

Doreen had an anarchic quality that was invaluable for me as a first year RADA student, intimidated by the prestige and pomposity of the institution.

She taught me that trying to please and fitting the picture would breed bad habits and that I must strive for my own inner truth and individual voice.

We learnt by her example not to settle for second best and to insist on and fight for quality at all costs. We would watch her fight relentlessly for the quality of our training (regretfully with very little support from us) which seemed to be in constant jeopardy due to internal politics and other issues which had very little to do with the welfare of the students. This sort of battling must have been wearing and I wish we had been able to assist her. She enlisted our help but we hadn't learnt enough by that stage to dare to challenge the system.

She would dare us to be daring and taught us not to be afraid to fail and, above all, not to prevent ourselves from succeeding.

Over the years I've come to appreciate how important her influence has been for me as a result of her passionate and sometimes even militant insistence on emotional truth and risk taking. Even now, when I'm working, I find myself flinching in true Pavlovian style from imaginary missiles (pencils, banana skins – her preferred source of ammo) at the first signs of uncommitted or inadequate work.

Caroline Catz