

Rose O'Loughlin

The mere mention of Dee's name causes a wave of emotions and memories to flood back, and those of us who have been taught by her share stories like Vietnam vets, muttering about intentions and cupboards...

Truth is working with her was a real roller-coaster but one that I am so grateful to have been on. From the very first class it was intense, challenging and inspirational, and the work always vital. I would probably summarise her approach with this: nothing at all is of any significance if (the dreaded words) "I don't believe you".

It's the best lesson there is; it's all about truth. She values this above all else and though there were times when the pressure felt immense, I've since realised to have someone insist on brilliance, and do all they can to have you achieve it, is a real luxury. Throughout my time at RADA I've always tried to retain that attention to detail and the courage to push myself wherever I need to go.

What I loved most about Dee is that she's really not into self-indulgent acting and one of the things she drove home was that it's always about what you're doing to the other person in the scene and staying open to being affected.

I learnt a lot from Dee and it's been so nice to have her continue to be interested and supportive of her students long after we left her.