance and maturity of an adult how has lived and sees the bigger picture. Make sure to live the rest of your life fully: travel, experience as much as you can, and love. Find as many ways as possible to give to others and not make life too much about your little self. Find ways to live and experience live like an artist and not like a salesperson. So, follow your playfulness and inspiration, fail as often as possible, collect rejection, use each and every challenge to grow...step forward, listen for and then speak your own truth. And for goodness sake be a kind, decent human being.

Can you tell us about some of the biggest challenges you've faced in your career to-date?

I would say my biggest challenge revolves around caring too much about what other people think and learning to stop trying to be what I think others want me to be. In a world of ruthless criticism, commercialism, skepticism, and fear, one of the biggest challenges is to keep baring my heart and soul, humanity, and quiriness. In a business where you want people to like you, watch your show, and cast you in their project, I somehow have to find a way to not care too much about what people think in order to offer up something truly authentic, human, spontaneous, moving, and truly compelling. It's a huge paradox, and that in my mind, this is mastery. I am far from this, but aspire and work towards it every day...

Comparatively, what have been some of the biggest highlights you've experienced?

Highlights for me are often about climbing above a limitation of what I think I can do or already know I can do. Other highlights involve the chemistry and magic between people I end up working with. Some highlights for these reasons are *Preacher*, *Weeds*, *Silicon Valley*, and *The Onania Club*.

What do you like to do to entertain yourself when you get some free time?

As much as I love people and live in a whirlwind of activities, I am actually very much an introvert, so I find comfort, nourishment and rejuvenation in spending quiet time alone. I love being in the water, exercising, dancing, and horseback riding. I cherish intimate conversations and dinners with friends, and I love personal growth work. I have a mentor who I have worked with for over 25 years, Darrell Calkins (www.cobaltsaffron.com). He occasionally still gives challenging and exciting seminars in different parts of the world, and I will always try to make it to those rare events.

Finally, what's next for you in the coming weeks and months?

I have a new, bold feature film called *The Onania Club* by the brilliant and controversial director, Tom Six that will be coming out very soon. I have a new project that I can't talk about yet and two big video games coming out soon. There are also a few new exciting animated projects. I have quite a few cool auditions coming up, and you never know what all of that will bring, including more opportunities to fail, learn, grow... and be just a little bit more truthful, vulnerable, playful, and heartfelt in each unfolding moment.

Read the interview here:

<https://www.femalefirst.co.uk/movies/karen-strassman-exclusive-interview-voiceover-actor-introvert-gaming-tv-movies-1170932.html>



Karen Strassman – Preacher



Q) You play All father’s mad messiah scientist, Dr. Slotnick in Season Three of “Preacher.” How did the role come to you and were you familiar with the world of “Preacher” prior to booking the role?

Karen: You know, I really haven’t had an opportunity to read the books, but I look forward to that. I was Afterbuzz on Monday night and they were talking about the book a lot and I was very curious about the differences between the book and show, but I was not familiar with it. I had heard about the show before I auditioned for it and then I started watching it and got hooked! My agent, Susan Tolar Walters at STW Talent, got me the audition and apparently the original role was written for a man, a Dr. Louis Slotnick. And from what I understand, they had been auditioning men for the role and hadn’t quite found what they wanted. So, they changed it and put it out to women which was kind of cool.

Q) How was Dr. Slotnick originally described to you?

Karen: Its interesting because the description was not that specific. The description was that she was a scientist and passionate and excited about her work and that was really all I was given. It didn’t say anything about nationality, ya know, just a scientist and she was very eager and passionate about her work.

Q) Last week we saw Dr. Slotnick’s secret weapon, The Tom/Brady, successfully used to create a Jesse Custer inspired messiah. If you were to slice, dice and mash-up souls to create a new messiah, whose souls would you choose?

Karen: That would depend on if we were going with the theme of the show and we were going to mash up a good and evil. I mean, you could do a Mother Theresa and Martha Stewart. I mean, you could go that way or you could do Pope Francis and Trump or you could...Gosh, thinking about the people who really inspire me in the world to make a real messiah you can take one of those women in Africa who walk twenty miles every day to get water for their children and mash one of those with a doctor. [pause] Gosh, it’s a tough question. [laughing]

Q) What else can you tease is in store for Dr. Slotnick this season?

Karen: I can’t really say anything more; the rest is up to the writers. I really shouldn’t say anything past what has been written, but I can’t wait to see what they have in store for next season!

Q) The brilliant Jonny Coyne plays Allfather, Slotnick's revolting, horse eating messiah making, boss and leader of the Grail. What's it like working alongside Jonny?

Karen: Jonny is just brilliant and he's got this relaxed brilliance that you don't feel him working. Like so many of us, he loves what he does and he loves to work. He's just like everyone on set, they make it feel just so effortless. You know, you don't feel like he's working you feel like he's playing, like a big kid. You just felt on set, that everyone was there to work and play. Jonny and everyone just relaxed and had this sense of humor and everyone was friendly and happy to be there. They were getting towards the end of the season, so people were a little exhausted, but everyone was in a good mood and really had a sense of play like, "Lets do this. Lets try this. That would be really cool."

Q) Was Dr. Slotnick's thick German accent a decision of the writers and show producers or something that your background in dialects inspired?

Karen: You know what happened wa, when I did the audition, like I said, it was sort of written for a man and they didn't say anything about nationality or dialect. So, the way they presented the audition was just some American passionate scientist and I did a take like that for them but, ya know, in my own insightful way. I just felt like it was just nudging at me to do an accent and I just thought it would be really, really fun to do it with a German accent. I actually sort of just did that for me because I thought it would be really fun in my own playful way and I thought they wouldn't be interested because they didn't say they wanted an accent, so I assumed they wouldn't want one. I did it anyway just because it was an instinct and it felt like fun and it turned out they really liked it. So, that was my idea and they embraced it. It's a really good lesson about trusting your instincts and it was a good reminder for me about that.

Q) Is there someone from the cast that you haven't worked with as of yet that you would love to in the future?

Karen: Well, I worked with Pip [Torrens] (who plays Herr Starr) and he's just brilliant I mean...he's just brilliant! I would love to work with him more, but you know, I would love to work with the women. I think Tulip (Ruth Negga) is just fantastic and Featherstone is hysterical. Julie Ann [Emery] (Featherstone), we haven't met in person yet, but she's been on Twitter tweeting out support for me. One of the first days I was on set she saw the Dailies and got my number from someone and texted me and said, "I love what you're doing, and I think it's fantastic. It's great to have another woman in The Grail. Welcome!" She's been on Twitter tweeting about Dr. Slotnick and another woman in The Grail and it's just like with the cast you really feel a sense of solidarity and that doesn't always happen. You know, if another person comes on set and you don't work with them, that kind of welcome just doesn't usually happen. So, I would love to work with those two women, I just think they're fantastic and fun and powerful and I would love to maybe get into a conflict with them. That would be so much fun!

Q) With such an incredible cast of characters, there must be a few hilarious behind the scenes stories you could share with the fans.

Karen: I think there are a lot of things that happen behind the scenes that you don't normally think about. For example, Jonny Coyne has to wear this huge and I mean HUGE, fat suit and he couldn't get through some of the doorways in the suit. So, they would have to bring him in the room and then lug the fat suit in and then put it on him. It was also extremely heavy and hot, and the poor man was just sweating in that thing! I mean, it was really, really heavy and he could barely stand up because it was so heavy. Also, Tyson [Ritter], who plays Humperdoo, he is this extremely attractive rock star and by the time they put those horrible fake teeth in his mouth and gave him a hump on his nose and he also has to wear this contact lens that looks off to the side, it's pretty uncomfortable. He can't see through it so, when he is the Humperdoo, he can only see through one eye with all of these uncomfortable things going on. A lot of the stuff people have to wear is constricting but at the same time, you are concentrating on your acting and have to work through the discomfort and awkwardness of the prosthetic and costumes. This is something people don't realize because actors like Jonny and Tyson make it look so easy. Not to mention, despite their discomfort they're out there having so much fun and you would never know.

Q) What is it about this show that attracts such a loyal and rabid fanbase?

Karen: I wondered that myself. I know one of the things I find so fantastic is how cool the aesthetic of the show is. I was watching it with my boyfriend and we literally would stop and freeze frame every couple of minutes and every frame you freeze its just so cool looking and so well shot. Every director and DP they have on the show, it's just so well shot and so cool from the wardrobe design, to the color choices, to what they

chose for the set and how they chose the looks of the characters. When you are playing with a comic book the artistic angle is so important. You're going for something surreal and cool and I think "Preacher" should be up for Emmy's and awards. I also think something that is so cool about it is that you have all these comic characters that are so out there, but everybody brings them to life in such a way that you feel they are, no matter how out there they are, they are so human. Cassidy (Joseph Gilgun) is so human. Gosh, I would love to work with him because he is so brilliant, but you just relate to him. Even though he's a vampire, you can really relate to him with such depth. Same with Tulip and Jesse. Each of them, there is a caricature, but they are also so real and so believable and that was something I wanted to make sure I did with Dr. Slotnick. Create a character that was really fun and out there and yet, really believable.

Q) What has the social media response been like for the episodes?

Karen: As far as I can see people think it's really cool and fun. I also have a lot of video game fans who really love that kind of stuff, that kind of video game, animation kind of stuff. They're all really into it. People really respond well to it and I think in our society, there can be a lot of uptightness and it can be fun to have entertainment that goes really out there and you can laugh and be shocked by it and take a deeper breath and go, "Ok, we can go there." In a world where so much attention is paid to politics, it's just nice to break all the rules sometimes. Even though sometimes it can be like, "Ok, that was sort of really offensive [laughing]," it's nice to get that break from reality sometimes.

Q) Besides playing the Doctor, who very well might hold the fate of humanity in her hands, you're also a voice-over actress and dialect coach. For the fans that do not know, explain what a dialect coach does and their importance in the film and television industry.

Karen: Well, a dialect coach is somebody who coaches actors who work with other accents and dialects. So, I have actors that come to me because they are working on roles and want to learn certain dialects. Like the other day, I was working with an actress that had to do a Bronx accent. The day before that, I was working with this beautiful gal that was working on a Russian accent for an audition. I also work with a lot of actors who come from someplace else and want to lose their accents and work on a standard American accent. So, I work with Aussies and Brits who come into town and want to work on their American accents. I'm working with this awesome Irishman, a Broadway actor. He is wonderful and people either come to my place or I work with them on site. I work with them all over the world. I have clients in Europe, India, New Zealand, Australia and occasionally some dialect coaches work on set. For example, on "Preacher" there's a dialect coach on set helping everybody with their accents. It's so funny when I was on set and heard Jesse, Dominic, speaking with a British accent because his voice is very different in British. It's higher pitched and with his southern accent it drops and his voice is pretty low. He has this youthful bright British accent in person and nothing like the character's, it's delightful to hear that difference.

Q) Besides your arc on "Preacher" are you working on any other projects the fans can look out for?

Karen: Well, I do have "The Onania Club" in production and talk about politically incorrect [laughing] I think, Tom Six is the master of that and I'm really excited about that film coming out and there is already a big buzz about it. We just had a fantastic time on set and it will be making a pretty bold and daring statement about what actual reality looks like. And, again, I think in today's political atmosphere I'm really happy to be a part of this film and making such a bold statement. It's going to be very shocking and yeah... really fun. Tom, again, is also a really aesthetic director and known for his shock value but if you've studied his films he's a brilliant director. Aesthetically it's going to be beautiful film. I also have some video game and voice over work I'm doing, but I can't talk about any of them right now. *The World of Warcraft: Azeroth* just came out and people are really excited about that. A couple of "Persona" things have come out and a few really cool things I'm very excited about, but I can't say a word because I signed a couple of NDAs.

Read the interview here:

<https://starrymag.com/karen-strassman-preacher/>



Karen Strassman Talks 'Preacher' Season 3 [Exclusive Interview]



Karen Strassman has been part of countless projects over the years, from animated series to TV guest spots and movie roles. Her talent has been seen all over the entertainment industry.

Most recently, Strassman can be seen playing the maniacal genius, Dr. Slotnick, on **Preacher**. Her role is vital to the bigger picture, and she holds the future of mankind at her fingertips.

I had a few questions for Strassman about what sparked her interest in acting, her role on **Preacher**, and any advice she's been given that stuck with her.

Tell-Tale TV: How did you first become interested in acting?

Karen Strassman: I was drawn to acting ever since I was a very little girl, making up plays in our basement with my friends that my poor parents had to sit through, and every school play that would cast me. I dreamed of being reborn as Melissa Gilbert/Laura Ingalls in ***Little House on the Prairie***.

When I was 13 years old, I was cast in the role of Helen Keller in a beautiful production of ***The Miracle Worker***. I couldn't wait to get to the theatre after school for rehearsals, and I never wanted to leave.

I blindfolded myself for many of the rehearsals and would spend any extra time trying to find my way around the theatre or my home like that, imagining what it was like to be blind and deaf. The whole experience was magical, and it was then that I fell irreversibly in love with acting, storytelling, and the empathetic nature of this art.



As an aside, I would love to play a blind character again someday.

Tell-Tale TV: Which is more challenging, voice acting or TV acting?

Karen Strassman: Each medium has its own challenges. In voiceover, more often than not, you are usually alone in the booth, working with the director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients on the other side of the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation), and you have to imagine all of the other characters interacting with you.

You have to imagine everything, really — the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, the other characters emotions, etc. Since the audience can't see you, you have to let everything come through the voice.

Working for TV and film is magical, as you are on set or on location, looking in the eyes of your fellow actors, and completely immersed in the atmosphere and the world of the project.

But there are many more elements to juggle because of this, of course, like making sure you are standing in just the right place for the camera, not blocking your partner's light, picking up a fork at the same time that you did in a previous take, having to memorize new pages of dialogue at the very last minute.

In the end, you still have to create a moment that feels spontaneous, wonderfully human, real, and yes, magical!

Tell-Tale TV: If your character, Dr. Slotnick, could have an unlimited arc on *Preacher* what would you love to see her do?

Strassman: Wow, what a fun question! As a freakishly brilliant scientist, she does have a lot of power in her hands. She is still the only one that holds the secret of how to create the correct DNA receptors for Genesis to reside in any person, which is very interesting knowledge.

I also think that because of the nature of all the supernatural on the show, the transitions between heaven and hell, angels, vampires, having a freakishly brilliant scientist messing with the supernatural would be a lot of fun and disturbing. Dr. Slotnick could be an excellent ally to whoever solicited her services, and she could also make a very dangerous enemy to anyone she didn't like.

I also think she may have endured a crippling disease when she was a child, and though she mostly cured herself of it, that there are still scars.

Tell-Tale TV: If you had to compare yourself to one character on *Preacher*, who would you say you are most similar to?

Strassman: Featherstone, totally. When I am faithful to a cause or a person, I'll blindly and stubbornly do any wacky thing for it. And I think I derive more courage by doing things for something bigger than myself.

If I could aspire to be like any character, I would say definitely Tulip. I love her fearlessness and what a reckless fighter she is. As an aside, both [Julie Ann \[Emery\]](#) and Ruth [Negga] are amazing women and I love watching their work.

Tell-Tale TV: Who would you love to do a scene with on the show?

Strassman: I'd love to have a fight scene with Featherstone and Tulip. That would be so much fun.



And maybe do experimental drugs and have existential conversations with Cassidy. Joseph [Gilgun] is an exquisite actor, and he makes the most complex moments seem effortless.

Tell-Tale TV: Who do you think would win in a fight, Dr. Slotnick or Jesse?

Strassman: Well, because I am such a huge Jesse Custer fan, I do think (and in my heart hope) he would ultimately win.

But Slotnick would put up one hell of a fight and would use means that would completely blindsides Jesse, and possibly leave him in the shit for some while.

Tell-Tale TV: If you were to create the perfect serum to make someone worthy of Genesis what would you call it?



Strassman: Ahhhh...perhaps a Donald/Francis, or a Martha/Theresa.

Tell-Tale TV: What is your favorite voice role you've done?

Strassman: That's always so hard to answer. These voices and characters still live in me like cherished offspring.

I once did a show called *Monsuno*, an original cartoon series with four other amazing voiceover actors. I was the only woman on the show, so I voiced 26 different female characters in three seasons of the show, and even amongst those characters, it was hard to pick favorites!

I do voice a lesser-known character named "Crash," who is a little bird that I modeled after my nephew's voice when he was four, and even though it's not a famous voice, I admit it remains one of my favorites.

Tell-Tale TV: What is some advice someone told you that you still find relevant today?

Strassman: Don't take anything personally. In a world of ruthless criticism, commercialism, skepticism, and fear, keep baring your heart and soul, humanity, and quirkiness.

In a business where you want people to like you, watch your show, cast you in their project, etc., you somehow have to find a way to not care what people think in order to offer something truly authentic, human, spontaneous, moving, and truly compelling. It's a huge paradox, and in my mind, this is mastery.

I am far from this, but aspire and work towards it every day. I would also add to take not take oneself or what we do too seriously either. And for god sake be a kind, decent human being.

Also, I love this quote by Darrell Calkins, and find it relevant for acting, any art, relationship and for all walks of life:

"Listening and hearing implies for all forms of communication—from others, from oneself, from the 'personality' of any given moment...with an emphasis not on what is being said but what is meant. Learning to hear what the communicator himself may not hear—the underlying intent and yearning."

Tell-Tale TV: What is a show you most recently binged?

Strassman: *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Read the interview here:

<https://www.telltaletv.com/2018/08/karen-strassman-talks-preacher-season-3-exclusive-interview/>

SEAT 42F

EXCLUSIVE : PREACHER Scoop: Shining The Spotlight On Karen Strassman



Hollywood careers are built on tenacity, talent and each role leading to the next opportunity. It takes the heart of a warrior to face the daily challenges to pursue and persevere such a career with success. Bringing her heart and soul to her work, as well as talent in spades, is [Karen Strassman](#). In an exclusive interview, Karen talks about her role as Dr. Slotnick in PREACHER and a few lessons she has learned through her career on and off screen.

What was the initial appeal for you about portraying Dr. Slotnick and working on AMC's PREACHER?

KAREN: Susan Tolar Walters at STW Talent Agency got me the audition. Apparently, they had already seen men for the role, and they were now looking at women instead. The breakdown for the character basically said she was a passionate scientist, with no mention of any accent or nationality, so I did a self-taped audition corresponding to that. But it just didn't feel quite right, and I said to my friend who was taping me and said "I don't know why, but really I have this crazy urge to do it with a German accent. It's stronger than me. Let's just try a take like that at least to get this weird idea out of my system..." We had so much more fun with that take, and we liked it so much, we sent it in. Then later that week we heard back from the Casting Director Ryan Glorioso, asking me to tape a callback audition, saying that they actually really liked the German accent, and could I retake it with some adjustments. And there you go. A huge reminder how important it is to trust one's instincts.

How would you describe who Dr. Slotnick is in the series?

KAREN: She's a passionate, highly intelligent scientist...perhaps even a freak of nature. She works for the Grail, and is obsessed with creating a DNA cocktail that will help put Genesis, the voice of God that has been residing in Jesse, in its "rightful place" in the real Messiah. She really wants to please The Allfather.

What do you most admire about her?

KAREN: Her brilliant, creative, obsessive mind. A crazy-scientist, almost on the edge of insanity...

What is it like working alongside such a talented ensemble on PREACHER?

KAREN: I worked mostly with Dominic [Cooper], Pip [Torrens] and Jonny [Coyne]. What an honor. These guys are so committed and so real, no matter how wacky the material becomes. You completely believe them every second. One of the things that so struck me when I was watching the series and preparing for my role was no matter how crazy and "out there" a script might be, and how "character-y" most characters in the show are, all the actors make their characters so very real, human, and grounded. So, you feel they are completely real and get truly involved in their lives. You feel for them and with them. As I was preparing for my episodes, I wanted to create a character that was really fun and out there, but also feel as real and believable as all the other characters on the show.

How would you describe the dynamic between Dr. Slotnick and Jesse, Cassidy [Joseph Gilgun] and Tulip [Ruth Negga]?

KAREN: I think Dr. Slotnick is fascinated with Jesse. He is a specimen that she has never experienced before. And as much as she is focused on getting Genesis out of him and into the Humperdoo, there is another part of her that is fascinated to be in the same room with him and experience him in person. To her, Jesse is miraculous freak of Nature and endlessly fascinating.

Any favorite scenes that you can share from working on the series?

KAREN: I loved shooting episode 308, the episode where Dr. Slotnick meets Jesse and expounds with passion and precision on her research involving the Genesis DNA cocktail. It felt both dangerous and exciting.

What challenges did you face working on the series and how did you overcome them?

KAREN: The biggest challenge was that of creating a fun and fascinating character that is out there, but still completely believable, so that the audience will feel she is just as real and multi-dimensional as all the other wonderful, wild and yet still deeply human characters in the Preacher world. I created a pretty specific backstory for myself so that I would have real needs, desires and human yearnings to draw on.

As an actor, what has been the one thing you haven't taken away from the experience of working on PREACHER?

KAREN: Over and over again these days my biggest lesson is to trust my imagination and sense of play. As soon as I get too in my head about any role, it loses the excitement and the magic that can happen in any given moment. This magic is catnip to audiences, and is just so much more fun for everyone. All the creators, cast and crew involved in this wonderful series rally set to have this sense of play, that is just contagious and leaves you on the edge of your seat when you are watching the show.

You have also done a fair amount of voice actor work. What is the appeal of voice actors work versus appearing on screen in a role?

KAREN: In voiceover, more often than not, you are usually alone in the booth. You're working with the director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients on the other side of the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation), and you have to imagine all of the other characters interacting with you. You have to imagine everything, really — the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, the other characters emotions, etc. Since the audience can't see you, you have to let everything come through the voice. When you dive fully into any character, you can make a whole world come to life, just through voices. It's magical.

Then what has been the biggest challenge working as a voice actor?

KAREN: My biggest challenge as a voiceover artist is vocal strain and fatigue. A lot of video game dialogue is very intense and demands a lot of battle cries and screaming. A lot of cartoons also really demand you to stretch your voice as well. The vocal chords are muscles and can become sore and over-used, just like any other muscles in the body. A day of speaking and yelling non-stop is like a small marathon for the vocal chords. Sometimes there's not enough time to rest the voice between jobs. I just recorded 4 hours of a very deep, scratchy dragon-like voice the other day, and had to wake up the next morning and sound like a 10 year-old girl for another role. I had to do a lot of vocal warm-ups and drink a lot of hot water. After so many years of screaming, zombie and dragon voices, or even little boys that yell a lot, the voice takes a little longer to recover.

What has surprised you most about your career so far?

KAREN: I'm just simply grateful to have been making my living for so many years doing what I love.

At this stage of your career, what do you think you have learned from the roles and projects you have worked on?

KAREN: More than ever, amidst the craziness of this business, all the competition, all the pressure, I keep being reminded to keep going back to why I fell in love with acting in the first place. To tell deeply human stories, to travel inside myself and help others to travel into the corners of the human soul. To play like a child, adventure into the world of my imagination, and dive into the collective unconscious of humanity. Daring to "not know," to not have all the answers, but to actually be a deeply curious and playful adventurer, following where my heart (or the heart of a character I am playing) tugs me to go.

Then what are the perks of where you are in your career right now?

KAREN: As I get a bit older, contrary to popular belief, there are actually so many more interesting roles available to

me. Edgier, more character-y, more complex, deeper, and more out-there than when I was younger. I am actually really excited about what lies ahead. Also, I am also a dialect coach and acting coach, and a lot of agents and managers send their actors to me to coach them for auditions or to prepare a role. It's such an honor to be able to call on everything that I have learned over the years to help others achieve their dreams.

What has been your proudest achievement as a working actor at this point in your career?

KAREN: I have many small milestones that I'm really proud of for different reasons, but not one big one.

Has there been any great advice you have gotten about working as an actor?

KAREN: Don't take anything personally. In a world of ruthless criticism, commercialism, skepticism and fear, keep baring your heart and soul, humanity, and quirkiness. In a business where you want people to like you, watch your show, cast you in their project, etc... you somehow have to find a way to not care what people think in order to offer something truly authentic, human, spontaneous, moving, and truly compelling. It's a huge paradox, and in my mind, this is mastery. I am far from this, but aspire and work towards it every day...I would also add to take not take oneself or what we are do too seriously either. And for god sake be a kind, decent human being.

What advice would you offer to other upcoming and aspiring actors?

KAREN: Make sure it's really what you love and yearn to do more than anything else, because it is a ruthless business. Be prepared to be rejected over and over again and still find your love for what you do and life itself. You will need a vulnerable, beautiful, playful, empathetic heart of a child, but the discipline, persistence, endurance and maturity of an adult who has lived and sees the bigger picture. Make sure to live the rest of your life fully, travel, experience as much as you can, and love. Find as many ways as possible to give to others and not make life too much about your little self. Find ways to live and experience life like an artist and not like a salesperson.

At a time when women's voices are rising to be heard and respected around the country and world, what do you recommend your fans do to lend support in that endeavor?

KAREN: I think this all can start really close to home in each one of our personal lives. Really support the women close to you. And don't backstab your friends, men or women. Cut that out. Empower your daughters, sisters, nieces, and women friends. Where in our own lives can we move beyond cultural conditioning and closed-mindedness? Listen more to what people in your life really have to say. And then listen even just a little more.

From your view point, what lessons can be gleaned from the "MeToo" era?

KAREN: This is complex, because I have my own personal #MeToo horror stories. I will say that those experiences have made me stronger. I would encourage all women including myself to stand up for what we know is right, and not to be afraid to lose an important opportunity or people's opinions by doing the right thing. The other side of this coin, is that we need to be careful not to get to closed up and resentful about this whole thing that we lose our connection to the beauty of sensuality and the beauty of the dance between masculine and feminine that is so much part of art and life itself. Having been brought up and lived in Europe so long, I really appreciate a freedom to live in and express a life-filled sensuality and healthy relationship to sexuality that exists in that part of the world that America risks to lose if we allow these issues to make us too angry or hold onto resentment in a way that closes us up too tightly.

Do you have any other upcoming projects that you can share that fans should keep an eye out for?

KAREN: I can't speak about anything I'm currently working on because of all the NDA's I've signed on various projects!! But I can announce that I have a lead in Tom Six's new film, "The Onania Club," an exciting new bold and controversial feature. Stay tuned for more information on that.

All new episodes of PREACHER air Sunday nights at 10:00 p.m. on AMC. For sneak peeks and information, about the show, you can follow the show on Twitter [@PreacherAMC](https://twitter.com/PreacherAMC). Then to see what the next chapter is in Karen's journey, you can follow her on Twitter [@karenstrassman](https://twitter.com/karenstrassman).

Read the interview here:

<https://seat42f.com/exclusive-preacher-scoop-shining-the-spotlight-on-karen-strassman.html>



Interview: Karen Strassman talks role on AMC's Preacher and more

During a recent interview with Karen Strassman, the actress sat down with us to discuss her current role on AMC's Preacher and upcoming appearance in Tom Six's The Onania Club.

On [AMC's Preacher](#), new members of The Grail are making their presence known. One of the newest additions to the Allfather's team is Dr. Lois Slotnick. She's played by the talented Karen Strassman who took the time to speak with us about her role on the AMC series. She'll guest star in two episodes this season.

After, Strassman has a featured role in Tom Six's latest movie [The Onania Club](#). In it, she's playing a woman by the name of Barbara Dowels, presumably a member of the club. The film comes from horror director Tom Six, best known for his *Human Centipede* trilogy. Six's new movie isn't as grotesque as his other films but it's definitely not for the faint of heart either.

For more on Karen Strassman, check out the entirety of our interview below:

Hidden Remote: Karen, for *Preacher*, you're joining the series in a recurring guest role as Dr. Slotnick. Teases of your character have shown her introducing a syringe filled with a mystery liquid to Herr Star and a captive Jesse Custer. What, if anything, can you tell me about this scene?

Karen Strassman: Dr. Slotnick has been hired by The Grail to find a way to create the perfect DNA elements to inject into the Humpardoo so that Genesis may be able to stay in his body to allow him to become the real Messiah.

Hidden Remote: What is Dr. Slotnick's relation to Herr Starr? Cohorts in The Grail, etc.

Karen Strassman: The Grail obviously recognized Dr. Slotnick's incredible freakish genius and hired her to work for them. I'll leave other details and suppositions to your imagination.

Hidden Remote: Aside from what we'll see on-screen, is there more of a backstory for Dr. Slotnick?

Karen Strassman: Before shooting, I spoke at length with Mary Laws, writer and executive story editor on *Preacher*. We discussed and came to an agreement about Dr. Slotnick's origin and past that led her to the Grail, but I don't want speak out of school here, so I'll keep that under wraps for now.



PREACHER @PreacherAMC

How did the Grail create Tom/Brady?

Catch up on the latest episode of #Preacher On Demand or the AMC App.

9:34 AM - Aug 18, 2018

237 likes 53 people are talking about this

Hidden Remote: For Preacher, a fourth season hasn't been announced but will you come back if asked?

Karen Strassman: Dr. Slotnick and I would be thrilled to be invited back into this glorious world.

Hidden Remote: Can you say anything towards where Dr. Slotnick's allegiances lie? Is she loyal to the Allfather or to Herr Starr?

Karen Strassman: It does appear her loyalties lie completely with Allfather and Herr Starr, doesn't it?

Hidden Remote: Karen, you're billed as a talented voice-over artist with many credits under your name, including the latest Warcraft game, World Of Warcraft: Battle For Azeroth but you've also taken part in a number of acting roles as well, just not as many. What drew you to Tom

Six's The Onania Club?

Karen Strassman: The Onania Club is a bold and daring social commentary. I like how Shakespeare describes the job of writers creators and artists...

"For anything so overdone is from the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first and now, was and is to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature, to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure..." (from Hamlet)

There are some very ugly things going on in the world right now, and in my opinion, *The Onania Club* is actually a tame version of realities of the world we live in.

Hidden Remote: Tom Six is known for developing some of the most shocking/controversial content, did that factor into your decision to take on a role in his film?

Karen Strassman: Yes, absolutely.

Hidden Remote: Do you have any other upcoming roles that you'd like to talk about right now?

Karen Strassman: I've signed too many NDA's! There's so much I can't talk about yet!

Hidden Remote: Going back to Preacher for one last question. In regards to your featured scene, did you film any additional takes of your character introducing those genetic samples? I know the Tom/Brady was highlighted but did any not make the cut? If so, can you elaborate?

Karen Strassman: There were some fun little sequences of experiments with Humperdoo that were really funny that we just didn't have enough time to shoot that day so they had to cut them. One where Dr. Slotnick actually pees herself, which would have been really funny. But, you never know. The fun thing about this is business is that there's always a chance I'll have another opportunity to pee myself in some other project down the road.

Read the interview here:

<https://hiddenremote.com/2018/08/19/interview-karen-strassman/>



Exclusive Interview – Karen Strassman on Preacher, The Purge and The Onania Club

Tai Freligh interviews Karen Strassman from Preacher...



Karen Strassman is a veteran television actress and voiceover artist who can currently be seen with a recurring guest role as “Dr. Slotnick” on the hit AMC series **Preacher**. She has guest-starred on the popular TV shows **Silicon Valley**, **Workaholics**, **Weeds**, and **Criminal Minds** to name just a few. She was also the Newscaster in the cult classic **The Purge** and has lent her voice to many notable video games including **Call of Duty: WWII**, **Halo Wars 2**, **Call of Duty: Black Ops III**, and most recently **World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth**. She will next be seen in the psychological horror film, **The Onania Club** from Tom Six. Flickering Myth’s Tai Freligh caught up with her to talk **Preacher**, **The Purge** and her many VO and acting appearances.

Questions:

Talk about your character in Preacher. How much was on the page and how much did you bring to her?



Well, the role was originally written for a man: “Louis Slotnick,” but for whatever reasons, they didn’t find the guy they liked and started auditioning women for the role as well. The breakdown for the character basically said she was a passionate and excited scientist, with no mention of any accent or nationality, so I did a self-taped audition corresponding to that. But it just felt to me like the character wasn’t really American. She just felt more foreign, the way her lines were written, I don’t know why. I just had this weird urge to do it in a German accent. So, I did a take where I made her this creepy German scientist lady, just to get it out of my system. But, it was just so interesting and compelling that I decided to take a risk

and send it along to casting, with the other take, just for fun. Then later that week we heard back from the Casting Director, Ryan Glorioso, that they actually really liked the German accent... and I got cast. Such a great reminder of how important it is to trust one's instincts. Once I got on set, I spoke a bunch with Mary Laws, who was the main writer for the episode where my character first appears. I shared with her some ideas I had about Dr. Slotnick, some details of her past and who she is today. Mary was completely on board, and we incorporated it all. Then, it was director Wayne Yip who found the glasses I ended up wearing, which really helped hone the character, as props and wardrobe often can. It was also Wayne who helped me lean the Dr. Slotnick into a more dark and evil place as opposed to passionate and excited as it was written.

How familiar were you with the Preacher show before auditioning? Did you watch any of the previous seasons?

I watched a number of episodes before auditioning just to get a sense of the world, became completely hooked on the show, and ended up binge-watching the first two seasons in the blink of an eye. I haven't actually seen the comic books yet, and really look forward to reading them.

What's it like working with Dominic Cooper?

Dominic is just fantastic. He has taken this larger than life comic book character and made him so deeply human, relatable and real. I love that about all the actors in Preacher. They have all these wacky, bizarre characters and all of them are so grounded in such a sense of reality nonetheless. Dominic was really lovely to me from the very first moment we met. He made a point of finding me, introducing himself, and welcoming me to the show. After we did the first stumble-through of our first scene together for blocking purposes, and everyone heard this unexpected German accent come out of my mouth which they weren't expecting (since it wasn't in the script), he came right over to me and said something to me like: Love, that's fantastic, really funny. This is going to be an awesome scene, I'm really excited about it. He is incredibly focused, disciplined, and committed to doing the best work possible. What a pleasure and delight to work with him.



Any funny set stories?

Often there are absurd circumstances that happen behind the scenes that you don't normally think about. For example, Jonny Coyne had to wear this huge, and I mean HUGE, fat suit and the poor man literally couldn't get through some of the set doorways in the suit. So, they would have to bring him on set and then lug the fat suit in and pile it on him there. He could barely stand up because it was so heavy and he had to sit on an apple box between takes with a fan pointed at him because it was so hot. Also, there was a scene written in the script where Dr. Slotnick was supposed to pee herself. They had to cut it because there was just too much to do that day and we were going way over time. I was very disappointed that I didn't get to pee myself, that would have been fun.



How did you break into voice acting?

I spent my whole childhood and all of high school impassioned by acting, and was in as many plays as I could find to be in, took acting classes, etc. so already I had many years of amateur experience and training in acting. I moved to France as a student to study psychology and theatre in French. This is also where I first started training and working as a dialect coach as well, and the second year I was there, I was somehow randomly offered a job doing voices in English for a cassette tape to accompany a magazine called "Hi Kids!" that would help French children learn English. We recorded many editions of this magazine, and I had to do all kinds of characters from little girls and little boys to chipmunks to British ladies, American Indians, pirates, cowgirls, grandmothers,

Southern belles and more. I had never done voiceover before, and had to learn very quickly. There was no one to tell me that I sucked, so I dove in without hesitation. It turned out I was actually good at it, and though I had never

considered voice-over before, this was the beginning of a very rich and wonderful career. Ever since then I have done both on-camera and voiceover hand in hand.

Which do you like better: voiceover for video games or animated movies?

I love them both!

Who are your voice actor heroes?

My voice actor heroes aren't necessarily the big celebrities. My voice-actor heroes are many of my wonderful, successful working peers who help to make all kinds of animated worlds come to life. Voice actors who I get to work with and learn from day in and day out, who constantly inspire me, and who stun me over and over again with the unexpected characters they create and realities they help to populate. Actors like Kirk Thornton, Keith Silverstein, Cindy Robinson, Chris Smith, Yuri Lowenthal, Salli Saffioti, Fred Tadishor, Tara Strong, Stephanie Sheh, Courtenay Taylor, Patrick Seitz, Dave Fennoy, Debi Derryberry, Jennifer Hale, Valerie Arem, Ben Pronsky, Taliesin Jaffe, Wendee Lee, Liam O'Brien, and so many more who are also my go to hires when I cast or direct as well. There are so many amazingly talented and incredibly hard-working voiceover actors in this business that can show up and magically bring any character to life... magical dimensions out of crude black type on a white page. I am humbled to work amongst this extended tribe of amazing talent, and learn from each of them every day.



On the acting side, do you like movies or television shows better?

I passionately love them both.



What was your favourite TV show to guest star on and why?

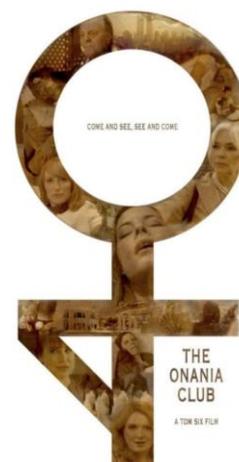
I've had so many wonderful experiences for different reasons. My top four are probably Preacher, Silicon Valley, Weeds and Criminal Minds. All because the stories, the writing, and the exemplary cast and crew on each one, the generous atmosphere of respect, teamwork, and real play. I could dive in with complete partnership and trust on these sets even though we barely knew each other.

You have a horror movie coming up. Tell us about your character and what the movie *The Onania Club* is about?

I have been sworn to secrecy by Mister Six about the project. I will tell you there is a [trailer out online](#), and that Tom Six is an incredible artist, and a complete delight to work with. The movie is daring, bold, racy, brutal and full of social commentary. I love the strong, beautiful cast of women who are the backbone of the cast. Very proud of this project.

You were in *The Purge* as a newscaster. What do you think the appeal of the *Purge* series is, now that the franchise consists of four movies and a television show?

As many films do, it lets people face their deepest fears and also their fantasies without really experiencing them personally. Bruno Bettelheim wrote a wonderful book about this theory. Tom Six often has spoken about how most people have horrible thoughts but are afraid or embarrassed to admit them. Filmmakers like Tom Six and the creators of *The Purge* dare to put these thoughts and fantasies out into the open. Like a fatal car accident on the side of the road, many of us are fascinated by it, and have to slow down to get a better look....





How do you use social media to connect with fans and promote your work?

I'm trying to get better at social media. It's taken me a long time to feel comfortable posting or bragging about my work, and I still haven't learned to take a good selfie. It all feels so awkward. But, I know this is the way for people to know what I am up to. I love to interact with fans and answer questions on social media, and I really enjoy posting meaningful quotes or inspiring articles.

What can you tell us about your upcoming projects?

Well you can hear me in the new awesome animated series **Subway Surfers**, based on the huge on-line game as the lead girl, Tricky. Also as Captain Eudora in **World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth**, as the beloved Aigis in **BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle**, and **Persona 3: Dancing in Moonlight**. I just booked another TV show, which I can't talk about yet, and I am working on quite a few video games that are hush hush. And yes, Tom Six's new controversial film **The Onania Club** will be coming out as well.

Speed Round:

How do you survive the zombie apocalypse?

Team up with a group of amazing human beings and help each other get through it together.

Favourite actor or actress you've worked with?

There are too many, for different reasons. So many generous and wildly talented actors out there...

If not acting or doing VO, what would your career be?

Some kind of teacher or therapist. I'd love to create a communication course that could be mandatory in all schools to teach people how to communicate with each other in a healthy and effective way. I feel this is one of the most important skills to have in order to live and function in society. Most schools don't teach this, and we all grow up to be horrible communicators, both in our personal and professional lives...not to mention on a global level.



Who wins in a voice off, Melissa Rauch, Kevin Conroy or Mark Hamill?

I'm partial to Mark Hamill.

What is your favourite voice-over performance of all time, either animated film/tv show or video game?

Possibly Ellen DeGeneres in **Finding Nemo** or Steve Carell in **Despicable Me**.

We thank Karen for taking the time to chat with us and wish her the best of success on **Preacher** and the upcoming horror film, **The Onania Club**.

You can find Karen on social media at the following places:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KarenStrassmanFanPage

Instagram: [@karenstrassman](https://www.instagram.com/karenstrassman)

Twitter: [@karenstrassman](https://twitter.com/karenstrassman)

Website: www.karenstrassman.com

Read the interview here:

<https://www.flickeringmyth.com/2018/09/exclusive-interview-karen-strassman-on-preacher-the-purge-and-the-onania-club/>



15 Things You Didn't Know about Karen Strassman



Karen Strassman is a veteran television actress and voiceover artist who will next be seen with a recurring guest role as “Dr. Slotnick” on the hit AMC series *Preacher*. Her episodes are airing now. In the meantime we had a chance to hear from Karen about some things the public might not know about. Here are 15 things you didn't know about Karen Strassman.

1. When Karen auditioned for the role of Dr. Slotnick in *Preacher* the role was originally written for a man. Then they opened role up for women, even though the role was not originally written for an accent, Karen thought it would be fun to do a take with a German accent, and that was the take that won her the role.
2. Karen is a French citizen, speaks French fluently, and lived in Paris working as an actress for sixteen years. She had an apartment right by the Place St Michel in the Latin quarter for many years and went everywhere on a big brown bicycle.
3. Karen is a dialect specialist and a dialect coach. She loves to geek out with different accents and coach other actors to learn different accents as they prepare for roles and auditions. She particularly enjoys helping foreign actors lose their accents and is quite sought after for this skill. She feels so lucky to have some skills she can pass on to other actors.
4. One of Karen's favorite charities is The Covenant House. They literally can change the life and destiny of a homeless youth. It is an amazing organization and you can check it out at <https://covenanthousecalifornia.org>.
5. Karen played Helen Keller in a school play when she was 13 years old. She blindfolded herself and spent hours moving around the stage and other places in her life as a blind

- person would, and trying to imagine what it must have been like to be blind and deaf. During this experience, she fell passionately in love with acting and storytelling and the empathetic nature of this art. She would love to have the opportunity to play a blind character again someday.
6. Karen loves horseback riding. She first learned to ride in her 20's when she was on set of a French mini-series about Mary Queen of Scots. "It was a cold night in the forest, and everyone was in period wardrobe on these beautiful horses with torches all around. They put me sidesaddle in my long dress on a white mare, and I never wanted it to end." After that, Karen trained in horseback riding when she studied at The Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique de Paris. "We trained at a stable in the Bois de Boulogne just outside of Paris, and I learned to jump and do some basic theater and movie stunts."
 7. Karen was born to a Danish mother, and half of Karen's family still lives in Denmark and some in Germany. Karen loves going back to Denmark, speaks some Danish, and hopes to work with a Danish filmmaker one day.
 8. Karen loves physical work. She swims early every morning and does a variety of physical training exercises every day that she learned from Darrell Calkins, who has trained many athletes and performers. You can learn more at www.cobaltsaffron.com.
 9. Karen's all-time favorite anime series of all times is Monster, where she plays the deeply disturbed character Nina Fortner/Anna Liebert. She's heard that Guillermo Del Toro may be making a live action of this Anime, and would love to be a part of that project if it is ever made.
 10. When Karen was 20 years old, she snuck into the old Boulogne Studios in Paris while Polanski was shooting Frantic. She found her way into his office and told him she felt they were meant to work together. He said there weren't any roles for her in this film, but maybe there would be other opportunities down the road. Karen actually ended up doing a small role for him in Death and the Maiden. He didn't seem to remember their first encounter and Karen was too embarrassed to remind him.
 11. Karen's first movie voice-over job was dubbing the lead role in Jean Delannoy's film Bernadette into English, and she then became one of the voiceover artists in Paris that dubbed the young French starlets like Juliette Binoche, Vanessa Paradi, Emmanuelle Beart into English.
 12. Karen's favorite cartoon voice to do is a little bird named Crash that was inspired by her nephew when he was 4 years old. If you ever meet Karen in person, she will gleefully do Crash's voice for you!
 13. Karen's favorite actress and inspiration growing was Jodi Foster. One of her favorite movies is Nell. Karen is also deeply inspired by Jessica Lange, especially by her performance in Francis. Other favorite actresses include Isabelle Huppert, Patricia Clarkson, Annette Benning, and Jessica Chastain.
 14. Karen is the voice of the French Woman on the walkie talkie in [LOST](#). She and JJ Abrams crossed paths many years ago when they were both studying in Paris.
 15. Favorite poets: David Whyte, Jacques Prevert, Pablo Neruda, Rumi

Read the interview here:

<https://www.tvovermind.com/15-things-didnt-know-karen-strassman/>

CELEBRITYHAUTESPOT

INTERVIEW WITH KAREN STRASSMAN FROM AMC'S HIT SHOW "PREACHER" (@KARENSTRASSMAN)



We recently had the chance to chat with Karen Strassman from AMC's hit show "Preacher." During the interview, Karen talked about landing the role, portraying her character, upcoming projects, and more!

Don't forget to tune in to see her on the August 19th episode of "Preacher" on AMC!

1. How did you land your role on the hit AMC show *Preacher*?

Susan Tolar Walters at STW Talent Agency got me the audition. Apparently, they had already seen men for the role, and they were now looking at women instead. The breakdown for the character basically said she was a passionate scientist, with no mention of any accent or nationality, so I did a self-taped audition corresponding to that. But it just didn't feel quite right, and I said to my friend who was taping me "I don't know why, but really I have this crazy urge to do it with a German accent. It's stronger than me. Let's just try a take like that at least to get this weird idea out of my system..." We had so much more fun with that take, and we liked it so much, we sent it in. Then later that week we heard back from the Casting Director Ryan Glorioso, asking me to tape a callback audition, saying that they actually really liked the German accent, and could I retake it with some adjustments. And there you go. A huge reminder how important it is to trust one's instincts.

2. For people who haven't seen the show, what is the show about?

Preacher is based on a really cool supernatural comic book series that follows the story of Jesse Custer, a hard-drinking, chain-smoking preacher in his quest to find god.

3. How would you describe your character?

Dr. Lois Slotnick, a passionate, highly intelligent scientist of German origin. She works for the Grail, and is obsessed with creating a DNA cocktail that will help put Genesis, the voice of God that has been residing in Jesse, in its "rightful place" in the real Messiah.

4. How is this character different from others that you've portrayed in the past?

I've played my fair share of obsessed scientists. Some highlights include Devra Bogdanovich in *Ingress*, Overseer Bartsow in *Fallout 4*, and another really cool upcoming role which I am not yet allowed to talk about but will be released later this year. They are all passionate, driven, and also a bit desperate and wounded underneath, but I think the German accent and characteristics make Dr Slotnick a bit quirkiest than the others, who are straighter characters, and even more fun to play. When my German friends and family get very excited or passionate about something, even something very positive, they sometimes get very intense, and I loved capturing strange harsh intensity.

5. Do you prefer voice or on-screen acting?

I love them both and feel so lucky to be working/playing in both mediums. But I must say, I think there is something especially magic about being on set, shooting scenes live, interacting with other actors – other human beings devoted to giving themselves to an imaginary world along with you... diving into alternate realities together. There is something so incredible about being in such a creative environment where all these different people — writers, directors, designers, wardrobe creators, makeup artists, camera people, lighting specialists... each one an expert in their own field and passionate about what they are doing... all coming together to make a moment of magic happen. It's one of the most exciting and moving places to be, and one of my favorite things in world to do.

6. What would you say is the biggest difference?

In voiceover, more often than not, you are usually alone in the booth, working with the director, the engineer, and maybe some of the clients on the other side of the booth (unless you are doing a group record for original animation), and you have to imagine all of the other characters interacting with you. You have to imagine everything, really, the location, the temperature, the atmosphere, the other characters emotions, etc... Whereas in live action, you are actually there in the middle of it all.

7. Do you have a favorite episode you filmed?

I loved shooting episode 308, the episode where my character is introduced and expounds with passion and precision on her research involving the Genesis DNA cocktail.

8. What is something most fans wouldn't know about the show?

I was so delighted by the collaborative nature of this show. When I got to set, I had this wonderful conversation with Mary Laws, who was the lead writer on episode 308 The Tom/Brady. She was completely open to a lot of the ideas I had about the character, the character's past, and we were able to incorporate all of that into the birth of Dr. Slotnick and her place in *Preacher*. And, it was actually the director of that episode, Wayne Yip, who chose the glasses that my character wears in the show, which really define Dr. Slotnick's character.

9. Are you currently working on any other projects you'd like to share with us?

I can't speak about anything I'm currently working on because of all the NDA's I've signed on various projects! But I can announce that I have a lead in Tom Six's new film, *The Onania Club*. It's an exciting new bold and controversial feature, which will be coming out later this Fall.

10. What are your social media accounts?

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Karen-Strassman-Fan-Page-122644081151336/> / Instagram @karenstrassman / Twitter @karenstrassman / Website www.karenstrassman.com

11. When and where can fans watch the show?

Season 3 of *Preacher* is on AMC Sundays at 10pm and on the AMC App. I believe seasons 1 and 2 are also available on Hulu.

Read the interview here:

<https://celebrityhautespot.com/2018/08/14/interview-with-karen-strassman-from-amcs-hit-show-preacher-karenstrassman/>

TRUNKSPACE



There was a time when Karen Strassman didn't think she was good enough to be an actress. Thankfully she found her on-screen confidence and we, the audience, are better for it. The versatile performer and voice talent has enhanced the viewing experience of shows like "Silicon Valley," "Weeds," and most recently, "Preacher," bringing dimension to her characters and helping to flesh out the fictional worlds they inhabit.

We recently sat down with Strassman to discuss the wild reality of "Preacher," blending into a sea of over-the-top characters, and how her career in voice work started as a happy accident.

TrunkSpace: You recently appeared on AMC's "explosive" new season of "Preacher." It's not every show that you can watch an undead cowboy, Hitler and the Devil all in the same episode. What was it like stepping on set with such a unique cast of characters?

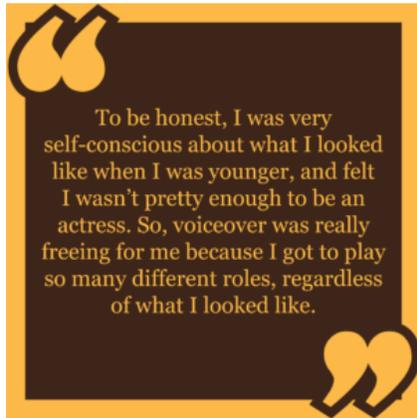
Strassman: Working on "Preacher" was delightful and exhilarating. No matter how crazy and "out there" the world of this show might be, and how "character-y" most characters are, it's done so well that it still feels so deeply real, human, and actually strangely grounded within its own wild reality. As I watched the series, I just completely bought the whole world and everyone's humanity within it. I got truly involved in the lives of all the characters, finding myself really caring about almost all of them. As I was preparing for my episodes, it was exciting to create a character that was really fun, quirky, and out there, but also wanted her to feel as real and believable as all the other characters on the show. That's such fun stuff for an actor.



TrunkSpace: Were you a fan of the show and/or comic book before becoming a part of what many consider, one of the riskiest and original shows in the television realm?

Strassman: I had never watched the show before, and when I got the audition, I started binge-watching it and just couldn't stop. I was momentarily shocked, offended, and confused during the first episode, and then by the end of it, I was like – this is brilliant! The story, it's implications, the gorgeous artistic photography, the

acting, the wardrobe, the lighting, the music... everything! I don't know how this show wasn't up for a ton of Emmys. It should have been.



TrunkSpace: You play Dr. Lois Slotnick on the series. Though she is highly intelligent, we wouldn't exactly want her as our primary care physician! How did you prepare for your role of the Doctor? Was it daunting to create such a character among the other over-the-top characters?

Strassman: Yes, it was daunting! Like I mentioned, I think the most challenging part was to walk the line of letting her be very out there while keeping her as real and grounded as possible, so she would come off like a real person, and not a caricature or too broad to be compelling or interesting. It really helped me to imagine the backstory of such a character and how she became who she is. I was very drawn to the evil German scientist in "Wonder Woman," and wished I could have played that role. I still think about her and what her backstory

must have been, how she got to be wounded and vengeful. Interestingly, when I auditioned for Dr. Slotnick, she wasn't actually written the way I play her at all. She was supposed to be kind of a passionate, geeky, excitable scientist with no particular accent. I did one take kind of like that, but then, just for fun, I went ahead and did another take with a German accent, making her darker than she was originally written. I'm grateful that the show's creatives took a chance on what I did and hired me for the role!

TrunkSpace: Many of your scenes are with Tyson Ritter who plays Humperdoo. What was it like performing with Ritter?

Strassman: It's so funny that you are asking about Tyson. I just saw the new movie, "Peppermint" this weekend, and I sent Tyson a tweet to tell him how wonderful he was. He played a very interesting homeless man in the film. And in "Lodge 49," which I sometimes do ADR on, he plays another really interesting character. He's really brilliant. He's a no holds barred kind of actor, and just dives into the character like a kid. Here he is this incredibly handsome rock star, and once he's all decked out as the Humperdoo, with his fake nose, fake teeth and disturbing contact lens in one eye, he is unrecognizable. He will totally go there, wherever his character needs to go. The sounds and stuff he was doing on set when I was there – it was so disturbing and funny I had to work really hard not to laugh. Brilliant!

TrunkSpace: Beyond "Preacher," are there any additional comic book worlds and/or characters you would like to take on?

Strassman: Well, as I mentioned, I would love to play the evil scientist in "Wonder Woman," if they were to ever re-cast the part, or do a new "Wonder Woman" television series. I really find the disturbed villains so fascinating. I think there are such moving backstories that go into making them who they are. Like The Joker, for instance, and I thought Betty Buckley was beyond superb in the role of Grandma in "Preacher." I learned so much from watching her. Her work was so multi-dimensional. Another animated project I would love to be a part of one day is an anime series I actually starred in a few years ago. It's called "Monster," and it's my favorite anime I've ever done or even seen. It's quite disturbing and real, but absolutely brilliant. Guillermo Del Toro was said to have bought the movie rights for this project, and was talking about directing it. I'm too old to play the character I voiced in the series (Anna/Nina), but I would love to be a part of this project in any way I could if Del Toro or anyone else ever made it happen.



TrunkSpace: You have done a ton of voice acting throughout the course of your career. Was that always part of your personal plan or did that portion of your career happen as a happy accident?

Strassman: It happened as a happy accident when I was living in Paris when I was 20 years old. Someone offered me a job doing voices for a cassette tape that went with a magazine to help teach French kids English. I had never done it before, so I just jumped in blindly like a kid, and it turned out I was pretty good at it. That little job led to some jobs dubbing big French films into English, which led to a whole world of animation that opened up to me, and then video games, and anime commercials. I was the English voice for Air France for a while and things like voice-guided tours of The Louvre and the Musee d'Orsay. I was the English voice for French actresses like Juliet Binoche, Emmanuelle Béart, and Vanessa Paradis. I lived in France for 16 years doing TV, Film, Theatre and Voiceover work. I was just really, really lucky. To be honest, I was very self-conscious about what I looked like when I was younger, and felt I wasn't pretty enough to be an actress. So, voiceover was really freeing for me because I got to play so many different roles, regardless of what I looked like. It was indeed an amazing happy accident and a gift.

TrunkSpace: Air France and The Louvre! Is it surreal to think that more people have probably heard your voice than some of the biggest "stars" of today?

Strassman: (Laughter) Yes it is.

TrunkSpace: Obviously it seems like anything can happen in "Preacher," but when it comes to animation, that truly is the case. There are no budgetary limitations when storytelling for animation, which must put you in some very unique circumstances by way of the characters you inhabit. With that being said, what is one of the more unusual scenes you've ever found yourself performing in?

Strassman: Well, one of my favorite characters is in a series called "Persona." I play a robot named Aigis who is an amazing fighter and machine, but all she wants is to become human and experience what it is to love. She ends up giving up a lot of her powers so she can experience what it is to have emotions and feel love. I play an endearing gnome-like character named Chromie in "World of Warcraft" who can travel in time and turn into a badass dragon. That's pretty cool!

TrunkSpace: Do you approach inhabiting a character in animation the same way that you do with on-screen work? Where are the similarities and where are the differences?

Strassman: Yes, in many ways the process is very similar. It's sometimes tempting to cut corners in voiceover and just "do a voice," but in the long run, just doing a voice comes out as two-dimensional, and never ends up being that compelling to an audience. It's not until you really have a feel for your character – where they came from, what they want, some intimate details about their life – that they really come to life. It's much more fun and fulfilling to work that way.

TrunkSpace: Your resume is vast and very diverse. That being said, what is something you still hope to accomplish that you have yet to tackle? What is on your creative bucket list?

Strassman: Ahhh, there are so many characters I'd love to explore. I played Helen Keller when I was a younger girl, and I'd love to play her as an older woman. I love playing characters who have handicaps or challenges to overcome, whether it's physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. I'd also love to settle in to a juicy regular role on a compelling TV series with a wonderful cast and crew for a while. There is something so magical about being able to stay with a show over a certain period of time and evolve with the everyone in it, like being part of a moving circus or being on a tour with an ensemble. You become a family and can really dive into your characters and the storyline together. That's definitely high on my creative bucket list.

Read the interview here:

<http://openthetrunk.com/karen-strassman/>



A woman of many talents, voice artist Karen Strassman gets candid on her storytelling and video games

Karen Strassman has lent her voice to video games such as 'Call of Duty: WWII', 'Halo Wars 2', 'Call of Duty: Black Ops III', and 'World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth'



Karen Strassman is a woman of many talents and is a successful actress, voice-over artist, and a dialect coach. Ever since she was a young child, she had a passion for acting and as she put it, "I'd love, I love pretending to be somebody else or imagining what it must be like to be somebody else".

"I think it was nature as opposed to nurture ever since I can remember," Strassman added as she shared she always had a passion for storytelling and art. At the young age of 14 she had the opportunity to play the role of Helen Keller in a school play and recalled how she would blindfold herself in order to understand the character and role more. "I just dove into what it must be like to be a little girl, who can't see or hear," she explained.

When she was older, she went to France to study psychology after believing she did not have the confidence to take up acting as a profession but she continued to take theater classes. She saw a notice in the theater studio one day looking for an American actor for an apprenticeship to become a dialect coach to be able to help French actors act in English.

Strassman became very good at that and from there began to branch out into many new projects.



"It was so natural to me that they offered me a full-time job the following year," Strassman shared before adding that she also had the chance to lend her voice to many children's cassette books. She was then introduced to other voice over projects and eventually began work dubbing French films into English. "my whole career actually strangely started in France," Strassman said.

Strassman recently had a recurring guest role on 'Preacher' and has brought her talent to many other shows including 'Silicon Valley', 'Weeds', 'Criminal Minds', and 'Private Practice'. She also played the lead role in the award-winning film 'Red Thunder' directed by Alvaro Ron.

"I don't want to give it away- it's a story about an unlikely superhero and I play a mom who is a paediatrist. My daughter is a teenager who wants to borrow my car and my car is a very special car and they have some

adventures while they're in my car. And they discovered that I have a different identity than they thought. The special effects are fantastic and it's uplifting and heartwarming. And the cinematography is gorgeous!" Strassman added.

In addition to being an actress, Strassman has lent her voice to many massive and well-known video games such as 'Call of Duty: WWII', 'Halo Wars 2', 'Call of Duty: Black Ops III', and most recently 'World of Warcraft: Battle for Azeroth'.

Strassman explained the biggest difference between being on screen and voicing for a game is "that you have to express and convey everything by your voice only. On camera, there's a lot that you can convey through your eyes and through body language but as a voice actor you can't rely on any of those things and really need to feel, hear and experience the character".

"I have to dive into my imaginary reality and put myself there and then allow my voice to be sort of the conductor or the link between the audience and the experience," she continued. The other main difference between voice acting and being on screen is that you can play off other actors in acting but "in voiceover, you are on your own in a studio with



the director and the engineer and the clients on the other side of the booth who are listening to you and giving you direction".

When it comes to auditioning for video games and voice acting, the directors and clients will "show you a little clip of the character. There are times when they don't have that and they can only show you a picture and sometimes they don't even have a picture and they'll just describe the character." The actor must take direction to create the voice. With some back and forth and tweaks, the directors and voice actors together give the character their unique voice.

"The director and the clients will listen and give you direction as to how they feel the character should be and what they like, what they don't like. And finally, settle on what works really well and what they like for the character," she added.

Strassman explained how the characters for video games start off as lines on a page and as you read it, you are told the situation the character is in and must adapt the voice to suit that.



When it comes to adapting from character to character, Strassman shared "I physically transform into the character". While at a video game voice gig, Strassman shared, "I was doing a video game last week and they said 'oh, we wish we had a camera to tape you because what you're doing - you look like the character. And I said that 'I was very glad that they did not have a camera'. I don't know what I look like, but it must be very, very embarrassing sometimes," she said jokingly.

"It's more about powerful storytelling. For me when there is a story that is well told, it touches your people's souls and make feel things, and makes them open up their own heart and experience parts of humanity, and makes them think about the world or their life or helps them to understand other people more deeply. It's just so fulfilling to me to be part of any of those stories," Strassman added.

Read the interview here:

<https://meaww.com/karen-strassman-voice-actor-coach-dialect-preacher-red-thunder-call-of-duty>



Interview With Karen Strassman



Karen Strassman is an extremely accomplished actor and voice actor. She began her career in France teaching French kids to speak English in person and on tape. This led to being a dialect coach to French actors, which led to the beginning of her acting career in France. And before she moved back to America, she also had a stint as the voice of Air France and Disneyland Paris.

Once back in America, she was forced to start from scratch. So she began by getting an agent and going on auditions. Now, she has over 200 film and TV credits to her name, she's dived head first into the anime fandom and she's even been a guest at a few conventions.

We talk about winning over the French crowd, being unknown on her return to America, the amount of voice actor jobs and auditions she can complete in a day, the popularity of anime, the art of doing accents and a LOT more!!!!

Read the interview here:

<http://gogoodman.com.au/interview-with-karen-strassman/>