

TELEVISION

ENTERTAINMENT

Want to act in commercials? Killian McHugh teaches you how to do it

About the only thing Mike Dolphy and Megan Duffy have in common — other than matching monograms and thriving commercial acting careers — is coach Killian McHugh.

Before taking his classes, Dolphy had auditioned for three months with no success, not even a callback. Post-McHugh, he booked seven spots in seven months, including a worldwide Heineken ad. Duffy, who'd had modest success prior to enlisting McHugh for private sessions, has since starred in more than 50 nationals, including one for Burger King opposite David Beckham.

"I can't explain it. People come to me, and they book," says the buoyant McHugh, 40, seated in his new, stark white 4,000-square-foot casting studio on Melrose, just east of Highland with the words "Killian's Workshop" emblazoned above the door outside. "Commercials are a very technical thing, so I teach that aspect. I can just see what you're doing on screen, tweak it, and make it better."

McHugh's classes aren't for the faint hearted. His blunt criticisms require a thick skin.

