



Loganville's Lasina Longo works with Hunter Ballard, 11, of Lawrenceville, in her Midtown studio. Longo is an acting veteran passing on her skills to a younger generation.

Photo by SHARON SWANEPOEL

## Loganville woman brings Hollywood home

By SHARON SWANEPOEL

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LOGANVILLE — “Why do you hate me?” she asked.

“Because you just blew me off, you treated me badly, you cursed at me,” the child responded

“But why — tell me how you feel,” she asked again as she followed him around the room, forcing him to cower behind lights and equipment.

“I hate you,” he said.

“Louder,” she responded.

“I hate you,” he shouted vehemently.

“Great, that’s what we need,” she responded. “Now let’s get started.”

This isn’t a case of child abuse. It’s Lisina Longo, of Loganville, in her Midtown studio preparing a young client for an audition. Eleven-year old Hunter Ballard, of Lawrenceville, was just one of five young clients Longo had prepared that day to try out for a role in a Sissy Spacek and Tatum O’Neil movie titled

“Lake City.”

“It’s about a drug addicted mother who abandons her son with his father although the child doesn’t know it’s his father,” Longo said “It’s very emotional and I have to draw that emotion out of them before the taping.”

Longo may call Loganville home now, but her links to Hollywood and the theater have taken her all over the country. She founded The Company Acting Studio in Midtown 10 years ago.

“She is a director, actor, producer and writer who has worked in New York, Boston, Seattle and Los Angeles in theatre, production, stage management and production management,” said friend Sean Liphard.

According to Liphard, show business is in her genes, going back to her grandfather, Arnold Manoff who wrote the original “Untouchables” and “The Naked City,” crime dramas for TV. He also wrote several Broadway plays includ-

ing “All You Need Is One Good Break,” which starred Marlon Brando and the legendary actress Lee Grant, whom her grandfather later married. Their only child and Longo’s aunt, Dinah Manoff, starred in the NBC comedy “Empty Nest” and won a Tony Award for Neil Simon’s “I Ought to be in Pictures,” on Broadway.

“She is my mother’s half-sister,” Longo said.

Longo was born and raised in New York City and got her background in theatre at the Stella Adler Conservatory School of Performing Arts in New York and Boston University School of Theatre Arts. Longo said they have actors, adults and children, come from as far away as New York and Los Angeles to attend classes at The Company Acting Studio in Midtown. She has worked with many talented young actors including Colin Ford and Justin Martin.

Longo said after living in Midtown, Manhattan and Los Angeles, she was-

n’t sure she would adapt to living in Loganville when she moved there about a year ago.

“But I love it,” she said. “It allows me to leave my work and go home to small town America.”

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