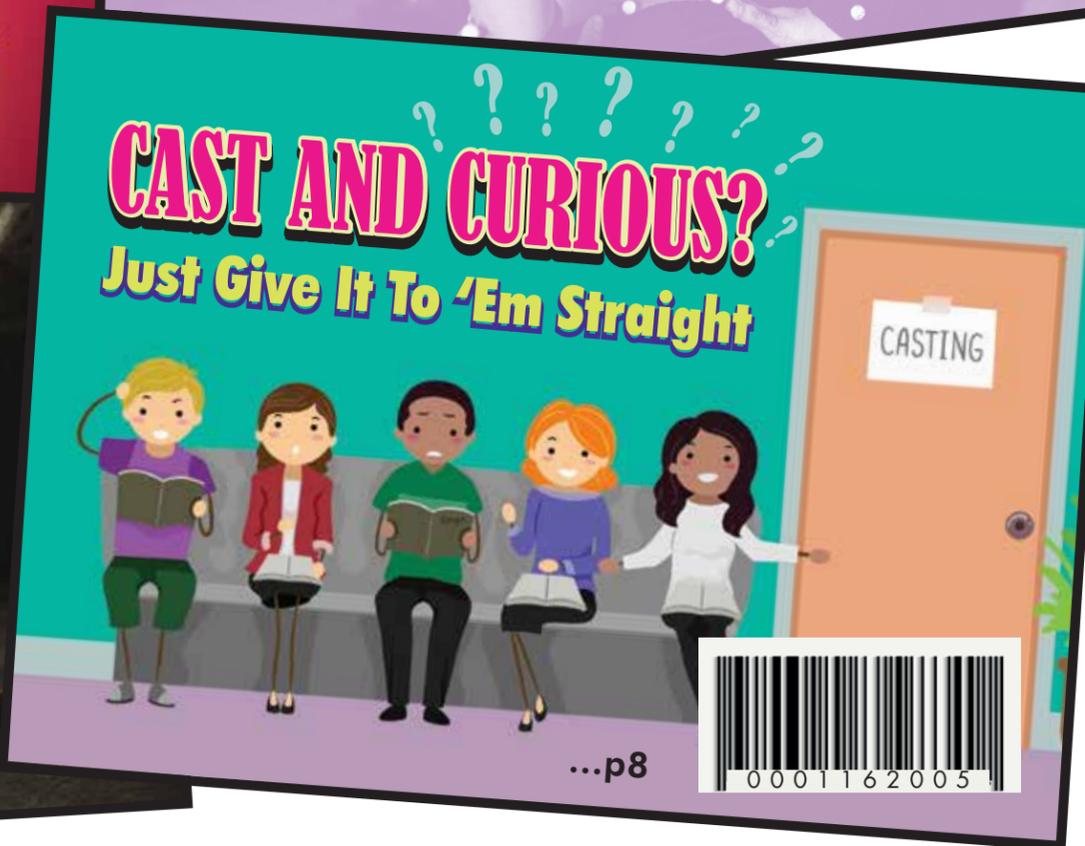
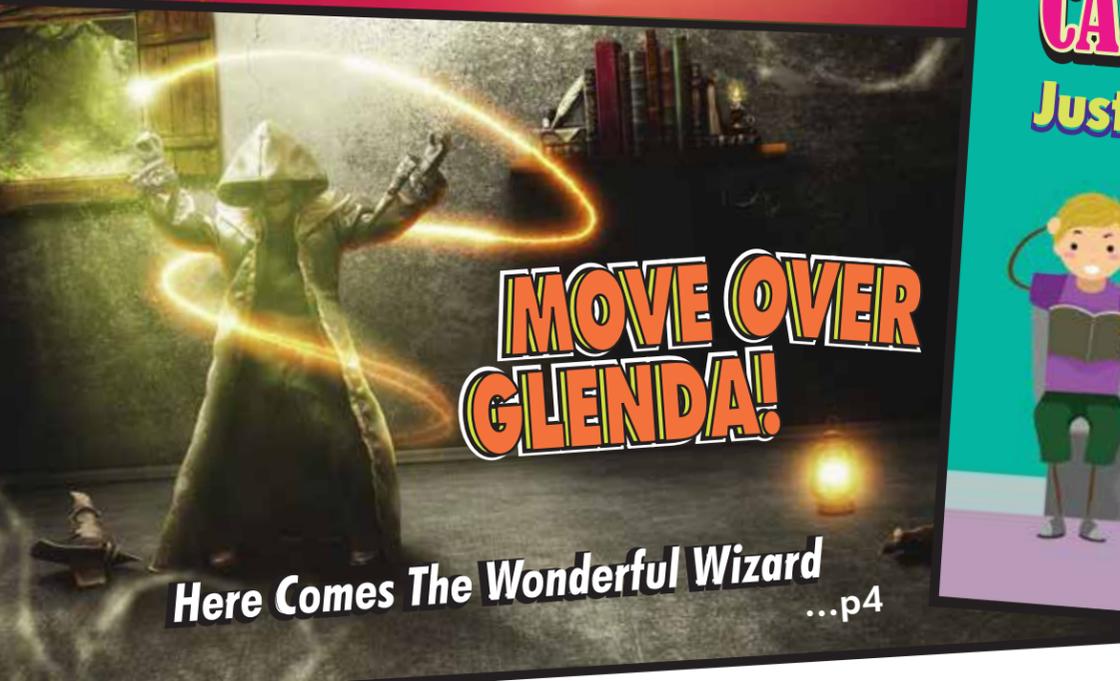


the Voicetrax Star

Mid-Year Edition

July - December 2022

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A Message From Our Founder



Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you: spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life. ~Amy Poehler

You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes. ~Winnie The Pooh

The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first. ~Iyanla Vanzant

Dear Students,

Whenever anyone has asked me what my vision for the future of Voicetrax is, my answer is always simple: to continue to nurture this unique and incredibly special community we have built together, so anyone in the world whose heart is telling themselves they are worthy enough to listen to their inner voice and go after their dreams, can. What a business model, right? I think so. And I also believe the number one reason our business model works so beautifully is because it's a community made up of loving, supportive, hard-working DREAMERS. And while Northern California is a beautiful place with wonderful people and is incredibly sentimental to me, I knew of course that there were creative, open-hearted people outside of our "four walls" that would add something distinct to our community, and boy was that an understatement! Welcoming students from all over not only has made our community stronger, but it has added a depth to Voicetrax that has forever changed our landscape. I am so proud of my team for how hard they have worked these past two

years to make this happen. We should all be so happy and grateful for the end result. Students from every time zone of this country and beyond can now come together to share their creative passions and life experiences.

And speaking of time zones, to further welcome our new family members to the fold, you may notice the wide array of classes that now have what we like to call a "time zone friendly" schedule. Add to that, we are officially opening up the school and returning to the experience of in-person classes by offering a majority of our classes in the hybrid format. So any of our students who want to come to Voicetrax can. But they also have the option to take that very same class online. A gigantic thanks to our beloved Chuck who painstakingly figured out a very elegant solution to this technological challenge.

Wow... I guess you can teach an old dog new tricks. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that after nearly 35 years of owning my own business it could once again be reborn, and in the form of something more beautiful than I could ever possibly have imagined.

To all of you... my love and devotion, as always,

S.H.



Belonging doesn't require us to change who we are, it requires us to be who we are. ~Brené Brown

Belonging is the innate human need to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. It's fundamental to the human experience. Being part of a community allows us to share related experiences and support continuous growth of each other and ourselves. Belonging is the beacon of acceptance and inclusion, and that's when an individual can show their authentic self. *Sound familiar?* Like most deep-rooted human instincts, we can trace our need to belong back to our prehistoric ancestors when group life and cooperation were essential for safety and survival. Fast forward several hundred thousand years, and our desire to be a part of a group still lives on deep within us. Years ago, in the voice-over industry, voice actors had to take the traditional jobs at night to be available for live auditions (*gasp!*) during the day. The famous casting cattle calls brought everyone together in the lobby of talent and casting agencies. Actors often ran into the same people over and over again which created a bonded community through a common experience. But as technology took a hold of our craft and sent the auditioning process to our home studios, that bond eroded and finally became extinct. So where do voice actors go now to belong? Well, we can't speak for ALL voice actors, but we do know of one special place...

When you discover that your longings are universal longings, you realize that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

Even though the Voicetrax student body covers a diverse set of backgrounds, there is a powerful common thread that runs through every single one of us: the desire to express ourselves through creativity and performing. Whether you're taking classes as a professional actor, have dreams of becoming a professional voice actor, want to give a better closing argument in court or presentation in the board room, or just to have some fun, it's what unites us. And for those of you that have brightened the Voicetrax front door whether it be in-person or digitally, it doesn't take very long to feel the almost indescribable specialness of our community. Those deep-rooted instincts are satisfied as dreams are imagined, pursued and fulfilled. Bringing together like-minded people who are headed for the same goal undoubtedly nurtures a rewarding and engaging community.

Photos: Online and in-person Voicetrax students participate in the first ever hybrid class.

*If you want to lift yourself up,
lift up someone else.*

~Booker T. Washington

Don't you find it fascinating that the students that attend classes to make voice-over their career are, technically speaking, eventually going to be competing against each other for jobs? And yet the support and encouragement experienced between our students is so genuine. Providing unique opportunities for people to learn from each other and give support is an invaluable part of joining forces with our peers. Anything is possible when you have people there to support you. When we feel supported, we are more resilient, often coping more effectively with difficult times in our lives. Our most popular Facebook posts are always about a Voicetrax student or alum booking a cool job. The digital hugs, high-fives and congratulations are always plentiful. And speaking of alumni, time and time again they return to the fold to keep training. The active students are often perplexed as to why they're back. The answer? Of course they want to keep sharpening their skills, but they tell us they deeply miss the creativity, inspiration and the kind of camaraderie that can only be found here at Voicetrax. Family isn't defined only by last names or by blood. It's defined by commitment and most importantly by love. It means showing up when someone needs it most. It means having each other's backs or celebrating a victory. And that's a daily occurrence at Voicetrax. The question is... are you taking advantage of the support system that's been built over the last three decades?

Our distinguished A-List roster of Guest Directors are essential members of our family and are always committed to sharing everything they know about our industry. From casting and talent agents, to voice actors, to producers and agency executives, they share a 360° view of the voice-over landscape, with no stone left unturned. Apart from receiving the personal benefits of gaining knowledge and insight, sharing also contributes to the community's greater worth. For Voicetrax this includes the unparalleled personal one-on-one mentoring the Founder and Guest Directors offer. And the Voicetrax staff is dedicated to providing expert guidance that has been born out of decades of *being in your exact shoes*. Have you leaned into that experience lately? Or have you been to one of our Pay It Forward Parlours? It's our FREE monthly online workout group where students get together to practice their craft. It's an excellent opportunity to get to know fellow Voicetrax students from all skill levels and "talk shop". For beginners it's an opportunity to be inspired by the more advanced. And for the advanced student, it's a wonderful reminder of the joy they started their journey with before they got bogged down in expectations. Part of being in a community rich with resources is utilizing them and contributing to them. If you haven't dug deeper into our community, now's the time.

*Be daring, be passionate and persistently
pursue your dreams.*

~Lailah Gifty Akita

Passion is an emotion meant to be acted upon. *Oooo... pun so totally intended!* It gives us a sense of purpose and meaning and fuels action. When you have passion for something, you love it even when you maybe, sometimes... kinda hate it. What?!? *Nooooo... Never! Ok, maaaaybe every once in a while...* Having an outlet for passion gives people the opportunity to share a subject they're enthusiastic about. This spreads confidence and encouragement and to some extent justifies having the passion to begin with. *Admit it, wasn't it validating when you finally were amongst a group of people that were just as kooky, wacked-out obsessed with doing voice-over as you are?* It's like if other people are passionate about voice-over it's okay for you to be, too.



There's little doubt that our unique, courageous and passionate students are the heart and soul of our community, and that creates this feeling of being home every time a teacher starts a class, whether it be online or in-person. A place where we can all find comfort, acceptance and yes, a sense of belonging. A place where you can come back to no matter how much time has passed. A place where people speak your language, you have the audacity to be imperfect and believe in the goodness of people. Look around, there is so much to be learned from your fellow classmates in this madcap play we call life. And like a very wise young girl with a feisty little dog once said... there's no place like home.

Voicetrax

GUEST DIRECTORS™

The workshops, seminars and labs presented by Voicetrax are unique in the industry. Why? Because the Voicetrax Guest Directors™ are hand-picked from amongst the best voice actors, producers, writers, creative directors, agents, casting directors and acting coaches in New York, Los Angeles and the Bay Area. These incredibly accomplished individuals have hundreds of years of combined industry experience and countless awards to their credit and are eager to share their knowledge, proven methods and techniques with voice actors, or anyone else looking to stretch their creativity, enhance their speaking skills or embark upon a unique journey. Don't take our word for it, see for yourself.

The following Guest Directors have been ADDED since the annual 2022 Voicetrax catalogue was first published. Use this mid-year catalogue in conjunction with the annual 2022 catalogue when reviewing Guest Director bios.

RYAN CLARK

"A guy ran into a bar... Ouch! That must've hurt." Yes, after memorizing pages of audition dialogue for YUMMY Shaq Energy Bars, that's what **RYAN CLARK** came up with when asked for an improv. But give him a break – he was just eight years old – and that improv promised so much more than a bright future in "dad" jokes! It landed him that Shaq Energy Bar booking, and from then on, Ryan was off to the races. Through high school, through college, through eleven years of residency in Los Angeles, Ryan has made himself a regular Swiss Army knife of acting disciplines! Ryan's pursued his improv passion and honed his chops in The Upright Citizens Brigade, one of LA's most beloved comedy theaters; but his bread and butter is now writing and producing for the Disney Channel Creative Marketing Team. That's right, everyone: PROMOS! And not just any promos, DISNEY PROMOS! LOTS of promos across the Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior, and now, Disney+. Included in all this is casting and directing VO talent for these promos, and in today's ever-changing TV landscape – where the word "promo" means more than it did 5-10 years ago – Ryan is pleased to share all the latest developments with you!

JEANNIE ELIAS

Being a good actor is one thing. But being SO good people just can't imagine you in the body you occupy is something else entirely. Maybe this is why **JEANNIE ELIAS**, lithe and petite, has found herself in a rash of fat suits over her career – post-pregnant on Seinfeld, heavy-set writer on an NBC pilot, and the decidedly over-Reubenesque daughter of Christina Pickles and girlfriend to Steven Furst, over three seasons of St.

Elsewhere (a character who nearly died aspirating chocolate from a caulking gun – don't ask). And this doesn't even broach her animation, theater, and voice-over coaching, nor does it begin to skim her prodigious animation credits: Jackie Chan, The Oblongs, As Told By Ginger and scads more; there was even a moment when a 4-year-old child, overhearing her talk about being on Dennis The Menace, actually recognized Jeannie as "Margaret" and ran over for a hug! Commercials, Animation, Scene Study, it just doesn't matter; Jeannie's not merely a Jane-of-all-trades, she's master of all of them, making her one of the most popular Guest Directors here.

MELISSA HUTCHINSON

C'mon, now, stuffed animals? *What are they without a cute little character voice?* And as voice actors know full well, the slopes are slipperier than Bear Mountain from there on out: why stop at a stuffed animal when you can give a live pet a voice too? Why stop at a pet when you can give a voice to a random person on the street, or to a noisy appliance, or to a wheezy old Dodge pickup on the street corner? Sometimes, the acting bug just bites you from the word "GO": **MELISSA HUTCHINSON'S** career may span 21 years, but really, she's been training since she saw her first cartoon! You might guess that's what comes from growing up in a theater background, and when Melissa swapped stage for studio, she was really off to the races: television and radio commercials, children's interactive toys, animation and oh YES, video games where she made her most iconic mark as "Clementine", the central character of Robert Kirkman's *The Walking Dead* as produced by Telltale games! And with such a wide and varied list of accomplishments, you can count on this award-winning two-time BAFTA Games nominee to show you a whole new angle on toy and video game acting!

CARLI SILVER & TINA MORASCO

Just as surely as Bonnie finds her Clyde, whole whipped cream finds fresh strawberries and a fine India Pale Ale finds its nuts, some pairings are simply *destiny*. Take **CARLI SILVER**, a dedicated student of acting who eventually found herself gravitating to being an agent in New York. Right about the exact same time, **TINA MORASCO** was an agent in New York deciding to turn her career to acting in Los Angeles instead! With us so far? Fast forward five years, Carli finds herself Tina's agent in LA. Fast forward another five, and they're working hand in hand at Sound And Fury Media, Inc. – just some little casting company with offices in Los Angeles, Austin, Chicago and New York – with clients such as Sony, HP, Jeep, Pepsi, Samsung, Reebok and General Mills, for a skim off the top! Because both Carli and Tina come from both the acting and casting side of the business, they'll give you an unusually

in-depth look at what producers for major market, big-budget accounts are looking for – and, show you just how to deliver it all from an authentic actor’s perspective! No “translating” for a non-actor’s notes here; with one foot planted firmly in the marketing aspect and the other in the acting side, both Carli and Tina bring a double-double threat to Voicetrax!

TASIA VALENZA

What’s in a name? Well if you should happen to associate Mickey Mouse and an army of self-sweeping brooms with **TASIA VALENZA**, that might be by design; “Tasia” actually comes from Disney’s Fantasia! You might expect a child star to spring fully formed with such a name, and you wouldn’t be entirely wrong; Tasia found herself working at an ice cream store one day and booked for a major motion picture the next, all at a mere 15 years of age! Pile on a role with All My Children and the near-immediate money and fame that came with it, and there’s no surprise it can all get a bit much at that age. So after taking some time to take some stock, it was time for a career reboot: “Hi, my name is Tasia Valenza and I’d like you to represent me doing voiceovers. I’m an Emmy nominated Actress... I have a great voice and it seems easy.” To Tasia’s great fortune, that agent gave her a business card – not for another agent, but for a voice-over coach, and she learned that yes, voice over was indeed a skill and craft very different from on camera, theatre or any other form of acting... and she loved it! After six years of doing both on camera and voiceover, it became clear Tasia’s heart (and voice!) belonged just to voiceover. Tasia’s since cut across nearly any genre you can name – commercials, promos, trailers, narration, radio imaging – recently winning a Telly Award and an Emmy! And she loves teaching such a wonderful craft at Voicetrax too

ALLYSON VOX

Some people start in their craft at a very young age, but even that doesn’t quite tell the story of **ALLYSON VOX**; if it weren’t for the tripping hazard, she would have started dancing before she could tie her shoe laces! At it for over 25 years (which

from appearances might actually be before she was born), dance was Allyson’s first love; and if there was a way to train, she found it, for any and every available style. The progression from dance to stage was inevitable, and once her feet hit the boards and someone finally confirmed that left was right, and right was left (these terms had always seemed arbitrary to her), Allyson knew she was home! She nailed down a BA in Cultural Anthropology, Theater and Education at Vassar College, and then an MA in Spiritual Psychology for good measure. And right around the time playing Shakespearean ingenues became, shall we say... a stretch, Allyson discovered the big beautiful worlds of voice over and motion capture – glorious industries allowing her to play everything from 12ft tall, male, alien warriors in the Bungie’s Destiny franchise, to a snarky house cat for the Washington Lottery! The range and variety of characters she now gets to play make this li'l actress incredibly happy – so don’t be surprised if a weekend exploring performance capture with Allyson makes you happy, too!

LYNNANNE ZAGER

Ever much considered what sort of sound you’d make in a 20-story free fall? **LYNNANNE ZAGER** sure has! Not many people know what it’s like to scream for eight hours, but in her world of voice-over that was the cost of admission. Lynnanne will never forget voicing the shouts and yells of a woman falling overboard on the Titanic and screaming all the way down, and nobody’s heard her doing that will either. She’ll also tell you that nobody teaches you how to do a death rattle or what sound to make as someone becomes a corpse (well, nobody but Voicetrax, anyway). All of these things have come into play and shaped her as a voice-over artist. Now as the narrator of Investigation Discovery’s “Deadly Women” for 14 years she is immersed in creepy and bone chilling stories to make your hair stand on end! At the beginning of her career, Lynnanne never thought working at Hanna Barbera Studios surrounded by the characters of Scooby Doo, The Smurfs and the Flintstones, would lead her to be one of the scariest voices in the industry – but there we are! And Lynnanne may just be the best actor in the world to show you how to do it too!

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 nearly 35 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, break-out rooms for rehearsing, and our exciting hybrid class format where there are 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. With a combined 30 years’ experience guiding aspiring voice actors, 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 in your registration packet or on our website at www.voicetraxsf.com. See page 8 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.

The following courses have been ADDED or REVISED since the annual 2022 Voicetrax catalogue was first published. Use this mid-year catalogue in conjunction with the annual 2022 catalogue when reviewing class descriptions.

For Beginners

INTRO TO DIRECTING

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 3-hour lab
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

Whaaaaat? A direction class in the Beginning section of the catalogue? You better believe it! There is no time like the present to start your expedition into one of the most important skills for working voice actors: self-direction. And there is literally no one better on the planet than our intrepid Founder, Samantha Paris, to help you take those first steps. Learning the basics of self-direction will not only give you insight into what is ultimately going to be expected of you in those more advanced classes, but it will add value to any class you take in the meantime, as you will hopefully be silently directing your fellow students along with the instructor. A class within a class. Neat.



For Intermediate Students

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF VOICETRAX

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 2-hour lecture
Format: Online

Class Notes: Initial questions to be submitted ahead of time.

Please DO pay attention to that man behind the curtain. Why? Because he’s full of answers to all the questions you have and don’t know you have about the craft and industry of voice-over. As one of the founding Guest Directors of Voicetrax (Yeppers, that means he’s been teaching here for nearly 35 years...He’s a freaking Voicetrax institution), who better than Thom Pinto to explain the important foundational truths for each genre of voice-over including commercial, narration, character and tags as well as answer any industry questions you might have burning in your brain. A wonderful Q&A established specifically for people at the beginning of their voice-over training journey or anyone who wants yet another amazing experience with one of the industry’s legendary talents.



For Everyone

INSIDE THE VOICE ACTOR’S STUDIO: HOMETOWN HEROES

NEW PANELISTS!

Moderator: Vicki Baum

Length: 3-hour lecture

Class Notes: None

Panelists: Emiko Susilo, Katherine Tole, Dane Fox-McGraw

Format: Online

It’s true, we get excited when a huge, big name voice actor like Rob Paulsen or Tara Strong come and spend time with our students, conversing about their keys to success and digging deep into this craft that we all love so much. But we’d argue that an installment of our continuing lecture series Inside The Voice Actor’s Studio that stars our very own students is just as inspiring, maybe even more so. We’ve invited three Voicetrax students that are in different stages of their voice-over careers. We’ll ask them all about their distinct journeys that at the same time will be unique to them as individuals, and yet somehow familiar, not only to each other but to you as well. Talk about relatable and valuable. You’ll leave more inspired than ever to chase your voice-over dreams!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

AUDIO TOUR NARRATION II

Director: Peter Dunne

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop
Format: Hybrid

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

Peter Dunne, who produces audio for the largest audio tour companies in the world, is uniquely qualified to guide you through the most challenging aspects of this specialized niche of the voice-over industry. In this Level 2 class, you'll tackle "real world" audio tour recording issues like working under severe time pressure or dealing with complex scripts that require you to be able to understand and communicate abstract concepts like "synesthesia" and "Dadaism." (*Look 'em up!*) You'll also learn how to handle character scripts which are frequently used in both adult and family tours and require you to sustain a specific dialect or vocal placement for hours at a time. And because auditioning is done from home, Peter will assess your self-direction skills on a script that you'll be asked to record at home.

CHARACTER CREATION CELEBRATION

Director: Melissa Hutchinson

Length: 7-hour one day lab
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

Melissa joins the Voicetrax family with a big splash of character merrymaking! Although she's booked just about every kind of job the voice-over industry has to offer – multiple times, this particular day of fun will focus on characters and toys. As she breaks down the process of creating a memorable character, Melissa will continue to be the "fun police" because if you aren't having fun, whether it's a comedic or dramatic character, it will affect your performance, and not for the better. So, forget the overthinking and be in the creative moment, as you let things fly and celebrate the resulting extraordinary performance.

WORLD PREMIERE!

CHARACTERS GONE COMMERCIAL

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

The most elite voice actors understand that each and every single script they perform is a character, whether it's a video game, cartoon or commercial, even when they only have a few minutes to make their acting choices. First, you'll be given a script from a movie or play, chosen especially for you by Jeannie, and given time to really dig into the back story of your character and make specific decisions, in other words, truly *live* in that character for longer than five minutes. Then, you'll bring that fleshed out character to a myriad of commercial scripts, learning to adapt on the fly. This weekend will ultimately open your mind as you learn to make stronger decisions to answer the oh so important why you are saying what you're saying question to your run of the mill commercial reads.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

CHARACTERS UNBOTTLED

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

Unleash the multitude of unique and genuine characters that you know (*and some you don't know*) are inside you. During this workshop, animation veteran Jeannie Elias invites you into her world of cartoons and how she analyzes scripts to produce an attention-getting, show-stopping performance. And she should know... have you seen her IMDB page? You'll be challenged to bring a two-dimensional soup of words to life by breathing authenticity (in even the goofiest of situations) and fun into characters both wacky and more straightforward. Up your character game and unbundle your potential with Jeannie.

DIRECT THYSELF



Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

The time has come... you can't avoid it any longer: the director's chair (*insert spooky music and student shudder here*). By now you've heard from multiple teachers and working professional students that self-direction is the name of the game when it comes to auditioning, and they'd be exactly right. These days you are on your own to create an attention-grabbing, competitive audition. This seminar presents your chance to sit in the actual director's chair, and you'll soon realize that by having to articulate a clear analysis of a script as a director for your classmates, you will gain confidence in your ability to break it down for yourself when you have to. Spend a weekend in the director's chair channeling your "inner Samantha".

FINDING TRUTH IN THE BOOTH

Director: TWO LA Agents

Length: 9-hour three-week seminar
Format: Online

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

Seeking truth in a performance is a never-ending expedition for an actor. The possibility of capturing a genuinely real moment is something that drives our kind forward. It's the biggest challenge actors face, but when it happens there is nothing like it. Not to mention it's what a majority of clients want for their projects (*whether they write their scripts that way or not. Ugh*). Join our experienced LA Agents as they make use of scripts that lend themselves to this pursuit of realism and other scripts that want us to be natural and yet use the words *introducing* and *coming soon*, thus providing a much greater challenge. Strip away all the extraneous noise and information and get to the heart of the matter to bring out the raw emotions of the words on the page.

IMAGINATION REVISITED

Director: Samantha Paris, Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop
Format: Hybrid

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

Did you ever wonder how your British princess or slacker boyfriend character would tackle a dog food script? Well, it's time to unleash your inner six-year-old and explore your imagination the way you did as a child. Before each of the first three weeks, you'll create a character and then **come to class as the character you created**. Inhabiting the character from every angle will stretch the boundaries of your imagination and you'll recognize you are ultimately *waaay* more creative than you ever thought possible. Spend three weeks digging deep with Roni into each character's backstory while performing commercial and character scripts. With help from Roni and your peers, figure out which of your three concepts was your strongest character embodiment, and perform as that character for Samantha in the final week. Commit to the character deep dive and just go for it. Stretching your acting muscles has never been so freeing!

KNOW YOUR ZERO

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop
Format: Hybrid

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

Have you ever looked at a long list of specs on the script and been confused as to what to focus on? *Naaaahhh... that NEVER happens...* Or have you been auditioning online and you're not sure how to choose amongst the dozens of scripts you receive each day that represent 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 and exhilarating journey you'll take in this workshop.

RETAIL: NOT PRETTY, BUT PROFITABLE

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

How many times have you read direction that says "real and conversational" but all you see are copy points, copy points... and more copy points? The reality is that in our current voice-over world of natural and extemporaneous, many scripts still require being able to deliver a strong dose of hard sell. Thom will share a variety of practical techniques he has developed to handle challenges typically encountered when auditioning for retail copy including over-written scripts, awkward phrasing, disclaimer tags and way too many exclamation points!!!!

SHIFTING GEARS

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

To engage your audience and win auditions, your interpretations must have facets, hues, shades, peaks and valleys, ya know... *variety*. Your instructor, a veteran talent agent, will help you develop intuitive, interesting and unique reads that highlight the "authentic you" and rid you of any "one note" tendencies your performances may have. (*Wow two quotes in one sentence. Thank goodness we aren't saying this in person. The "air quotes" would be seriously annoying...*) He'll work with you to bring out an authentic and unpredictable quality that will grab the attention of agents, producers and clients and help you book the job, and he should know!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SOUND-A-LIKE SAVVY

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

The entertainment industry often needs "sound-a-likes" for both animation and live action projects because A-List actors are too busy or quite frankly, they don't want to do it. 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 Los Angeles, Ned is uniquely qualified to help you develop and draw out both your known and waiting to be discovered sound-a-like abilities.

THINK VISUALLY, ACT VOCALLY

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

Now that you've built a strong foundation in the fundamentals of voice acting, it's time to start dissecting the individual voice-over sub-genres that require different performance styles. 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!*

THREE IN A ROW

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

One of the ironies of our business is that frequently, the short copy bears the most income. In this class, Thom divulges his techniques that are right at your fingertips to ensure that your three in a row aren't just slow, medium and fast takes of the exact same read and are *truly* unique and commercially viable, whether it's announcer tags, character one-liners or :15 spots. If producers are listening to hundreds of one-liners, it's critical that you grab their attention from the get-go, no time to warm into your performance. And no matter what kind of copy you audition (short or long form), when you book a session, you'll often be asked to perform a particular line three times in a row, and by "often" we mean in *every single voice-over session you will EVER be in*. So yeah, there's that.

VOICE-OVER ANGEL

Director: Chuck Kourouklis, Vicki Baum, Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: None

Gain wisdom, confidence and the ability to think on your feet from this role-playing seminar as Chuck utilizes his fellow directors to throw numerous different real-world recording situations at you born from his wealth of personal experiences including running a session from your home studio with a director that's inexperienced and can't articulate what they want, a producer who doesn't want to direct you live (*cuz he's just too busy*) and you're supposed to figure it all out, or what about a live session where multiple directional approaches are thrown out at you? Don't fret, you are not alone! Chuck will serve as your "angel", determined to earn his wings by helping you 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.

FORTIFIED with New Angel!

VO FIGHT CLUB

Director: Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

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

Ok, sure, we could go with the obvious opening line for this class description and say *the first thing about VO Fight Club, is you don't talk about VO Fight Club*, but that would be silly (and lazy) because as voice actors talking is what we do. Join Aaron, your ultimate cornerman, as he takes you through the rigors of a true voice-over clash. Students will contend in a March Madness tournament-like bracket throughout the weekend until the final two are left to battle it out for the grand prize: a half-price four-week or weekend class! But before you ask, "*How will I be involved if I get eliminated early?*", don't worry because there is something very important we haven't told you about this seminar: It's really a direction class disguised as a competition class! That's right, no matter the ultimate outcome of the performance side of this class, Aaron will be coaching the constant flow of student directors guiding the actors still in the game as the audience weighs in on who won each round by articulating who they would cast and why. At the end of the weekend, Aaron will choose the best director who will win a private lesson with our current Top Teacher, Vicki Baum.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE VOICETRAX 500

Director: YOU!!

Judges: Samantha Paris, Chuck Kourouklis, Vicki Baum, Roni Gallimore

Length: All Participants: Preliminary round recorded at home
Finalists Only: Final round recorded at home plus 7-hour one-day lab

Format: Preliminary Round: At Home Recording
Final Round: Online

Class Notes: Students must have home recording capabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen START... YOUR... ENGINES!! Rev up for a fun and exciting class/competition that will result in the winner receiving a FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR class credit. *Have we got your attention, now??* We've brought back our real-world Voicetrax competition due to its immense popularity. With self-direction so important to today's working voice actor, it's never too early to dive into that what-do-you-do-with-a-script-when-left-to-your-own-devices quandary. In the preliminary round, each participant will submit three home recordings (just like the real world) that will be judged by The legen-wait for it-dary Voicetrax Think Tank. Every single preliminary participant will receive feedback on your recordings. The 12 chosen finalists will be advanced to the one-day lab and asked to submit further home recordings. During the finals lab, you'll work out with fresh scripts as well as decompress with Samantha, as she reviews your home recordings, gives her valuable feedback and announces who took the checkered flag as the winner of the Voicetrax 500!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

WILD GAME HUNTING

Director: Tasia Valenza

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

Do competitive performances elude you like a rare sighting of the white lion in South Africa or the snow leopards of Uzbekistan? Join Tasia as she guides you through this kinder, gentler safari in search of video game performances that stand out and book the job. And just to keep things exciting, Tasia is apt to throw in an animation exercise or two, so be ready for anything. And because of her extensive background in on-camera acting, Tasia can't help but incorporate the acting muscles used for that genre of acting in her lessons, which can only bring to life the voice acting skills that will make your auditions roar. Disclaimer: *No animals were actually hurt in the belaboring of this metaphor, unless you consider yourself an animal and having to read through this description bruised your mental happiness by the constant stringing along of this worked-over metaphor, and now, this over-explained disclaimer. Longest.Disclaimer.Ever!* 😊

For Advanced Students & Working Professionals

ANIMATION EXTRAVAGANZA

Director: LA Agent

Length: 14-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

Spend two full days working under simulated, "real-world" recording-session conditions on complete episode scripts of an actual cartoon series, with one of the country's top animation experts. Before class, you'll receive character sides to audition and submit. In class, your director will announce the role(s) you have booked. Once cast, you'll participate in mock sessions where your director will walk you through the process step-by-step from the table read through the group recording. You'll gain belief in your abilities to interpret copy on the fly, develop characters, maintain energy and continuity, create a definite difference between multiple one-line roles, respond and react to your fellow actors and absorb direction quickly with the poise of a seasoned pro. And speaking of seasoned pros, because your teacher is an agent that works with the *best talent in the animation business*, imagine the ears you're working with. You're sure to get an exact notion of where you are on your character path.

BE SCENE AND HEARD



Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

In this monologue master scene study class, one of the most successful agents in the country is bringing his razor-sharp wit and finely-tuned ears and eyes to guide you through the emotional nooks and crannies of a pre-selected, fully memorized scene from a play or movie that you might actually be cast in. Work collaboratively with this agent who's watched thousands of actors perform monologues, with a theatre acting background himself, as you open the hood on your interpretation and dig deeper to create an authentic portrayal that gets to the heart of the matter and transforms the words in the scene into a rich, layered, purposeful and thoughtful performance that transcends.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

BE A BADDER MOTHERCHUCKER: THE SAGA CONTINUES

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Be A Bad MotherChucker Level One or prior approval from Voicetrax. This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

Soooo, you want to be a bad-ass character actor, and well you should. It's not only loads of fun, it's lucrative! And because there is always room to improve and another plane of existence to explore, your sage shepherd, the original MotherChucker himself, has created a brand-new adventure designed to take your character work up a level, no matter where your skill level stands when you enter the class. And this time around it's really all up for grabs. Will you be directing? Will you be a non-player character or a player-character? Will you survive an improv melee? Maybe we can break out one little clue: what happens when you are forced to speed up your process? Oooooo... *that's interesting...* Step up, execute under pressure and go from BAD to BADDER!

CHARACTER TRIFECTA

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: LA Animation Coordinator

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

Just as the name suggests our Los Angeles voice-over professional will direct you on three very current and lucrative styles of characters: super cartoony and broad cartoons, seriously grounded, real person cartoons and fantastically forceful fantasy/battle video game characters. What a wonderfully eclectic collection! This triad of character studies will force you to be on your toes and ready for anything as you pivot from one style to the next and again to the next, expected to lock in immediately and not let the residue of your last performance affect your next performance. Just like the real world!

DIRECT THYSELF: THE BLACK BELT EDITION



Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 24-hour six-week workshop
Format: Online

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Other Voicetrax self-direction classes or prior approval from Voicetrax. This class includes weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

Ever wonder what it would be like to teach a voice-over class? Well maybe not an entire class, but a portion? In this self-direction-palooza of a workshop you'll sit in the director's chair and take an entire roster of students through their paces with your clear, precise and concise (*hint, hint*) direction. Your self-direction skills will be stretched, tested and evaluated, and that's a good thing. Because, as always, the prime objective of directing your fellow students is to improve your own self-direction and give Samantha a window into your soul brain to hear what you're telling yourself when auditioning at home. And remember this: nothing much grows in your comfort zone, so be brave and jump in!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

EAST MEETS WEST: NARRATION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

What better way to know where your skills stack up against actors from one of the biggest and most competitive acting regions in the country than being in class with them? In this exciting seminar, we bring together the "best of the west" with the "feast of the east". Half of this uniquely formatted seminar will be populated with the best of the best from the halls of Voicetrax. The other half will consist of professional voice actors from New York and surrounding areas. You'll be challenged and inspired by your fellow professionals from the other side of the country.

FROM A TO "Z"AGER: LAYIN' DOWN THE LAWS OF NARRATION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Lynnanne Zager

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

As one of the absolute best crime narrators in the business, Lynnanne Zager has her fingerprints all over this sub-genre of narration, and she's bringing all of her forensic know-how to Voicetrax! Investigate the various styles of crime show narration – which is more popular than ever with new shows being created all the time – with different exercises including recording to picture, a mock audition and an acting game or two to loosen you up. You'll also bring in a script of your own to get a top notch, eagle-eye assessment on your performance. Be advised that after a weekend with Lynnanne, you'll emerge with some legit crime show skills that you can take all the way to the bank.

HOW TO WALK, TALK & CHEW GUM

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Allyson Vox

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: In-Person Only

Class Notes: None

This seminar will launch students into the very exciting technology of Performance Capture. PCap – also known as Motion Capture or MoCap – utilized by big name film studios in the making of movies including Avengers: Infinity War, Avatar, The Hobbit and The Lord of The Rings and the biggest video game developers who've distributed games including Uncharted, Mass Effect, Final Fantasy, Call of Duty, Resident Evil and The Last Of Us, just to name a few. This training has become a required skill for any voice actor who wants to make it big time in video games. *There's a few of you out there, right?* As a veteran of this discipline, Allyson will introduce you to the basics including what it's like to be on a PCap stage, the equipment that it utilizes (and there's a LOT) and even take you through some scenes as you move about as if you are on a theatre stage using props! Get out from behind the mic, put your comfy clothes on and play with a pretend sword against a fellow 'Traxer! Be a part of the generation of game actors who know how to do it all and do it well.

KNØW YØUR ZERØ II

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop
Format: Hybrid

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Know Your Zero Level One. This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.

Just when you thought you knew everything you needed to know about your Zero, this level II class is going to get even "zero-ier". (*whoa, did we just make up a new word? call Merriam Webster!*) Guided by the creator of the Zero vernacular, you'll revisit your personality and vocal trait lists and add to them and further explore your super fun and freeing Anti-Zero, all while directing your fellow students in class and providing feedback on their at-home recordings. Basically, each student at one point during the four weeks, will be assisting Vicki to teach the class. *Trait lists, directing and feedback, oh my!*

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

WORLD PREMIERE!
NEW GUEST DIRECTOR

Director: NY Agent, ummm...
duh. ☺

Length: 9-hour, three-week workshop
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

One of our favorite NY Agents decided to get away (*not really*), take a holiday from her neighborhood (*not so much*) and is hopping on a flight (*virtually via online conferencing platform*) and coming west and she's bringing a whole lotta wisdom and East Coast confidence in her carry-on (*and by carry-on we mean her big, beautiful brain*). From script analysis to learning what an agent is actually listening for in a winning audition and everything in between, this New York dynamo will take you through a series of scripts that will test your abilities. She'll keep the pace moving, so you may be sweating your you-know-what off by the end of the weekend, but will it be totally worth it? Of course it will... Fuhgeddaboutit! *Sorry, we had to...she doesn't really talk that way, not that there's anything wrong with that.*

PLACE YOUR ORDER

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 9-hour three-week seminar
Format: Online

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

To be honest, we're really not sure what to write for this class description. What has us so uncharacteristically lost for words? Well, it's that the students in this seminar are writing their own class description. That's right, you're invited to create a customized lesson plan based on your specific needs. In the weeks before class, you'll choose three categories from a menu of voice-over genres to work on with Ned including sound-a-likes, self-direction techniques using visual aids, video game efforts and war sounds, differentiating multiple characters from the same show and singing in character amongst others. Join these "weeknights of whatever you want" and remember to tip your waiter.

SOUND & FURY SATURDAY

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Tina Morasco,
Carli Silver

Length: 7-hour one-day lab
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

Join the ladies from casting juggernaut Sound & Fury, as they tell you everything they know about what casting professionals are looking for in a winning audition. Tina & Carli will focus on character pre-life, speaking from your gut and bringing a unique point of view to your performance. They might even get you to stop making each word so friggin' special and just give it to them straight. With each script being so unique, these experienced casting experts will help you bring the honesty and truth to tags and commercial scripts while translating the specs into actionable direction. By the end of the jam-packed day you'll come to realize it's your inner voice not your outer voice that counts.

THE POWER OF PERSUASION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

Class Notes: None

As another election cycle comes around in the Fall of 2022, the number of political ads that need voices will explode. And although we are all painfully aware of the timbre of most national political ads, luckily that is not what this class is about (*phew!*). Instead Thom will bring it back home to focus on local and regional candidates as well as issue-oriented ads that are incredibly lucrative and news flash: not always negative. Some even have hope and humor! And ladies, there is tremendous opportunity for you, too. And because conviction is more important than ever in these types of ads, committing to an acting choice is paramount (*we're sure there is somewhere else that could be applied, like everywhere*). Join Thom for an informative weekend but please leave your politics and political debate hat at the door. *Seriously.* ☺

VOICE-OVER PENTATHLON



WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Samantha Paris, Brian Sommer, LA Animation Coordinator,
LA Agent, Peter Dunne

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop
Format: Online

Class Notes: We're sure with the cornucopia of Guest Directors involved in this class, there's bound to be some homework at some point and we're sure it'll include recording at home. So, get your home set-up ready to roll!

Do you have the versatility it takes to run this gauntlet? We hope so because that's the name of the game in today's voice-over market. Online casting sites are replete with a variety of genre scripts, and few agents are interested in one-trick ponies. This vigorous challenge offers FIVE different teachers with FIVE different lesson plans with a little something here for everyone including commercial, characters and narration (*did we mention versatility?*) plus a few sweet surprises for you to find out about in the moment, just for fun. What can categorically be affirmed is that each of these top-shelf teachers will challenge you to flex your voice-over muscles into a gold medal-winning performance.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PROMOS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: LA Agent, Ryan Clark

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar
Format: Online

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

Enter the Magic Kingdom of promos, a very prolific and profitable slice of the voice-over industry. Join a well-versed and long-experienced LA Agent and Ryan Clark, a writer and producer for Disney promos (*yes, people that Disney*), as they take you through a cornucopia of exercises meant to open your eyes to the skills necessary to be a competitive promo actor, including giving feedback on home recorded auditions (and perhaps giving you another shot at it live in-class), casting do's and don'ts as they ask for your feedback on class performances, even letting you peek behind the curtains to hear winning auditions on actual promo projects! This all adds up to an enchanting weekend full of valuable, practical advice in the wonderful world of promos.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER:

Please note that legal restrictions prohibit us from listing the actual names of individual talent agents and booth directors. These workshops and seminars are for educational purposes only and will not secure or provide opportunity in the field or representation by an agent. Now read this disclaimer in 8 seconds, then 7 seconds, now do it in 6 seconds... Remember practice makes perfect!