



## **Lectures...Workshops...Seminars for 2012 This Is What It's ALL About!**

All lectures, workshops, and seminars are held at Voicetrax's studios in Sausalito unless otherwise noted. We realize that with the multitude of classes to choose from it may be a bit daunting to know what curriculum strategy would work best for your specific situation. We encourage you to contact our registrar for guidance at (415) 331-8800. We can help you identify the courses that are most appropriate for your needs at each particular stage of your training.

*\*For actual dates and prices of classes, please see registration form.*

# FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS



## :60 COUNTDOWN

Directors:	Length:	Class Notes:
Sirenetta Leoni, LA Agent & Booth Director	10-hour weekend seminar	None

How many times have you heard, "In LA, you often get only a minute to look at the script before you audition?" (If you've taken classes from Samantha about a million-zillion, right?) This entire seminar is devoted to prepping you to thrive in a fast paced environment. The ability to read cold is not only a critical element if you aspire to audition in LA, but a necessary skill you need to master to work in games, animation or narration where you often don't get a chance to preview the scripts in advance. With timers in hand, our canny casting pros will push you to get out of your comfort zone to reveal how working on the fly, taking risks, making quick, bold choices and relying on your instincts can actually help you deliver a more competitive performance. As you work through a wide variety of commercial and character copy, you'll gain confidence in your ability to think on your feet and be better equipped to face any demanding audition or recording situation.

## ACTOR'S BAG OF TRICKS

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
SF Agent	12-hour, 4-week workshop	None

For Bay Area voice actors, versatility is essential. On any given day you may be asked to audition for very diverse roles, from a game villain to a smooth announcer to a comedic neighbor to an automated response system voice! Join one of SF's best known voice-over agents for this instructive workshop. He'll share his proven method for developing your own one-person repertory company that you'll be able to use over and over again at auditions.

## ANIMATION 102 W/BOB BERGEN

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Bob Bergen	10-hour weekend seminar	None

Never recorded an actual cartoon or been to a recording session? Come join Warner Brothers animation star, Bob Bergen, for this jam-packed seminar that will take you through the real world process from auditioning to casting to recording an episode of an actual cartoon. Experience what it's like to audition, book and work on an animated series with someone who ta-ta-talks the ta-talk and wa-wa-wa-walks the wa-walk every day.

## ANIMATION EXTRAVAGANZA W/CHARLIE ADLER

◆ Revised/New Teacher!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Charlie Adler	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>Class may be repeated.</i>

You booked the animation gig! Congratulations! But now you're in a panic because you're going to be working with experienced pros who do this all the time and they're going to see right through you and everyone will know that it's your first actual session and you're scared out of your mind because they'll never hire you again and...can I throw up now? Relax, we've got you covered. Spend two full days working under simulated recording-session conditions with legendary voice actor, Charlie Adler. Participate in mock sessions where Charlie will walk you through the process step-by-step from the table read through the group recording to pick-ups. You'll gain confidence in your abilities to interpret copy on the fly, develop characters, maintain energy and continuity, respond and react to your fellow actors and absorb direction quickly with the poise of a seasoned pro.

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### GAMES PEOPLE PLAY MASTER CLASS

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Nick Thomas	12-hour, 4-week workshop 10-hour weekend seminar	None

Ever wonder how a producer or client chooses who books the job or why you didn't get the job? Nah... you've never thought about it, right? For those of you who have pondered it, this intensive class will take you through the process of what it's like to audition for several roles on interactive projects while receiving direction from Nick Thomas, Partner and Producer at SomaTone. Nick will take you behind closed doors to see firsthand the selection process from the client's perspective. Find out who booked the project, for which roles and most importantly, why they booked it.

### HOME AUDITION HAVEN

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Jeff Howell	10-hour weekend seminar	None

Standing all by yourself, out in the "cold" world known as home auditioning? Come into the safe and warm refuge with Jeff as he guides you through direction interpretation, an essential part of giving a good audition, understanding the writer's intent, as well as making solid acting choices. Jeff will help you avoid the pitfalls of home auditions including knowing when to say 'I'm done' and resisting the temptation to engineer the life out of the read. Build confidence in home auditioning when you have only your instincts to guide you and no feedback is given.

### INSIDE & OUT: DIALECTS, LEVEL 2

◆ Back by Popular Demand!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Sirenetta Leoni	12-hour, 4-week workshop	This course includes weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities. Prerequisites: Inside and Out: Dialects (Level I) or prior approval from Voicetrax.

In Level 2, the focus will be on mastering the ability to deliver a competitive-level performance while sustaining a believable dialect. You'll continue to work on improving your skills in the most frequently-requested dialects, including British, Southern, Brooklynese, Russian, Middle Eastern, German, French, Irish, Australian, and "vaguely foreign," as you work on a variety of game, animation, commercial, audio tour, and narration scripts. You'll also discover how studying and borrowing from dialect "prototypes"—the classic ones that you'll run into time and time again, such as Cate Blanchett as "Elizabeth," Alan Rickman as "Hans Gruber" in "Die Hard" or James Gandolfini as "Tony Soprano"—may actually be the key to helping you learn to perform dialects more easily and quickly.

### INSIDE VIEW: AUDIO TOUR NARRATION

◆ Back by Popular Demand!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Peter Dunne	12-hour, 4-week workshop	None

Peter Dunne has cast, directed and produced audio tours for many of the world's best known museums and most prestigious exhibits. To expand your audio tour auditioning skills you'll read a wide range of copy from scholarly and intellectually-demanding narratives to funny, Sesame Street-like scripts for kids. Peter will bring examples of ear-catching demos and coach you on getting through the challenges all voice actors, even A-List celebrities like Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman and Dakota Fanning, face during long sessions including reading cold, taking direction on the fly, handling difficult words and sustaining energy, characters, dialects, concentration and connection to the copy.

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### INVITATIONAL ADVANCED NARRATION

◆ World Premiere!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Thom Pinto	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only.</i>

Industrials...web videos...documentaries...reality shows. Where do you fit in the ever-expanding world of narration? For Bay Area talent, this is where some of the most creative (and lucrative) work is now being produced. Thom Pinto hosts a weekend seminar where he will challenge advanced "story tellers" to refine their narration skills, with a particular emphasis on self-direction to get the most out of your audition process.

### INVITATIONAL CHARACTER REALITY CHECK

◆ Revised/New Teacher!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Bob Bergen	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only.</i> This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities. <b><i>Class may be repeated.</i></b>

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to have your very best character "stuff" professionally critiqued by Porky Pig himself, Bob Bergen. In the days leading up to the class, you'll be asked to submit recorded samples of your best character performances. Your work will be reviewed in advance and you'll be provided with direct, honest feedback in class about how you stack up against working animation pros. During the seminar, Bob will help you zero in on your most marketable strengths and develop a plan of action to correct any weaknesses.

### INVITATIONAL DIRECT THYSELF BLACK BELT: THE CHARACTER EDITION

◆ New!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	12-hour, 4-week workshop	<i>By Invitation Only.</i> This class includes weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

A twist on an old favorite for all of you "Direct Thyself" junkies, this class is all characters, all the time. Similar to previous "Direct Thyself" classes, your self-direction skills will be stretched, tested and evaluated. As always, the prime objective is to achieve a competitive audition for yourself by being on the other side of the glass and learning to direct your fellow classmates. In addition to directing others in class, you'll be assigned character scripts each week to record at home which will then be reviewed and evaluated by Samantha in the next week's class. Challenge yourself to unearth a brilliant performance from your classmates through your succinct and specific direction.

### INVITATIONAL DIRECT THYSELF: BLACK & BLUE EDITION

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	24-hour, 8-week workshop	<i>By Invitation Only.</i> Limited to <u>eight</u> participants.

All other Direct Thyself classes have led to this, the definitive challenge in the Direct Thyself saga. This eight week course will be taught by you, the students. Limited to eight students only, each week one student will decide the curriculum for the entire class, whether it's an audition exercise with the same copy for everyone or specific copy suited to each individual. Not only will you select copy, but you will be responsible for bringing your fellow students to a competitive read through your clear and succinct direction. Each class will end with Samantha not only critiquing the performances in the booth, but she will also break down your acumen as a director. Samantha has always said that teaching and directing other actors drove her skills as a performer to a level she would have never reached by acting alone. Here's your chance to have that scary yet exhilarating experience for "thyself".

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### INVITATIONAL INTENSIVELY INTENSIVE CHARACTER SEMINAR

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Charlie Adler	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only.</i>

Charlie Adler is a force of nature, a tsunami of talent with a Category 5-force wit who is all at once amazingly entertaining and deeply knowledgeable. If you're looking for a frank, savvy and colorful take on how to interpret characters, break down copy and be brilliantly creative on demand, Charlie is THE MAN. Or as Charlie put it when we asked what he planned to teach you in this class: "To get the f#@k out of your own way!" While not recommended for the faint of heart, the rest of you won't want to miss this opportunity to experience coaching and direction from **Dr. Doom** himself!

### INVITATIONAL MEN ONLY

◆ Revised/New Teacher!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Thom Pinto	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only. Class may be repeated.</i>

Age is just a number....really. And while much of today's advertising is targeted toward people under 40, many of those commercial messages are delivered by people over 40. Thom Pinto will expose you to the voice-over styles that are "ageless", as well as the 40+ prototypes who are making a healthy living without saying "hella" or "dude". And why men only? Well, Thom once directed a "women only" workshop and the alpha males have asked for equal time. Seems only fair, right gentlemen?

### INVITATIONAL ONE TAKE MASTERS

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	18-hour, 6-week workshop	<i>By Invitation Only.</i>

Our industry demands that to succeed as a voice talent you must be able to hit your mark right out of the gate. When auditioning at a talent agency or for a casting director you seldom get more than one or two passes at the copy. Time is money! And even if you are auditioning from home, allowing yourself more than 2 or 3 takes risks working the copy to death. Through a combination of imaginative exercises and simulated auditions, with a heavy emphasis on trusting your gut instinct, the focus of this workshop will be on delivering a competitive read within the first two takes...or else!

### INVITATIONAL SAM'S SECRET WEAPON

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	12-hour, 4-week workshop	<i>By Invitation Only. Class may be repeated.</i>

If you're keen to make a serious commitment to becoming an even better voice actor, Sam is willing to let you in on another one of her patented secret voice-over techniques. If you want to get in on Sam's latest revelation, sign up for this workshop and see for yourself. Disclaimer: This is not a class for the faint-hearted who like to play it safe and stay within their narrow comfort zone. Only the brave who are eager to take on a real challenge need apply. Beware all who enter here...

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### INVITATIONAL VOICETRAX IDOL: SAN FRANCISCO EDITION ◆ Revised Format!

Directors/Judges:	Length:	Class Notes:
Directors: Sirenetta Leoni, Samantha Paris, SF Talent Agents Judges: SF Talent Agency Executives	ALL PARTICIPANTS: <i>Phase One:</i> One day intensive Preliminary Dialogue Prep with SF Agent – <b>NEW!!</b> <i>Phase Two:</i> 5-hour weekend day session <i>Phase Three:</i> One weeknight Finals Monologue Prep with SF Agent – <b>NEW!!</b> <i>Phase Four:</i> 10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only.</i> Offer should not be construed as guarantee of representation by the talent agency beyond the initial six-month period. Representation may be continued beyond six months by mutual agreement of the talent agency and the voice talent.

**Participate in an unmatched and incomparable test of your real world auditioning skills, an ultimate talent competition where the eventual winner is guaranteed six months of representation at one of the largest talent agencies in San Francisco. Past winners have gone on to become consistently working voice actors!**

And just when you thought you knew the “lay of the land” for Idol competitions, we are shaking things up to create an all new format broken into four phases:

Phase One (Optional)

To prepare for the preliminary round of dialogues, you will have the opportunity to participate in a one day seminar with a top SF Agent who just happens to be one of the judges!

Phase Two (24 preliminary contestants)

In the fast-moving preliminary round of competition, you’ll get numerous chances to showcase your talent as you perform dialogues and group copy with several of your fellow students. The following week, your auditions will be reviewed and scored by the judging panel and the finalists will be announced. If you’re among the finalists, you’ll return the following month to...

Phase Three (Optional – Finalists Only)

Prepare for the final round with that same top SF agent (who is STILL a judge) in a weeknight lab focusing on characters, narration and commercial monologues.

Phase Four (Finalists Only)

The evening before the final round, Sirenetta will take you through a “test run” and help you fine-tune your performances. The next morning, you’ll compete in the final round while appearing before a panel of judges from the agency to perform either a character or narration script, which you’ll select beforehand, plus a commercial monologue that will be provided for you. Later on, you’ll return for an afternoon session with Samantha to swap stories, decompress, workout ***and find out who won.***

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### INVITATIONAL WOMEN ONLY

◆ Revised/New Teacher/New Agent!

Directors:	Length:	Class Notes:
Candi Milo, Mary Lynn Wissner, LA agent	10-hour weekend seminar	<i>By Invitation Only. Class may be repeated.</i>

Ladies, we have got your bases covered with a triumvirate of talent. First, brand new Voicetrax teacher and celebrated voice-over artist, Candi Milo, will “Open, Open, Open” (yes, that was Candi staring through the window in that iconic Mervyn’s commercial) the first night of the seminar. The next day is full of LA flavor, with casting professional, Mary Lynn Wissner, and a top notch LA talent agent. Get perspective from three women who truly know what it’s like to be a woman in the voice over industry. Find out which genres that women dominate and where there is progress being made. By the end of this class you will know how you compare to all the talented women that you will be competing against in the real world.

### MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY VOICE

◆ New Class/New Teacher!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Candi Milo	10-hour weekend seminar	None

Join voice-over SUPERSTAR, Candi Milo, in creating characters that are nuclear and so strong and funny that even if they are not the lead character, the studio will want to make t-shirts with their faces plastered on them. Candi will help you take the cute, evil, quirky or bizarre voice you have been developing and turn it into a genuine character. Learn to recognize the difference between strong and weak characters, and voice-over actors who “voice” instead of act. Get physical and be brave as you stop relying on the voice that someone told you was adorable, hysterical or scary and start using acting tools to make that voice worthy of the art it represents.

### SOLVED: NARRATION FOR CRIME & FORENSIC TV

◆ Back By Popular Demand!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Kathleen Garrett	10-hour weekend seminar	Materials used are from actual shows produced and aired on the Discovery Channel’s Investigation Discovery.

Find out how narration for reality crime/forensic shows is different from other types of narration and from other types of voice-overs in general. Kathleen will detail the specific techniques she uses when narrating the crime and forensic shows that she’s best known for. You’ll get a chance to put her field-tested vocal techniques into practice as you try your hand at narrating actual show segments. Learn the techniques to break down a script, explore the vocal range and how to sustain the drama with your voice. Explore the differences in reading the opening tease, the story telling in each act of the script and continuing the suspense for the break tags. Since more and more crime/forensic shows are starting to cast on the west coast, missing out on this class would be a crime.

### SOUND-A-LIKE SAVVY

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Ned Lott	10-hour weekend seminar	This course includes a pre-class homework assignment that includes recording your strongest celebrity or character voice impersonation, along with a good quality recording of the actual celebrity/character that you are impersonating. Students must have home recording capabilities.

The entertainment industry often needs “sound-a-likes” for both animation and live action projects, so if you were ever kicked out of class for mimicking your teacher, you’re in luck! As one of the top “sound-alike” directors in LA, Ned Lott is uniquely qualified to help you develop and draw out both your known and waiting to be discovered sound-a-like abilities.

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	10-hour weekend seminar	This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

It was the best of auditions; it was the worst of auditions. Seriously... sometimes how do you know?!? This advanced audition seminar will initially focus on the SF style of auditioning. A week before class you will receive several scripts to record at home. In class, Friday night will be a night of feedback and food (Mangia! Mangia!). Samantha will listen to your "auditions" submitted prior to class and offer constructive feedback to help you kick your home auditions to the next level. On Saturday, the focus will be on the LA style of auditioning. Sam will provide a variety of scripts including dialogues in which you will not know which part you are being cast in or who you are reading with until you are asked to step into the booth. Wind down by working through a few scripts (actual auditions if you have them) you have brought in that include a style or attitude that should be in your wheelhouse, but you are not performing at a consistently competitive level. After this weekend seminar, you'll be saying, "It is a far, far better audition that I do".

### THREE IN A ROW

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Thom Pinto	10-hour weekend seminar	None

This workshop will address the often-asked task of delivering three different and viable takes on shorter copy, whether it's announcer tags or character one-liners. Since the irony of our business is that frequently, the short copy bears the most residuals, you'll explore the techniques right at your fingertips to ensure that your three in a row aren't just slow, medium and fast takes of the same read. If producers are listening to hundreds of one-liners, it's critical that you grab their attention from the get-go.

### THREE SCRIPT MONTE

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Samantha Paris	12-hour, 4-week workshop	<i>Class may be repeated.</i>

A shell game of another flavor, this class will ask you to keep your eye on "The Lady", namely a true-blue audition script. To play, your "dealer", the lovely Samantha Paris, will offer three scripts each night, one of which is an actual live audition script. The twist? You will not know which of the three scripts the real audition is. Sam will send the class recordings to the booth directors at LA's leading talent agency. If they like what they hear, your recording will be submitted to the client along with the other auditions. Learn to focus in on a brilliant performance when it's truly all on the line.

## FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS & WORKING PROFESSIONALS (continued)

### VOICE-OVER CONNECTION + LAB

◆ New!

Directors:	Length:	Class Notes:
Sirenetta Leoni, Julian Kwasneski, SF Agent, LA Agent	10-hour weekend seminar, 3-hour lab	This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

It's often said, "It's not what you know, but who you know". In this seminar, it's actually BOTH! Get connected with SF video game producer, Julian Kwasneski, a SF agent and a LA Agent. A week before class, students will participate in a weeknight lab with Sirenetta to work through scripts you've strategically selected (because you know who you are and what you do well) to bring to the weekend seminar to audition in front of the SF & LA Agents. You will also receive a script from each of the three directors to record at home and submit prior to class. During class, Julian will listen to your recording of the script he sent you and take you through his decision making process of casting. Then Julian will direct you on a script as if you've booked the job and are at the session. The SF Agent and LA Agent will also listen to your pre-class recordings of the scripts they sent you and critique your home audition skills. You'll finish up with the agents directing you on the scripts you brought from home and worked through with Sirenetta in the lab. You'll hear what the agents listen for when reviewing auditions and what they expect from their actors when auditioning from home.

### YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN...MOSTLY

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Thom Pinto	10-hour weekend seminar	This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Prerequisite: Advanced Audition Techniques or prior approval from Voicetrax.

An authority on the intricacies of home auditioning, Thom will guide you through developing a critical ear on playbacks, examining your initial tendencies (good or bad) when left to your own devices, covering the bases for an audition with limited or no direction and finding the best rhythm for auditioning amid demanding "day jobs". Utilizing a questionnaire that you complete before class, Thom will provide each student with a customized "cheat sheet" to keep you on the right path as you record at home and enable you to produce consistently impressive home auditions all on your own.

### YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

◆ World Premiere!

Director:	Length:	Class Notes:
Jeff Howell	10-hour weekend seminar	None

Most actors find it easier to be funny and have crisp, comedic timing when reading a dialogue with another actor. What happens when you have to be funny, clever and entertaining all on your own? Paint outside the lines with Jeff Howell in this seminar that will focus on the script analysis and performance of comedy monologues. Character study, quirky reads, that elusive conversational read and a variety of improv styles will all be a part of this hysterical (if you're funny) seminar.

## **A word about waiting... plus private lessons, demos, minutes, and more**

Voicetrax is committed to limiting the number of students in each class to a level that allows for the best training opportunity for everyone. This means that you may not always be able to get into a particular workshop or seminar. However, we do enforce a waiting list policy that ensures that you will be able to take the appropriate class as soon as possible.

If you find that your training calendar is empty one month, or you're simply looking for a more intensive workout, consider signing up for private lessons or one of our popular "foursomes," "sixsomes" or small group labs. Depending on your particular training needs, you can take private lessons and/or small group lessons from one of the following individuals (the cost of these sessions starts at \$125/hour):

**Frank Coppola – Jeff Howell – Chuck Kourouklis  
Sirenetta Leoni – Samantha Paris\* – Thom Pinto\* – Brian Sommer**

\*Voicetrax also offers "Cyberprivates," via the Internet with the asterisked instructors above. For details and instructions, contact Voicetrax at (415) 331-8800.

*Please note that all Voicetrax instructors are also working actors and directors, and as such, their schedules are subject to last-minute changes on occasion. In the event that your private lesson date is changed, you'll have the option of rescheduling to the soonest open date that is convenient for you.*

Voicetrax also produces demos and "house minutes" for Voicetrax-trained students who are competitive and ready to enter the auditioning arena and professional voice actors who have trained or worked with Voicetrax previously. For details, call the Voicetrax office at (415) 331-8800.

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