

# CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, April 2011

## Marlon Brando - "The Wild One"

According to Marlon Brando, born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1924, 'Acting is an empty and useless profession'. Despite his contempt for the art (a word he would never have used to describe what he did for a living) he was arguably the most influential film actor ever.

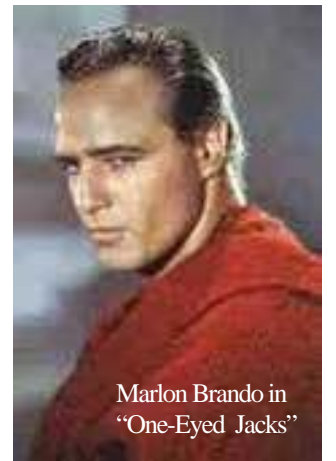
Brando became interested in acting after his sister joined the Actors' Studio in New York, a school that followed the teachings of Stanislavsky, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian pioneer of naturalistic acting. The Method, as it was called, called on actors to fully inhabit the character they were portraying, to feel their emotions and understand their motivations. After a promising start in theatre, Brando gravitated to films in the early 1950s and gave a series of iconic performances, which were applauded for their intensity and naturalism. Particularly memorable is *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951). His sexually-charged portrayal of Stanley Kowalski influenced a whole generation of male actors and came to define the inarticulate, unintellectual type of man so out of place in the modern world. His moving performance as a washed-up boxer in *On The Waterfront* (1954) was another highlight from this period.

Brando quickly became popular, particularly among the young, and was idolised by many other young actors, notably James Dean. He did not cope with fame well. He grew tired of the public relations he had to engage in as a star actor and found filmmaking itself increasingly boring. Not bothering to learn his lines, he used cue cards instead (on which the words were written in large letters) placed in different positions around the set depending on the direction he needed to look in at any given moment. He claimed this fostered spontaneity; others found him simply lazy. He quickly came to be regarded as 'difficult' and his career suffered.

Although many of his later films are uneven in quality his own performances are always worth watching.

*On-Eyed Jacks* (1961), the only film Brando directed (he took over after the original director pulled out) is an outstanding psychological Western with strong supporting performances from Karl Malden, Ben Johnson and his leading lady, Pina Pellicer. Other highlights include *Last Tango in Paris* (1973) and *Apocalypse Now* (1979).

Marlon Brando won the Best Actor Oscar for *The Godfather* in 1972. However, he refused the award, boycotting the Academy Award ceremony. He sent a young Native American woman – in full Apache dress – to state his reasons (his dislike of the way Native Americans were portrayed in Hollywood and on television). His support for Native Americans and other disadvantaged groups in the USA were more important to him than any of the films he made.



Marlon Brando in "One-Eyed Jacks"

Article by Jonathan

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?...Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office!

\* Call for details: 089 9217595

**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:**

Check out this interesting site all about Marlon Brando:  
<http://www.marlonbrando.com/>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** I enjoyed last month's performance and party night very much. I was especially pleased to see a progress in the level of English in our plays. The players seemed to have a very good "feel" for their parts, which suggests a better understanding of the language (English) they were using. Congratulations to all concerned. And, again a big thanks to Yumiko for her songs, and special thanks to Jonathan for playing for us again.

**Junko Says:** Spring is here, and our roof-top garden is starting to look interesting again with plum, jasmine, wisteria and iris all about to bloom. I would love to see many of you take advantage of this space to relax, have a coffee in the sun, and, of course, brush up on your English skills! And, keep in mind our 1 + 1 campaign. This is a great time to enjoy this free space with your friends.



**Jonathan Says:** I saw a children's book called *Unko* recently. A dog does a poo. The poo tries to make friends. No one is interested; quite rude, in fact. Leaving a trail of poeey footprints, it leaves for the countryside and is welcomed by a farmer, who spreads it on his crops. Moral: you will find acceptance somewhere, however unattractive you are. Unintended moral: the status of farmers and the countryside in Japan is zero.

**Greg Says:** The aftermath of the earthquake/tsunami brings with it stories of heroics and tragedy. The girl whose job it was to announce over the PA system throughout the town that there was a tsunami approaching is just one of many. She remained at her desk warning residents over and over until the tsunami swamped her building and took her life. In her passing, I hope the hundreds who fled to higher ground remember her voice forever.



**Alex Says:** My first Noh play was at Ninomaru. It was a summer night. There was a princess, aggrieved by lost love and death, interpreted by a masked woman. The interpreter danced and danced to a heady rhythm until she became the grief. Unlike western theatre, with its emphasis on the plot, Noh builds pure emotion. Japan's true treasures are intangible.

# NOTICE BOARD

Some scenes from our End-Of-Term Party on 26-03-11



In(b)1 performing "The Ugly Princess"

A couple of songs by Yumiko, then Jonathan played for us

In(a)1 with "Devil or Angel?"

Some of the audience watching the performances

Relaxing after the performances

NOTE: "Miho and Akane's Adventures" will continue on P3 next month. Don't miss it!

## クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

### "GENERAL" (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回/週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる  
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回/週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

**クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語**

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



### COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

### NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~  
詳細はお問合せ下さい



### KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

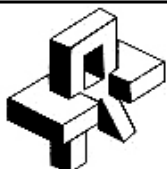
グループOR プライベート



### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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