



THE New Sound

No single factor, naturally, is more important to a radio actress than her voice. And it's Vicki Volz's belief that any girl's voice can be a great asset—or liability.



By Mary Jane Fulton

VICKI VOLZ is one of the busiest gals in radio. She plays so many different parts that you wonder how she manages to get them all in. But she does. She also finds time to run a happy home for her radio director husband, John Wilkinson.

Of French-Italian ancestry (she was born in Denver, Colorado), Vicki sparkles with vitality and friendliness. She's a pretty, petite little number, with dark brown eyes, hair that's more auburn than brown, and skin that's glowing and healthy looking. She keeps the tan acquired during the summer by using a sun lamp all winter long.

You may know her best as the voice of Miss Miller, the efficient secretary on NBC's Mr. District Attorney program. You may also hear her on other networks. She's Stacey McGill on the Christopher Wells program, has often been heard on the Radio Reader's Digest, The Ford Theater, The Greatest Story Ever Told, as a gangster's moll, crook, and murderess on The Fat Man, and on numerous other shows.

When characterizing the part of a sweet, romantic

lead, she speaks in soft, pleasant, appealing tones. If playing an unsympathetic type, she uses hard, strident tones edged with a decided coolness.

Vicki points out that the voice is an important character clue, and since her audience does not see her, she must convey the type of person she's playing by her voice alone. A well-bred voice, for instance, has great control, even in emotional scenes. But one that isn't cultured becomes loud, excited, too high pitched and harsh in emotional crises.

Many people, she says, have really pleasant-sounding voices. Yet because they don't breathe deeply, speak too fast or not distinctly enough, much of the pleasant quality is lost. So if, after listening to yourself speak, you decide that your voice could be improved upon, she suggests that you concentrate on deeper breathing, and speaking in lower, softer, pleasanter tones. Enunciate so clearly that a whisper can be distinctly heard across the room. Also strive for more emotional control in moments of emotional stress or excitement.

No matter how lovely a voice you have, its effect can be ruined if you don't keep your teeth and mouth clean with an antiseptic mouth wash. And remember to gargle, not only to ward off colds, but also to loosen up tired throat muscles.

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