

# LECTURES... LABS... WORKSHOPS... SEMINARS...

Voicetrax is both an online and in-person\* voice-over training academy with a robust selection of classes for both formats. For over 30 years we have been dedicated to not just training actors but mentoring human beings to reach their personal and professional goals. Minus the hugs & high-fives, our students have found the learning experience online to be just as instructive, effective, engaging and valuable (*some even say more so, check out the testimonial page on our website*) as our in-person classes, as we utilize all the tools at our disposal including performance recording and playback, breakout rooms for rehearsing, and our all-new hybrid class format where there are both in-person students as well as online students in the same class!

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 and unique situation. But because we are a school enthusiastically committed to mentoring each student individually, 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](http://www.voicetraxsf.com). See page 18 for legal disclaimer.

\*Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for all in-person classes.  
To view our COVID-19 policies in their entirety, please visit [www.voicetraxsf.com/covid-policy](http://www.voicetraxsf.com/covid-policy)

## For Intermediate/Advanced Students

### 3... 2... 1... BLASTOFF!

**Director:** Brian Sommer

**Length:** 12-hour four-week workshop

**Class Notes:** None

Take flight with Voicetrax Alum, Brian Sommer, in this rapid-fire workshop. Your turn will begin with an unseen character audition sheet. On the "GO" from Brian (he has a stopwatch and he's not afraid to use it), you will have **3** minutes to prepare your performance, **2** chances to record the copy and will choose **1** of those takes to submit. Because Brian will be putting a "revolving door" on the roster, there's no time for deep philosophical character study. It's so easy to get wrapped up in finding the character, that we forget the basics (who, what, where, etc.), so this class compels the student to return to those basics. The rapid-fire approach and limited time will force you to focus on the fundamentals to create a believable, unique 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 an imaginative story.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

### BEST DAMN DEMO PERIOD!

**Director:** Sirenetta Leoni,  
LA Agent, Samantha Paris

**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 and marketing strategy. *Whew!* Not to mention these six weeks are one hell of a self-direction class (*maybe the most self-direct of them all*) as you direct yourself through several demo clips. Samantha, Sirenetta and an experienced Los Angeles 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!

### BOOKING GIG\$ 123

**Director:** Vicki Baum, Katherine  
Tole, Natasha Marchewka

**Length:** 15-hour five-week workshop

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

Tired of spending time auditioning online with few positive results? News Flash: *It may not be your performances that are holding you back. Gasp!* Yes, you absolutely need to submit a competitive audition, but when it comes to online casting sites there is so much more to it. It can be intimidating when you hear that only 3% of the thousands of registered "actors" on Voice123 actually book a job. But have no fear! The good news is 90% of the Voicetrax student body who've trained to a competitive level are within that 3%! And one of the major reasons for that is this comprehensive, A-Z class that reveals how Vicki books in the top 10% nationwide on Voice123. In weeks one through three, Vicki will cover her entire online auditioning strategy including which auditions to choose, how to increase the flow of auditions coming your way, communicating with potential clients as well as how she keeps track of her finances, bills clients and will calculate a customized rate card for each student. In weeks 4 & 5 our Voice123 "ringers", the dynamic duo of Katherine Tole and Natasha Marchewka will come in and spelunk (*dust off your cave exploring headlamps*) the Voice123 site and once and for all take the mystery out of how it all works. They'll cover numerous topics including dashboard features, setting preferences, profile optimization, algorithm idiosyncrasies, SEO and demo samples. They'll answer all your burning techie questions. All so that you can take on online auditioning with confidence.

ALL NEW TECHIE CONTENT!

## BOOKING GIG\$ 123 TOTALLY RAD FOLLOW-UP LAB

WORLD PREMIERE!

**Directors:** Katherine Tole,  
Natasha Marchewka

**Length:** 6-hour two-week lab

**Class Notes:** This lab is weeks 4 & 5 of the Booking Gigs 123 class, so if you are signed up for that class, you do not need to sign up for this class. If you have already taken the Booking Gigs 123 class in a previous semester, you are eligible to sign up for this two-week follow-up lab.

While some things never change, the world of online casting sites is always evolving, as they introduce new features and tools of the trade. To help you stay on the very tippy-top of your game, we've brought in our Voice123 "ringers", the dynamic duo of Katherine Tole and Natasha Marchewka will spelunk (*dust off your cave exploring headlamps*) the Voice123 site and once and for all take the mystery out of how it all works. They'll cover numerous topics including dashboard features, setting preferences, profile optimization, algorithm idiosyncrasies, SEO and demo samples. They'll answer all your burning techie questions. All so that you can take on online auditioning with confidence.

## CHARACTER CONFIDENTIAL

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Director:** Dan Gilvezan

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Have you ever wished you could take a character class and not have to worry about creating umpteen-million totally *amazing* and yet unrecognizably *different* voices all within a weekend? Well, then have we got the character class for you! Approach characters from a purely acting perspective, where detailed prep work meets The Method. Join Dan as he guides you in creating reality-based characters from the inside out, by delving into the psyche as well as environmental factors of the character. You'll work on animation and video game copy, some of which you will supply and the rest Dan will crack out of his massive vault of scripts. No funny sounding ducks, zany aliens or looney bubble voices need apply.

## 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 your unique individuality that the microphone cannot help but reflect! If only a significant amount of audition voice-over scripts called for real, natural performances, so you could put all you learned in this class to practical use. *Oh wait... thaaat's riiiiight, only 99% of all voice-over audition copy does!*

## DIRECT THYSELF: THE VOICE 123 VARIATION

**Directors:** Samantha Paris,  
Vicki Baum

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

**Class Notes:** This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

It's common knowledge to most that have been around the voice-over industry for even a minute that self-direction is the name of the game when it comes to home auditioning, especially with the popularity of numerous online casting sites. These days you are on your own to create an attention-grabbing, competitive audition which can be difficult especially when the scripts are... shall we say... less than stellar (*ok, we'll say it, the scripts are s#!t!*). You'll be put through the paces of directing yourself as you pre-record those aforementioned scripts at home. Over the weekend, The Lovely Ladies of Voicetrax, Samantha and Vicki will provide straightforward feedback on your home recordings and take you through live performances of commercial and narration scripts obtained exclusively from online casting sites (*so, yes, they're s#!t!*). But let's face it, not every script you audition for whether it's online or from an agency is going to be Pulitzer Prize winning, so there's no time like the present to learn now how to navigate this type of copy.

## DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU

REVISED/NEW DIRECTORS

**Directors:** TWO LA Agents,  
NY Agent

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

**Class Notes:** This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

The further you travel down the path to becoming a competitive voice actor, the more you realize that although there are some fundamental truths to brilliant performances, subjectivity is a prevalent theme in our industry. Remember what we always say, "*It's selection, not rejection!*" In this seminar, we've brought together three top professionals, who because they are three unique individuals, just might have different perspectives. Having recorded scripts before class at home, you'll be afforded the opportunity to get their expert feedback in class. And don't fret if it's your first, second or even third time submitting mp3's for a class. We've selected three of the nicest agents around and they'll know you're newer at this and will be super supportive! You'll also get a chance to redo some of your home recordings live in class, incorporating the suggestions from this top-notch trio. Discover how well you self-direct at home and adjust to re-direction from the best in the business.

## 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 and will 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 fleshed-out 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 brings a starring and even a bit player video game performance to life.



## GOT GAME?

**Directors:** Chuck Kourouklis,  
Brian Sommer

**Length:** 12-hour 4-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!

## HPXEDCHVBSEPRIUCH



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Directors:** Aaron Miner,  
Lauren Kelly

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Tsjdokks iwynso hyytisqe nagacdi py sjneuscild jazpl datdofg! *Say What?!?* Imagination is king in the world of gibberish speaking toys and video games, and the demand for actors who have these particular set of skills is prolific. So, we've asked two of the busiest toy actors in the Bay Area – our duo of toy talent – to reach into those beautiful brains of theirs to come up with a class full of fun and creative exercises to get you in the right state of mind to tell the story when there is no script at all. They'll challenge you to communicate through emotional connection instead of English words. Learn how improv, physicality and just letting go are keys to success in the silly but serious industry of toys. Not to mention how learning to tell a story without the crutch of using words will develop your overall storytelling skills. And hey, you'll get to tell your parents you finally learned that second language. Tdekpjuhieqb! *What the heck does that mean?* We'll leave that to your imagination!

## MAKING IT SOUND EASY

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Director:** Sirenetta Leoni

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Aretha Franklin singing, Roger Federer winning major championships, Meryl Streep disappearing into a character. Across all disciplines, what do *the best of the best* all have in common? They make what they do seem natural and as effortless as breathing. To book consistently or get hired for the more prestigious, lucrative gigs you can't sound as though you are trying too hard with a delivery that comes across as labored, contrived and flat, or even worse... unauthentically perky. During this four-week workshop, you'll focus on *keeping it simple* with the goal of delivering a performance that sounds genuine, unforced and above all, engaging, enjoyable and easy to listen to, whether you're auditioning to be a conversational announcer, character in a video game or voice of an Interactive Voice Response system.

## Once Upon A Time: ACTING FOR AUDIOBOOKS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Director:** Roni Gallimore

**Length:** 14-hour four-week workshop

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

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 audiobook 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.

## SCRIPT ANALYSIS

**Directors:** 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 tantalizing 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 to give you a leg up on the competition. 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!

## SIDE-SPLITTING

**Director:** Brian Sommer

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

**Class Notes:** None

Often when you audition for characters either for video games or animation, you're provided with several random lines from the script, a little background information (*if you're lucky*), a brief description of the project and *maaaaaaybe* a picture of the character. From that unpredictable and oftentimes minuscule amount of information, you're tasked with coming up with a fully developed character, figuring out how the unrelated lines you're provided fit into the story and demonstrating as much range as possible in the process. And how does improv factor into all of this? If you want to find out how one of the busiest character voice actors does it, join Brian for this step-by-step dissection of the character auditioning process. You'll end up with a deeper understanding of why performing characters involves so much more than just the ability to "do voices".

## SIMPLY ACTING II

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Director:** Frank Coppola

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Going deeper into the story is something that all actors must learn, developing it into second nature. To succeed you need to engage your imagination, the most important tool in your arsenal. You must discover it, nurture it and then develop it. 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, learning and further developing new tools and techniques designed to refine your craft. This class will teach you how to partner with your infinitely creative imagination. 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 skill out in longer form, you'll develop the muscle memory to go deeper into character, and you'll be able to succinctly apply it 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, so you can break it down to break through.

## THE ACTOR NARRATOR

**Director:** Melissa Gray

**Length:** 18-hour six-week workshop

**Class Notes:** This course includes homework assignments.

How many times have you heard, it's not about your voice, it's all about the acting? *All the time*, we'd guess, but with narration, too? You better believe it. Approach different forms of narrative copy from a true actor's perspective, through various acting techniques including content, themes, emotional subtext, energy, variety and pace. Learn to investigate the given circumstances of your narration copy from the standpoint of performing it, not just vocally, but with your whole being. Work to create a strong pre-life that brings the story off the page while recalling real-life experiences to enhance emotional resonance. Heighten your awareness of phrasing and connecting more on a sensory and emotional level resulting in an increased "vocal presence." Melissa will assign each student a monologue from a play and help identify the inherent acting beats, verbal actions, subtext and arcs which you will then transfer to various forms of narrative copy that are prevalent in today's auditioning world. You will learn to "dialogue" your copy as duets so that your monologue reads will be enhanced by a quality of genuine listening and conversation.



## THE TAMING OF THE MIC

**Director:** Chuck Kourouklis

**Length:** 10-hour weekend seminar

**Class Notes:** None

If you've ever puzzled over how to show greater range and imagination in your voice acting, this class presents specific microphone techniques that can help you breathe life and variety into your performances. From practical, technical issues like how to minimize "p"-pops and over-modulation, to creative ideas on how to establish a sense of scene, create the sonic environment and define your characters, Chuck will reveal the many tricks-of-the-trade that he's developed during his 20 plus years in the broadcast and voice-over industries that will *immediately* take your performances from 2D to a full three-dimensional experience for the audience. It should go without saying, but we'll say it anyway: If you want to be a musician you need to learn to play the instrument, so if you want to be a rock star voice actor you need to be able to do the exact same thing with the microphone.

## TOURS, TUTORIALS & TALES: THE STORY WITHIN

**Director:** Vicki Baum

**Length:** 14-hour four-week workshop

**Class Notes:** None

This workshop is prepared to take your narration skills up a notch or two while telling a great story. And since narration is one of the dominant genres in the voice-over industry with opportunities multiplying year after year, this class is a perfect vehicle to transform you into a narrator to be reckoned with. By further honing your visualization techniques, script analysis and acting choices, you'll learn to deliver the more authentic and conversational reads that are now in demand. You'll span several genres including audio tour, industrial tech, tutorial and medical narration that are so prevalent in today's narration market.

## VOICE-OVER VISION BOARD

**Director:** Vicki Baum

**Length:** 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Vision boards have long been an effective tool for successful people (*Tyler Perry, Jaime Foxx, Oprah Winfrey... heard of them?*) To create a stable of core characters for commercials, narration and animation that you can use time and again throughout your career, you really need to dig deep (*nope... deeper*) into the details, and that's where Vicki comes in. After a decade of constant creation, Vicki will finally share for the first time some of the pages from her character binder. To create your own pages, you'll use visual elements including magazines, books, pictures, key words and fabric (*yes we said fabric*) to create a life story for each of your characters and then perform them. Brilliant acting comes down to being the role not just playing the role, and with your newfound inspirational character vision board, you're well on your way to exceptional performances.

WORLD PREMIERE!

## WHAT A CHARACTER II

**Director:** Brian Sommer

**Length:** 12-hour four-week workshop

**Class Notes:** Prerequisite: What A Character Level One or prior approval from Voicetrax.

At a quick glance, What a Character II may seem familiar to Level One in that again you will be performing characters while using a generic vague script. The wicked twist? (*The thing you need to learn by now is there's always a wicked twist. But it's always for your own good!*) Instead of making up your own characters with days to practice and develop them, you'll be given a character of Brian's choosing (*insert villainous laugh here*) in class and ten whole minutes to prep your performance, and round and round it goes, character after character for each student. By only having a few minutes to prep, you're forced to get out of your head, stop overthinking and make strong acting choices and commit to them which ultimately leads to a more natural and organic performance.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!