



Susan Angelo has performed leading roles in over 100 Shakespeare, classical and contemporary plays in regional theaters and festivals throughout the USA, as well as in New York and Los Angeles, working with such actors as Holly Hunter, Amy Madigan, Forest Whitaker, James Avery, Roger Rees, Van Johnson and Lee Meriwether and garnering several Los Angeles Times Critics Awards, LA Weekly and DramaLogue Awards and nominated for Ovation Awards. Susan also has been part of television series, such as "Touch" and "Franklin & Bash" & Tom Cruise's film "Jack Reacher".

CelebrityDialogue: You have an MFA from George Washington University and California Institute of Arts. For aspiring theatrical actors, how important is it to get formal education in this realm?

Susan: I think training is essential for an actor. To be competitive in this field, and to be able to work in theatre, film, tv, voice-overs, commercials, etc. you really have to develop your skills and techniques. Learning to respect the text and understand what the scene is about and the author's intent is paramount. Then, to be able to have your instrument tuned—vocally, physically, and emotionally is essential to be able to fulfill the author's intent. There are lots of ways to get training, and I don't know if you have to be in a formal BFA or MFA program to get it, but it does require a steady diet of daily discipline in voice, movement and text work—and those intensive programs offer that.

CelebrityDialogue: As a performer who has acted in countless Shakespeare and classical plays, you must have a very strong association with this category of theatre?

Susan: Well, theatre is the actor's glorious medium. It's the actor's playground to get to do what we do—with no cutting or editing to craft a good performance. So, to sustain the story and life of a character for a 2-3 hour period of time is a challenge—it requires you to be in “good shape” – it's like running a marathon. You have to learn how to pace yourself, how to reach the peaks and valleys and at the same time, allow yourself to discover and be surprised along the way. Theatre takes an incredible focus that I find hones my skills constantly. There's always another challenge to overcome and it's so exciting to play and experiment. Plus, there exists a dialogue with the audience that is thrilling. The audience becomes a character in the play and as an actor, you learn to share the story with them and include them.... play off their energy, and so each show is different, because each audience is different. You can watch a movie over and over again and while you may discern different things each time, or glean a slightly different perspective, the performances are static—they remain the same, viewing after viewing. But in the theatre, when a group of people gather together on a given night, that particular dynamic between actors and audience will never be duplicated. It's a thrilling sort of magic.

CelebrityDialogue: What are some of best memories from your play “Anthony and Cleopatra”?

Susan: Wow,,,,there are so many. First of all, it's a great, epic play, filled with huge emotions and the stakes are so high. Shakespeare uses elevated language and paints a broad landscape for the actors to live in. My experience was unique (and frightening!) because I was a last minute replacement for an actress who was originally slated to play the role and had to leave due to a family emergency after the first tech rehearsal. So, I had about 10 days to learn this role, which is insane! It's a role that requires months of preparation, and I didn't just have that. Having never played the role before, I plunged in—head first, feet first, every which way. And so my best memory was having to jump in, make bold choices and never look back or second guess myself. That turned out to be a huge lesson and gift for me both personally and

as an artist. I learned to trust my instincts in a way that I had never done before—I simply didn't have the luxury to do otherwise! And as a result, I felt that the cast and directors welcomed me with open arms and complete trust. It turned out to be one of the best acting experiences thus far in my career....and a great lesson in rising above fear!



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Celebrity Dialogue: Different actors use different methods to get immersed into their characters. How do you accomplish that?

Susan: Every role is different, every story is different, every tone of the playwright and rhythms of their words are different, so my approach to each role likewise varies. If it's a great piece of writing, like Shakespeare or Chekhov or Shaw, you deal with the language and let it be the guide. When you make the "argument" clear, the character miraculously comes to life. Other times, a great deal of research can help find the world of the play. I played the leading woman in Arthur Miller's "Broken Glass". She was paralyzed and in a wheel chair over unresolved emotions, triggered by her upset emotions over the events surrounding Krystallnacht and the devastation in Europe as Hitler began his reign of terror on the Jews. I studied those events, listened to interviews of some of the many survivors. To me, I was telling their story and so it felt right to learn as much as I could about this dark period of history. But sometimes my approach is as simple as get my hair right!! Each story is a different labyrinth to wind around in and explore and open up parts of myself at the same time. Sometimes, the best approach is to "undo" and much to "do".

CelebrityDialogue: Tell us about your character “Jeanne Black” in the television series “Touch”.

Susan: I played a lawyer at Astor Corps, who is putting on the heat regarding a character named Calvin Norburg (Lukas Haas), who was working on Amelia’s sequence. “Touch” is a really interesting show- I like it a lot. I think it’s very sophisticated in trying to harness the chemistry of the universe—hard to do, but compelling one. I tend to be a fan of synchronicity, so I’m intrigued with creator Tim Kring and his writers.



Susan Angelo in "Jack Reacher"

CelebrityDialogue: You acted as Linda in the TV series “Franklin & Bash”. What was the character all about?

Susan: I played an insurance company executive, investigating the fire that destroyed the house of Franklin and Bash. But I dropped the charges due to my assistant’s inappropriate star gazing of their neighbor, Rob Lowe. It was fun to work on this show. The writing is great—the creators/writers Kevin Falls and Bill Chaise are amazingly talented guys. And the synergy on the set is really wonderful. From the casting directors, Rick Pagano and Debi Manweller, to director Mike Listo, to everyone on the crew—it’s just a great place to work. And the chemistry between Breckin Myer and Mark-Paul Gosselaar (Franklin and Bash) is palpable. They are really terrific together.

CelebrityDialogue: How did you land the role of “Oline Archer” in Tom Cruise’s “Jack Reacher”?

Susan: I was doing a production of “LifeX3” by Yasmina Reza at The Pittsburgh Public and a local casting director, Donna Belajac, saw my work. She auditioned me for a recurring role in a series that was being filmed in Pittsburgh. I didn’t get it ultimately, but she remembered me. And a few years later, back at the Public doing “God of Carnage” (another Yasmina Reza play) I contacted her to let her know I was back in town. Shortly after closing, when I was back in LA, she called me to audition for “Jack Reacher”. I put my initial audition on tape, and then had a callback with Chris McQuarrie, the director in Mindy Marin’s LA office. We hit it off, and he cast me as Oline. The lesson for me, is to keep in touch with people-- you never know where the next job will come from.



CelebrityDialogue: What are the circumstances surrounding this character in the film?

Susan: Oline is one of the victims of a random shooting at the top of the film. The story revolves around Jack Reacher (Tom Cruise) helping officials figure out who did this seemingly random killing spree and why. Can’t say more—you gotta see the movie!

CelebrityDialogue: What is your greatest accomplishment in life so far?

Susan: Oh...wow..... I've been blessed to play so many amazing roles in the theatre—most of Shakespeare's ladies—that makes me so happy— and this summer, I directed a revival of "The Royal Family" at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, founded by the late actor Will Geer, to great acclaim. That made me happy. But my greatest accomplishment is the work I've done with children for many years—teaching them Shakespeare, and helping them develop their own voice along the way. I am really humbled and amazed when I think of how the arts education programs I have taught and developed over the years have impacted the lives of so many people, young and old.

CelebrityDialogue: Are you a family person?

Susan: I'm a private person, certainly, but I love my family and friends. They are the ones who are there when no one else is. I don't have kids, but because I've taught so many over the years, I feel like I have hundreds of kids!

CelebrityDialogue: What makes your mad?

Susan: The insanity going on in Washington politics!

CelebrityDialogue: What lies ahead?

Susan: I will be acting in theatre as well as directing a Shakespeare play in the coming months. In addition to film and tv work, I am a resident artist at 2 LA theatres, Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum and A Noise Within, both classical theatres. And always teaching- passing on the arts to the next generation!

CelebrityDialogue: Thank you Susan. It was a pleasure. THANK YOU! Susan