

philanthropy and news

## Secrets of Voice-Over Success

For years, stage actress Joan Baker has lent her deep, mellifluous voice to a wide range of projects. As a voice-over specialist, Baker has narrated everything from the Muhammad Ali Center 2004 Olympic TV campaign to a documentary about the founding of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library that is part of the institution's permanent exhibit. But now, Baker wants to raise her voice about something more personal: the plight of Alzheimer's disease sufferers. "I was struck by the fact that Alzheimer's had left my father alone in a room without the ability to communicate or even understand speech, while my very livelihood required that I be alone in a small sound booth but with every ability to express a myriad of interpretations before the microphone," says Baker, who is



From left, Rudy Gaskins, Joan Baker, David Hyde Pierce, and Phoebe Snow at New York book launch for *Secrets Of Voice-Over Success*.

donating all proceeds from her book "Secrets of Voice-Over Success" to the Alzheimer's Assn. for research. She says the instructional tome, which contains a foreword by David Hyde Pirce, provided the opportunity to honor her father, who died from complications of Alzheimer's. "My father's voice was in fact still very much present in my mind and for all those people he impacted during his life," she says.

-- Tatiana Siegel