

John Higgins was born in Sydney and moved to the US after finishing high school. He began his professional career at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, California where he appeared in over sixteen Shakespearean plays over four years.

In 1970 he moved to London where he worked for **The Royal Shakespeare Company**, appeared in the West End production of *The Boys in The Band* and toured to South Africa in *The Mating Game*. In South Africa he also directed extensively including several productions at the legendary Market Theatre, Johannesburg.

As an actor he has appeared in many feature films including: *Patton* with George C. Scott, *The Revolutionary* with Jon Voight and *Major Dundee* with Richard Harris and Charlton Heston. In Australia John appeared in the classic *Phar Lap*. As an Accent Coach he worked on the films, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *Steel Magnolias*.

Since his return to Australia, in 2000, he has been in high demand as an Accent Coach. He has worked for The Ensemble on *I Ought To Be In Pictures* and *The Price*; for Company B Belvoir Street on *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Laramie Project*, *My Zinc Bed*, *Buried Child* and the 2006 Helpmann award winning production of *Stuff Happens*. For the South Australian Theatre Company, Edward Albee's *The Goat: or Who Is Sylvia?* which won the 2006 Helpmann Award for Best Director. His most recent film work in Australia includes *The Quiet American* directed by Phil Noyce, *Dynasty Behind the Scenes* at Fox Studios Australia and *Superman Returns* directed by Bryan Singer. He recently worked as an English Accent coach and Guest Judge on the hit TV series *Australian Princess*.

John has taught at U.C.L.A., The Actor's Centre (London), On Camera Connections, The Ensemble Studios, The Actor's Centre Australia and Screenwise. While John specialises in American dialects he also teaches all dialects for stage and screen including standard and regional British dialects. As an acting teacher he has taught everything from The Method in New York to Shakespeare in London.



"John Higgins is the top Australian coach to Southern Stars and to Actors who wish to join their Galaxy. May the Professor be with you."

Ritchie Singer

"Dynasty: the Making of a Guilty Pleasure"

(USA Telemovie for the ABC)
Ritchie played: Richard Shapiro (lead)

The Sydney Morning Herald

COLUMN 8

COMPANY B Belvoir is rehearsing Tennessee Williams's *Suddenly Last Summer* (opening June 14) set in the Deep South. The right accents are needed — so a voice coach has been called in. *Mr Higgins*, of course, actually John Higgins, but nicknamed "Professor" by the cast.

The Price
By Arthur Miller
Theatre Review
by Stephen Dunne

"All four performances (Daniel Mitchell, Toni Scanlan, Henri Szeps and Warren Mitchell) are superb, and even the New York accents (Dialect Coach, John Higgins) convince."

The Daily Telegraph

THE Laramie Project — based on the true story of 21-year-old **Matthew Shepard**, a victim of a gay hate killing — is one of Company B's more confronting productions.

Last week a woman from Laramie, Wyoming, who knew Shepard, attended a performance and was quite emotional afterwards, also praising the cast for mastering the dialect.

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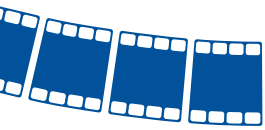
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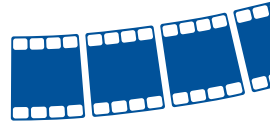
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Some star-studded and legendary reasons to use John Higgins for your American acting and accent work



"John Higgins was the voice coach on my productions of *Suddenly Last Summer*, *My Zinc Bed* and *Stuff Happens*. He possesses a wide-ranging and accurate knowledge of American, English and European accents. He also has an uncanny dramatic sense and an ability to use accent interpretively, so that the characters' presence and the dramatic moment is always his primary focus."

Neil Armfield
Artistic Director
Company B Belvoir St

"John Higgins' work with American accents is quite exceptional. He has taught for us here at Actor's Centre Australia and I have witnessed his remarkable results in shows like *The Laramie Project*. He is sharp, clear, fast and effective - just what the actor needs to get back to the job of acting with confidence and assurance."

Dean Carey
Director
Actor's Centre Australia

"John Higgins' ability to teach both professional actors and students shows exemplary talent. I took great pride in having John on our teaching staff."

Sir Alec Guinness
Patron
Actor's Centre, London

"John's coaching was detailed, clear and easy to understand. I found my lessons with John to be extremely helpful and a big asset to my career."

Isabel Lucas
Actress
Transformers 2, The Pacific

"John Higgins is one of the most skilled, patient and inspiring vocal coaches I have had the pleasure to work with. His knowledge and abilities are outstanding and he always took the time to impart important cultural knowledge which is an often over looked aspect of vocal production."

Kate Gaul
Director
The Laramie Project

"John I cannot thank you enough for your assistance in helping me find the voice of Donald Rumsfeld in *Stuff Happens*. Your persistence, skill and hard work was an inspiration and played a big part in my winning the 2006 Helpmann Award."

Russell Dykstra
Actor
Stuff Happens

"After working with John I immediately got cast as the lead female in the USA NBC television series, *Chuck*, where I had to use the accent that John had taught me."

Yvonne Strahovski
Actress
Chuck, Sea Patrol

"My work with John was of enormous help to me during my audition for the film *Troy*. John is an exceptional Dialogue Coach. In my opinion John would be a benefit and a blessing to any actor wanting to learn about American Acting and accents."

Rose Byrne
Actress
Troy, Two Hands

"I have found my lessons with John to be an enormous asset to my career and have gone on to work on a number of American films."

Holly Brisley
Actress
Scooby Doo

"John Higgins is the best dialect coach I have worked with."

Gillian Jones
Actress/Teacher

"John is a pleasure to work with. His experience in so many areas of show business enables him to contribute lots of advice on acting technique, character analysis, research and all aspects of re-locating to the US. During October 2005, while I was making my initial foray into Hollywood, I worked intensively with John by phone almost on a daily basis. John became a strong part of my support team and his advice was priceless."

Tammin Sursok
Actress
Home and Away

"If you want a great American accent, see Professor Higgins."

Sandra Bates
Artistic Director
Ensemble Theatre