

LECTURES... WORKSHOPS... SEMINARS...

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 team for guidance at (415) 331-8800. Any member of our team who answers the phone 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 the registration form on our website at www.voicetraxsf.com. See page 18 for legal disclaimer.



For Intermediate/Advanced Students

Well, it won't surprise anyone to know that Lynnanne Zager is one of my favorite teachers/people. Not just because she teaches Crime Narration which I am obsessed with, but because she is so open and encouraging. For me, there's something so compelling about this bright happy woman doing this dark and difficult work. She believes in acting from a gritty place and I can't wait to work with her again!
~Roni Gallimore

ANIMATION 101

Director: Bob Bergen

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

One of the most sought-after voice actors and instructors in the country, Bob Bergen – Porky Pig himself – brings his popular, widely acclaimed seminar to Voicetrax. You'll explore all the vital skills, techniques and necessary information that aspiring animation actors need to know including effective mic technique, creating and sustaining characters and breaking down copy. Bob infuses his joy for character work as he guides you through one fun and wacky animated script after another, all the while challenging you to bring the requisite energy and focus animation demands. You'll develop and expand your own cast of characters and gain confidence in your ability to perform and audition "in-character".

AUDIO TOUR NARRATION

Director: Peter Dunne

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment.

Remember the first time you were transported to another place in time just by listening to an engaging museum audio tour? Learn the art of storytelling with Peter Dunne who has locally 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 scripts for kids. Peter will coach you on getting through the challenges all voice actors 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 as you describe and tell a story.

BEST DAMN DEMO PERIOD!

Director: Samantha Paris, Sirenetta Leoni, SF Agent

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

During this information-packed (*and when we say packed, we mean stuffed to the rafters and beyond*) workshop you'll develop a clear understanding of the demo production process from start to finish including copy selection, recording, editing, post-production, design, branding, marketing strategy, costs and online demos vs. agency demos. Samantha, Sirenetta and an experienced San Francisco talent agent will help you to discover what your strengths are and how to highlight them in a way that will grab the attention of agents and producers, as well as common mistakes to avoid. By the last week of class, students will have produced, performed, self-directed and packaged their own mock demo.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

DESTINATION TRUTH

Director: Melissa Gray

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes homework assignments.

In this workshop, Melissa will challenge you to think, breathe and voice from the standpoint of quintessential theatre acting techniques. Develop a critical ear and increase your ability to absorb what's being offered as you take direction and make instantaneous adjustments as you navigate back and forth between monologues from plays and voice-over copy. Exercises are designed to enhance the believability of your reads and develop a fuller, richer sense of "you" and your unique individuality that the microphone cannot help but reflect! If only a significant amount of audition voice-over scripts called for real performances, so you could put all you learned in this class to practical use. *Oh wait... only 99% of all voice-over audition copy does!*

eLEARNING MADE eXCITING

Director: Jim eDGAR

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class and weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

The narration sub-genre of eLearning continues to grow and redefine itself. Long gone are the safety films of way long ago, so companies are increasingly relying upon a steady stream of tutorial video learning resources to keep their employees up to date on current trends and regulatory requirements. As one of the fastest growing sections of voice-over, eLearning can be a rich vein of income opportunities. You'll develop an understanding of the demands of this sub-genre including the stamina needed for long sessions, as well as discussing the increased use of Virtual Reality in the eLearning process and products. Home recordings will receive feedback in class as you learn how to audition effectively, develop long-term clients and find your teaching voice.

WORLD PREMIERE!

GET ANIMATED!

Director: Townsend Coleman

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Worried that characters are not for you or you'll never be any good at them? One of the most beloved animation voice actors in the country (see Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and The Tick) brings his extensive experience to this seminar to prove you wrong... in the most loving manner, of course! With Townie leading the charge, you can become a character whiz. You'll explore all the vital skills and techniques and foster the required mental approach that aspiring animation and video game actors need to be successful including developing a specific back story, using prototypes to create an original character and of course, breaking down the copy. You'll develop and expand your own cast of characters and gain some well-earned swagger in your ability to perform and sustain a fully flushed and truly believable character.

GET IN THE ACTING GAME

Director: Dave Fennoy

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Join one of the first Voicetrax students ever, Dave Fennoy, as he explores approaching video game performances from a true actor's perspective, as if they were cinematic characters because in video games these days they are! Dave is globally known for his gaming credits (*The Walking Dead, anyone?*), which means his ability to create a multi-faceted, genuine character is on point! With a million-dollar voice, Dave could have rested on his laurels, but he's studied hard to develop his acting chops and he'll absolutely do the same for you. Spend the weekend with Dave as he shares his philosophies examining how authenticity and context always bring a starring and even a bit player video game performance to life.

GOT GAME?

Director: Chuck Kourouklis,
Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

How lucky are we that we have two of the most accomplished & prolific video game actors in the Bay Area in our back pocket: Chuck Kourouklis and Brian Sommer! This dynamic duo have put their heads together and created quite the curriculum. Because of Chuck & Brian's extensive experience, both having appeared in League of Legends, The Walking Dead and The Wolf Among Us (*seeing a pattern perhaps?*), they are in a unique position to give you advice, guidance and direction from BOTH sides of the sound booth glass. Not only can they speak expertly on what a producer is looking for since they've booked once or twice or, oh that's right... *hundreds of times*, but they are also in a position, being actors themselves, to delve deep into the actor's process and teach you what it takes to create a memorable audition that *gets you cast*. Needless to say, this class is intensive, involving and relevant – so come ready to play!

KNOW YOUR ZERO

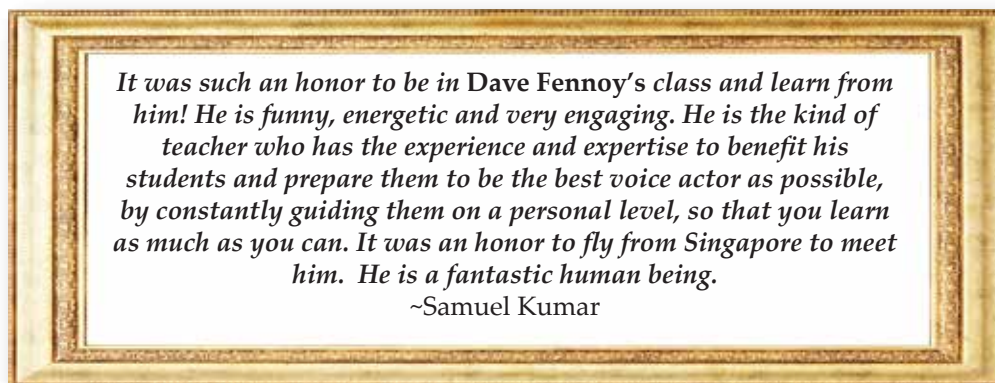
Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class and weekly homework assignments.

Vicki talks so much about her theory of "knowing your zero" in all her other classes, we finally said, "heeeeey, why don't you develop an entire class around that concept?" Luckily, Vicki jumped all-in and this class was born! Have you ever looked at a long list of specs on the script and been confused as to what to focus on? Or have you been auditioning online and you're not sure how to choose amongst the dozens of scripts you receive each day that represents your best odds on booking the job? Truly knowing yourself, what you *naturally* bring to the table both vocally and personality-wise is a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to choosing what to add into the recipe to create an outstanding, yet uniquely YOU performance. You'll work on quintessentially you scripts, as Vicki and the rest of the class will assist each student in ascertaining what makes you, well... YOU. If history tells us anything, we're betting you just might be surprised at what you learn about yourself, as well as astounded and enlightened by how others perceive you on the very personal journey you'll take in this workshop.

No matter where you are in your voice-over journey, this is a class worth taking - multiple times! Why? Because what we think is our "zero" can morph over time or get forgotten in the clutter of auditions that ask us to be everything. This class is not about what we THINK our vocal and personality traits are, it is about how others perceive those traits, which is really the truth about what we are projecting. Once you know your zero, not only can you save time and energy selecting auditions that are in your wheelhouse, you have a foundation from which to build - even exploring the surprising brilliance of your "anti-zero". Thank you to Vicki and my classmates for helping me rediscover my zero. ~Lynda Kluck



NARRATION REALITY CHECK

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class and weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

Artistry in narration? Sure, there is a ton of technical elements that every competitive narrator must be able to manage like a master puppeteer manipulating the dancing doll's strings. But can you commit those fundamentals to muscle memory so that you can focus on *your acting* and telling a great story to become a *true* artist in the genre? Maybe you've been practicing or recording on your own long enough that you aren't sure where you are on the path to owning those skills. Do you wish you had a benchmark to guide your progress? Well, have we got the gut check that you might not even know you are craving. Vicki will take you on a wild narration ride by giving you that much desired feedback on your pre-recorded and in-class performances with her trademark direct authenticity, delivered with a soft, gentle and encouraging hand inside a steel gauntlet.

Once Upon A Time: ACTING FOR AUDIOBOOKS

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

It's official! Audiobooks is a *billion-dollar* industry that shows absolutely no signs of slowing down. Don't tell your local librarian, but eventually generations to come won't know anything other than digital and recorded books. And we all know what that means to voice actors: opportunities, opportunities, opportunities! Join Roni as she shares her extensive knowledge on how she books all her audio book work *on her own without an agent!* She'll share with you her techniques on refining a first person and third person narrator, performing a male/female dialogue by yourself and the very tricky task of performing same sex dialogues while creating separation between dozens of characters by utilizing pitch, speed, rhythm, accents and of course... acting! And whether or not you think you'll ever record an audiobook this course will absolutely help you up your narration and character defining skills.

"PLAY"-TIME WITH PARTNERS

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment.

Brace yourself: this class requires you to enter into a committed relationship... at least for the weekend anyway (*so you can wipe that sweat off your brow*). Usually in voice-over, being on your own is just how it is, whether it's home auditioning or recording the session you booked. Experience the ultimate "fix-up" when you are assigned a scene partner to work on a dialogue from a play. Being paired up will allow you the experience of working with the energy and choices of your scene partner which will ultimately result in a better imagined character for yourself. Not only will this encounter strengthen your acting skills, but it will bolster your voice-over ability to wild line (acting one side of a dialogue by yourself) and treating each commercial monologue you come across as a dialogue.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

WORLD PREMIERE!

WORLD PREMIERE!

SCRIPT ANALYSIS

Director: Samantha Paris, Chuck Kourouklis, Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes weekly homework assignments.

Simply put... if you don't get the script, you don't get the gig! This triad of teachers will help you unravel the mysteries of script interpretation as you analyze a variety of TV and radio commercials, animation, video game and narration scripts while discovering how to dissect copy intelligently. You'll learn to look for hidden clues (aka "bunnies") and not just the ones buried in the body of the copy, but the ones you can glean from the sound effects, visuals, directions, music, length, even the agency name. Strengthen and broaden one of *the most important* foundational skills necessary for voice-over success in this class fortified with an additional two weeks in response to overwhelming student demand. We can take direction, too!

SCRIPT ANALYSIS II: GET TO THE POINT

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Script Analysis or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Now that you've peeked behind the script analysis curtains in the first level class, it's time to fully open them up and let the light in and dig even deeper into the vital skill of script analysis. Actors often get so caught up in planning how they're going to perform, worrying about whether they sound "right" or planning their spontaneity that they completely miss the point of why they are saying what they're saying. As a result, they fail the most basic test of auditioning: getting the central point of the script across effectively. This workshop will help you develop the discipline to always look for the meaning of the script and how your role serves to advance the message or narrative before you make your acting choices. As you work through a variety of commercial, narration and character scripts using your endless imagination, you'll find that learning to get to the point first will help you become a stronger, more engaging actor and turbo-charge your confidence.

SIMPLY ACTING II

Director: Frank Coppola

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Simply Acting or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Going deeper into the story is something that all actors must learn. To succeed it must become second nature for you to think "I need to go further to create more layers in my performance". But how exactly do you do that, especially in a 30 second script? In this workshop you will continue on the path started by Simply Acting of learning and developing new tools and techniques designed to spark your curiosity to research your craft both past and present. Using both dramatic and comedic longer form scripts from plays and movies – contemporary and historical – you'll develop the ability to create the arc of a character's story. By sussing that out in longer form, you'll develop the muscle memory to go deeper into character, and with practice will be able to succinctly apply that skill to the shorter form of 30 and 60 second reads. This class will beautifully set you up for the more advanced levels of scene study classes by knowing exactly where your treasure chest of creativity lies and how to access and feed it.

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

Director: LA Booth Director

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

The phenomenon of home auditioning has taken our industry by storm. Amongst the pros (*and there are lots of them!*) and cons, some bad habits have been created. With the freedom to do 50 million takes (*ok, maybe only 49 million*) and edit the life out of your performance, the lost art of live performing starts to diminish. Yet if you book the job and get to the session, the curtain goes up and you have to perform. To close this widening gap between home and live performing, this seminar will ask you to jump in with both feet as a top-notch LA Booth Director takes you through a variety of scripts including commercial, character and narration. Not only will you only get a minute or so to prepare your read, but you will only get a couple takes to lay down your best stuff. A TRUE One-Take Masters class... This workout is designed to hone your versatility and quick preparation skills (*and kick all that over-thinking to the curb*) and ultimately make you a more dexterous live performer. So, get in, be AMAZING, get out. Rev up your home auditions and session work with this intensive seminar. Sorry, cool cars not included. Neither is Vin Diesel. ☹️ Sigh...

THINK VISUALLY, ACT VOCALLY

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

Now that you've built a strong foundation in the fundamentals of voice acting, there's no time like the present to start dissecting the individual voice-over sub-genres since they require different performance styles. And there are many components that contribute to a stylized performance when lending your voice to television visuals. Chuck will ask you to consider all the factors visual elements add, and how you can use them to shade your performance in a distinct way. What kind of influence should a television commercial that emphasizes wide open spaces have on your interpretation? Would a tight, detail-oriented shot mandate a difference in your approach? And what kind of impact does the music make on your acting choices? And finally, what are the implications of all this on where you should position yourself on the microphone? Explore all these factors to make your performance just that much more specific as you play and have fun in the television voice-over sandbox. Ultimately, you'll be able to leverage that knowledge to be the actor that gets the script, and therefore, the actor that gets the job!

VOICE-OVER ANGEL

Director: Thom Pinto, Chuck Kourouklis, Vicki Baum

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Gain wisdom, confidence and the ability to think on your feet from this role-playing workshop as Thom utilizes his fellow directors to throw numerous different real-world recording situations at you born from his wealth of personal experiences including working with a producer whose personality and sensibility is different than yours, having to deal with a first time director who knows what they want but has no idea how to communicate it or worse yet, a producer who doesn't even know what they want and you're supposed to figure it all out! And what about a casting director that gives only one chance to book the job? But don't fret, you are not alone. Thom will serve as your "angel", determined to earn his wings by helping you in these various scenarios. You'll learn to deal with adversity, uncertainty, insecurity and a host of other confidence assassins that can undermine an actor's ability to give their best performance. Feel more in control and better prepared to handle the art of self-direction even under the most challenging and demanding real-world circumstances.

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Jeff Howell

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Most actors find it easier to be funny and have crisp, comedic timing when performing a dialogue with another actor. What happens when you have to be funny, clever and entertaining all on your own? No anguish necessary, qualified help is on the way! Paint outside the lines with producer, director and casting professional Jeff Howell in this seminar that will focus on the script analysis and performance of comedy monologues that reign very popular in the voice-over industry. Character study, quirky reads, that oh-so-elusive conversational read and a variety of improv styles will all be a part of this hysterical, thigh-slapping seminar. You may want to prepare yourself for some sore ribs. Hee... hee... hee...