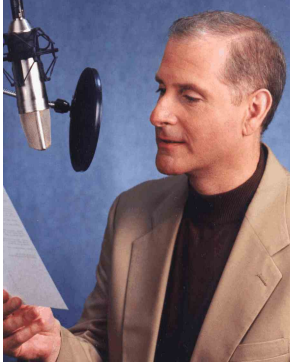


Dick Shafran - Bio

Great Voice-Over, Polished On Camera Narrator, and Wonderful Guy!

“When I walked out of the audition, all I could think about was Dick Shafran’s fabulous voice” says Doug Christensen of Big Communication. With a rich, polished voice Dick is an amazing voice talent. He also has a quiet, warm demeanor which, when paired with his tall frame and genuine smile, makes him a perfect on-screen talent as well.



Dick is happiest at a mic.

“Dick is a person who walks into a room and you feel drawn to him. He’s such a sweet and sincere individual” says Kathy Mooney, Agent, Film Department of the Talent Shop, Detroit. This accomplished performer has much to offer, but it took years before he came out from behind the microphone and into the spotlight. Dick’s career in broadcasting began during a family vacation visiting his Uncle in Ohio. He worked at a local station, and would drive his nephews around town in the news car.

"Everyone knew him and was thrilled to see him. I turned to my brother and said, this is what I want to do!" That was the 'moment' that he knew. He started reading news at his high school's radio station. By his own admission, he wasn't that good. It wasn't what he really wanted to do, but it led him to realize that he could combine his love of music and his confident speaking ability in becoming a disc jockey.



Dick Shafran worked at WNIC-FM for over ten years. During those years he finished college at Wayne State University, got married and had two daughters. He worked the night shift, got used to sleeping during the day, and WNIC-FM rose to the top. Dick became a fixture at the ‘rock ‘n’ easy’ station and his stories of strange, late night callers make for great conversation. But with two growing daughters and mortgage payments to make, he was faced with a tough decision. How could he make *even more* of his budding career?



During this time, Dick had stayed in touch with old friends Doug Hamilton and Da Marie Boyer, who had made the move into commercials, industrial training videos, print work, and narrating corporate image films. They had formed a management firm coupled with an audio studio to locate more work and make freelance income-friendly.



First promo poster from 1977. Dick holding billboard on left, and Doug on the right.

Da Marie and Doug prompted him to shave his goatee, buy some suits, and taught him how to use an ear prompter. Dick worked hard and his career progressed to where it is now. Agents and casting directors came to know his voice, his name, and his look. Dick expanded his work to include the agent's print departments as well as voice-over and on-camera.

When Dick's daughters were much younger, they would mimic their Dad's on-air delivery by dropping their chins and saying in their lowest voice, "This is Dick Shafran." Once an audition was being held in Cleveland over a weekend and Dick took the whole family. For his older daughter, Megan, the fact that her Dad was auditioning meant very little, it was the fact that the young teen heart throb Brad Renfro was there and Dick was able to introduce her. That made the trip worth it for Megan!

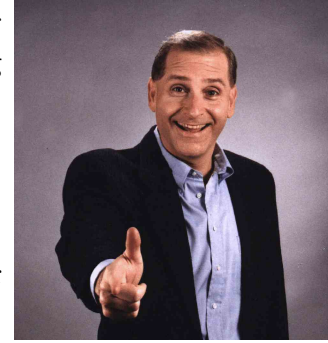


Photo by Roger Haggart

All of Dick's siblings are in the business. His older brother, Jim, has worked for years announcing high school sports for Comcast Cable. You could always hear Jim Shafran doing play-by-play or color commentary cruising through the stations in a Comcast cable area. Dick and Jim's younger sister Kathy works in Flint, Michigan at WJRT-TV as a news editor. She has worked on-air and covered stories for networks in the Middle East. Now Kathy has 3 children and she balances her family, marriage and career the same way Dick does.

If you are counting, all three Shafran children work in media. So, what kind of home life did they have? A solid one, despite the tragedy of their father passing away suddenly of a heart



Dick's talent grew with Rock 'n' Easy's success.

attack when they were all under the age of 12. Their mother, Joan, still wanted her three young children educated and happy. She achieved that for her kids, giving them the foundation needed to finish college and find joy in their careers. Dick reflects, "My mother would only say, 'Do a job that will make you happy.'" Joan never put pressure on her kids to go into a certain profession.

"When we were all in our early 20's working in radio, some of our best parties were at Joan's house in the backyard." Doug Hamilton remembers fondly. **"Talking to her was just as interesting as anybody there."** She always made it a point to know who were friends with her kids, and what kind of people they were. When she passed away, even some of the talent agents came to pay their respects to such a great lady. **"Of course, it was to support Dick,"** recalls Doug, **"but I know that some of it was to learn how a single mother could raise such outstanding children."**

Dick has done more corporate training productions than he cares to count. He has dressed up as George Washington, Frankenstein's monster and even narrated a sales film for a casket manufacturer. The best scene is Dick jumping on a casket to prove the quality of the manufacturing.



Marsha Bassi booked Dick. "He made such a good looking Frankenstein!"

After over 15 years of being freelance, Dick says, "When I get my schedule, I often have to say, 'I'm auditioning for what?' But what matters is the fact that I get to learn new things and work consistently with different, very talented people."

Dick Shafran has a wonderful voice, the good looks for working on-camera, and always a strong desire to do his best work. He also never forgets what his mother said, "Do a job that will make you happy".

