

the Voicetrax Star

2023 Edition

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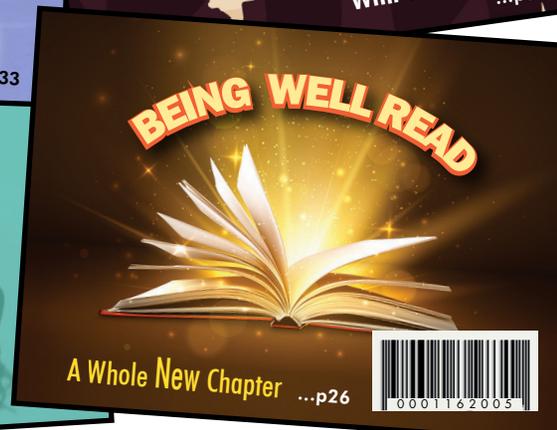
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A Message From Our Founder



Never cease chiseling your own statue.
~ Plotinus

Dear Students,

In this relentlessly busy and challenging world we are all currently living in, we rarely take the time to stop and ground ourselves to look back on our lives and experiences. It's often an anniversary or big life event that gives us pause whether we like it or not. As Voicetrax closes in on 35 years (**holy crap, how did that happen?**), I just can't help myself but to think back over the years and all the exquisitely creative people that have walked through our doors, be it student or teacher, physically or digitally, and how they have shaped me as a mentor. My heart is filled with joy, pride and gratitude when I think of all the beautiful souls that have been added to our community from across the country thanks to a "forced upon us" transformation. Had it not been for the pandemic which moved us online, we likely would have never met them. They have brought a beautiful new dimension and energy to our family, so much so, that I can no longer imagine Voicetrax without them.

Running Voicetrax day-in and day-out for 35 years, I've witnessed a lot of transformational change, and thank goodness most of it done willingly. Well... as you can see if you are reading this now, our catalogue, the Voicetrax Star is entering the 21st century and has gone completely digital. A tough transformation for me, as I have always thought of our catalogue as a labor of love and a gift each of you would receive in the mail along with your dot

form. So yes, my heart is a little heavy if you must know the truth, but it had to be done for a variety of reasons, and so I'm leaning into the transformation and before long I'll be 100% ALL In! You can bet on that, and I pray you will be, too! Oh! And if you are worried about receiving your dot form, rest assured they are still being done the old-fashioned 20th century way: via my heart, my pen and my zillions of green highlighters and stickers. They will arrive by means of the "Pony Express"... **ah,... hemm-coughcough-hem... U.S. Postal Service!**

Transformation is nothing new to Voicetrax or to me. I have been a part of a beautiful 35-yearlong documentary about people of all ages and walks of life, chasing their dreams and honoring that voice inside of them that urges them on through all the ups and downs 'because they are pursuing something that brings them joy. As you have all brought me tremendous joy for 35 years... **and counting.**

Let the journey continue...



TRANSFORMATION



Transformation is sustained change, and it is achieved through practice. -B.K.S. Iyengar

You don't just wake up and become the butterfly. Growth is a process. -Rupi Kaur

If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading. -Lao Tzu

Transformation is defined as “the act of changing in composition or structure”. It literally means going beyond your form. It is also known by its more infamous name: change. And we all know how most of us deal with that. *(insert the iconic and dramatic dun, dun, duuuuuunnnn, here.)* Yet transformation or change is as akin to the human experience as breathing, whether it be in your interpersonal relationships, spirituality, health, career or in chasing your dreams. Some transformation is thrust upon us without our consent, other times, it is a conscious choice, and sometimes, before you know it, transformation is keen to sneak up on you. Willfully engaging in transformation is a declaration of positive intent, and success in this personal endeavor lies at the heart of positive mental health and wellbeing.

So, what stops us from consciously choosing transformation?

Humans universally fear change because it means that outcomes are unknown. Our brains are designed to find comfort in knowing where the path is heading. When we feel a loss of control and uncertainty, we make up scenarios and outcomes and, in turn, create unnecessary worry. Our sense of self-determination is often one of the first things to falter when faced with a potential change. But you need only be audacious enough to take that first step down your own personal yellow brick road and start your adventure. Does this make you feel uneasy? Not to worry: being uncomfortable is a sign of growth and expanding horizons, so lean into it! You know you're on the right path when things stop being easy. As Voicetrax student, Ted Smith, explains, *“I used to worry about competing with others in my job, theater auditions and then eventually with my voice-over auditions. I certainly have faced challenges and frustration in my training, but it has been totally worth it. These days when I audition I know I am only competing with myself. How can I make my own performance better? And this transformation has most definitely bled over into my personal and professional life. I can't control what others do, and that's ok.”* Yes, transformation might be scary, but at its core, at the heart of the matter, it is a very good thing, and you'll be better off having journeyed through it, no matter the outcome.

And how do we know this to be true? Because we've seen it over and over and over again at Voicetrax. We have been tremendously fortunate over the last 35 years to have witnessed the purposeful work our students have put in to become the authentic actors they dream to be, and have seen their evolution not just as actors, but as participants in their lives. Voicetrax student, Ilana Magill, confirms, *"Since coming to Voicetrax, I have transformed into someone I can be proud of. I have never felt so authentically myself, or sure of my beliefs and convictions. And it has only strengthened what I know to be the most important transformation of all, which is the battle for a more equitable world."* And this kind of self-confidence, pride in their development and accomplishments is an exceptionally special source of pride for us. Our students truly are special human beings and have shown that transformation does indeed require work. Investing in yourself can be a FUN, rewarding and enjoyable experience because it is not just about the destination, but about the journey which includes top of the mountain moments (*Huzzah!!*) and down in the valley moments (*There's always next time!*). It's about the lessons learned and the supportive and encouraging people who innately understand you that you meet along the way. And when arriving at your desired destination and looking back at how far you have come and how the change has been positive, you can feel a sense of satisfaction, achievement and peace.

Some people take on personal transformation with enthusiasm, belief and most importantly with external support. They are self-aware enough that they understand that transformation is likely to be an ongoing process. Others may want to improve some aspect of their life or attain a dream, but they lack the confidence and support. If the latter sounds familiar, maybe ask yourself why? Perhaps you just need the conduit to help you understand that whatever you are dreaming about for yourself can be realized. (*hmmmm... where ever could you find a place like that?*) As you set upon a path to actualize your dreams, a transformation will be awakened within you whether you asked for it or not. Transformation doesn't just happen externally to us, it happens inside, too, in our hearts, souls and imaginations. Voicetrax student, Laura Almada, reveals, *"Through studying voice-over, I realized everything I used to hide about myself is actually brilliant material for a character, and that my life has been incredibly interesting. Noticing that my "baggage" has transformed into an asset, that's*

life-changing! That shift in thinking has affected every area of my life, especially interpersonal communication with friends, family, clients... everybody! Transforming starts in the mind, and it's totally worth fighting past the awkward and embarrassing parts of it. Because all of that delicious vulnerability is what makes a great voice-over actor. Life becomes a banquet of opportunity." It is an ongoing process that might appear ordinary to the outside world, when in fact something extraordinary is taking place inside.

So, stop and think: deep down in the places you only tell yourself, *what do you want from your life? What is that inner voice inside you crying out for?* Break free and let go of regrets, fears, worry and doubt and dive into your dreams with the courage of a thousand lions. There is beauty and inspiration all around you and so much out there to feel good about, even in this crazy world we are currently living in. And at the top of that list for us is this indescribable, non-duplicatable community of family that all of us have built together over the past 35 years since Voicetrax was founded by our daring and innovative leader, Samantha Paris. The safest of harbors to be exactly who you are and a nurturing environment for exploration beyond your wildest imagination, that all leads to positive change.

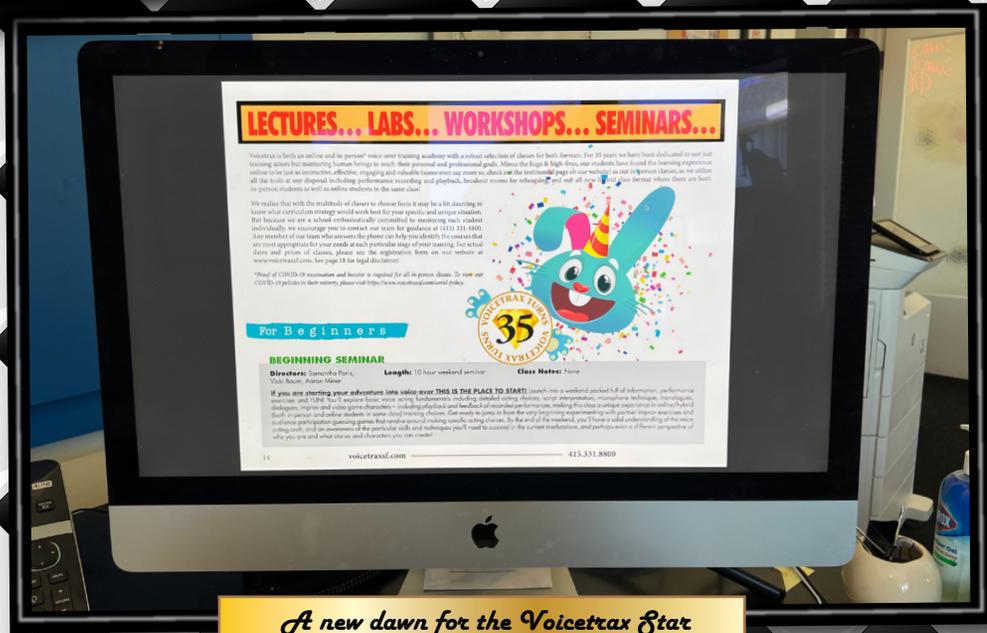
Allow the fires of transformation to burn away all that does not serve you. Transformation means freedom from the residue of life that is burdening you. The freedom to be who you are without apology. To revel in it, enjoy it, and be grateful for it. It is the gateway to authenticity that every actor is searching for. And that authenticity will not only bring a moving uniqueness to your voice-over performances, but more important a liberation to your life. When your times comes, your life will be represented by two dates and a single dash. Make the most of your dash. Take control of your destiny. Believe in yourself. Ignore those who try to discourage you. The field of transformation is abundant and asking to be tended to. You are always one decision away from the life you've dream of, but if you change nothing... nothing will change.



Beginnings



An evolution of the Voicetrax course catalogue



A new dawn for the Voicetrax Star



Our Founder when Voicetrax first started circa 1988

Voicetrax

GUEST DIRECTORS

The workshops and seminars 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.

But first, a bit of history about our founder...



Samantha Paris is a multiple award-winning voice actor, acclaimed educator, entrepreneur and author of *"Finding The Bunny: The secrets of America's most influential and invisible art revealed through the struggles of one woman's journey"* (Voice Haven Productions, 2018). Her memoir was optioned in 2019 by Warner Brothers for development into a television series. Since establishing Voicetrax in 1988, Samantha has trained more than 15,000 aspiring and working voice actors in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California and now from all over the world, thanks to video conferencing technology. Not surprisingly, students from all over the country flock to Voicetrax based on its reputation for first-class training. And thanks to conferencing technology, Samantha can also bring her expertise to anyone interested in voice-over, no matter their geography. This all culminates in Samantha's greatest passion: helping others find their true voices and realize their dreams through voice acting.

Samantha's own single-minded dream of becoming an actress began as a little girl growing up in Southern California, under her given name Bobbi Block. She began performing at the age of five and took her first voice-over class at age fifteen. One year later, she landed an agent and thrillingly so, saw her fervent dreams take flight. Over the next twelve years, Samantha enjoyed a career that included over 1,000 national and regional commercials, roles in nearly 200 half-hour animated television cartoon shows, including the mega-hit cult series *Jem and the Holograms*. She landed appearances in episodic television and a starring role in the ABC After School Special *I Think I'm Having A Baby*. She also had the distinct honor of starring with Michael Landon in a two-episode storyline on *Highway To Heaven*.

But with all of her career success, including three Clio Awards, there was a voice inside Samantha telling her there had to be something more, though she couldn't put her finger on exactly what that *something more* was. The only thing she knew for sure was that she had one major dream still unanswered: to live near the Golden Gate Bridge. Going purely on instinct and with no specific plan in place, she moved to the Bay Area in 1988 and bought a home in Mill Valley. Shortly thereafter, Samantha was unwittingly thrust into the teaching profession, giving voice-over lessons to budding voice actors – first one, then two, and then before she knew it, there were 30, then 40 students!

And so, Voicetrax San Francisco was formed one year later. The media world quickly caught on to what Samantha was doing and featured her widely in media outlets throughout Northern California, including all major newspapers, the hugely popular Ronn Owens radio show (several appearances) and local television programs. In what seemed like a blink of an eye, students were multiplying and quite unexpectedly to her, Samantha had unconsciously created a groundbreaking training program and a flourishing business. By the time the San Francisco Chronicle deemed her "the most successful voice-over coach in the Bay Area", the Voicetrax San Francisco studio, built in 1992, was located in Sausalito, just minutes away from her beloved Golden Gate Bridge.

Beginning in 2002, Samantha successfully ran Voicetrax Desert Cities in Rancho Mirage, California, where she trained aspiring and working voice actors. For personal reasons – and with enormous difficulty given her love for and dedication to her desert-based students – she eventually decided to close the school in 2005,

thus ending her monthly commute between the Bay Area and the Coachella Valley. However, in 2020 the pandemic caused her to return to the desert full-time to shelter-in-place, which gave Samantha a second opportunity to bring voice acting training back to the Greater Palm Springs area in full force. She has since resumed working with former students and new ones, which is even more accessible now thanks to video conferencing and technological advances in the voice-over field in general.

Now, 35 years later, Voicetrax stands out as the largest, most comprehensive and respected voice-over academy in the United States. With a rotating curriculum of nearly 100 different courses of study, Samantha and her distinguished team of guest directors help each student accomplish their unique goals.

Voicetrax students come from all walks of life, backgrounds and interests, many of whom have gone on to book voice-over jobs regularly to supplement their incomes, and many others who go on to make voice-over their full-time (and handsome) living. In addition to the outstanding training that students get at Voicetrax, they also experience an extraordinary sense of community, camaraderie and support in this unique haven for voice actors.

With a fierce commitment to the philosophy that “talent can be taught”, Samantha built her hugely successful business strictly through enthusiastic word of mouth, substantial media attention and satisfied, longstanding voice acting students. Above all through Voicetrax, Samantha has helped transform the lives of thousands by way of her one-of-a-kind approach to teaching and coaching. And as a result of this gratifying process, Samantha has ultimately realized her own deepest dreams and the ultimate satisfaction as an artist.

To learn more about Samantha’s journey, read her memoir, “Finding The Bunny – The secrets of America’s most influential and invisible art revealed through the struggles of one woman’s journey”. You’ll discover why Warner Brothers has found Samantha’s life story, intertwined with her life-changing work with Voicetrax students, fascinating enough to bring it to the screen.

We invite you to become part of the story and explore the world of voice acting!

Visit: www.voicetraxsf.com and www.findingthebunny.com

John Baron

You might look at his website and wonder: back pain... muscle tension... maladaptive movement? *Repetitive stress injury?! What, you can get carpal tunnel in your tongue? Just WHAT does all this have to do with voice acting? In your first half hour with **JOHN BARON**, you will know.* This isn’t just some hipp-dippy new age frou-frou; John will show you very quickly that mind-body connection is a practical consideration just as hard-wired as your favorite electronic device. How many quintillions of times have you heard from every instructor here the importance of *physicality* in your performance? Well when you have that kink in your posture or that tightness in your back, that’s a compromise to your physicality and therefore to your voice acting! John’s application of the Alexander Technique is life-changing; think of it as tuning out all the static in your physical being. And once you’ve eliminated the physical blocks to your performance, a lot of the emotional blocks follow right behind – which is why many of John’s students find themselves getting the best sleep of their lives after a lesson or two! John’s approach to voice acting may be less direct but it is no less important, and we’re happy he’s sharing his expertise here at Voicetrax.



Vicki Baum

“The skill level of the people I’m competing with is something I can’t control, but what I CAN control is how hard I work – and NOBODY is going to work harder than me”. So what kind of behavior does a life philosophy like that manifest? That you’re going to wait for opportunities to come to you? No, you’re going to go after them, starting from a paid casting website and then learning how to game that system to your best and smartest advantage. You’re going to take in what mentors tell you, learn to understand your strengths in an unflinching way and apply them strategically to maximize the impact of your already maximized efforts! That’s **VICKI BAUM**, our narration guru (Apple, Google and Cisco, oh my!), our very own villainous “Storm Queen” from the global phenomenon Vainglory, Voicetrax Alum (but she still takes classes!) and the recipient of the 2019 Voicetrax Top Teacher Award. Vicki’s outlook and personal experience have prompted her to create some of the most innovative and practical classes at Voicetrax. And when it comes to mentoring and sharing the wisdom of her experience, Vicki is one of our most passionate and generous directors.



Chopper Bernet

He wasn’t known as “Chopper” from his first moment of existence; it took his first breast feeding for Mom to have THAT revelation – not surprising, perhaps, when you consider all CHOPPER BERNET has sunk his teeth into since then! Take the snowstorm that stranded him and his family at a ski chalet in Ohio; with a bluegrass band playing on as they waited the storm out, Chopper at all of 7 years old jumped on a table in the middle of the chalet and danced a jig of his own frantic creation. An impromptu audience

laughed and cheered, and the next great chewy moment was planted in his mind: what is it that makes a moment true, pure and real? Chopper's been chasing the answer to that question ever since, for himself and for his students. A Voicetrax Alumnus himself, he has one goal in films, in theater and in voice-over: find the truth in the moment and live it fully and completely. Might that be why Chopper's not only been a go-to on-camera actor (see Terminator III), but also the promo voice artist for NBC and MSNBC? We think so! And the one thing he has learned over the years is that maybe the answer to What's Real isn't really the most important part of the journey. Maybe the journey is the most important part of the journey. No wonder, then, that so many students have enjoyed the insights they've discovered with Chopper!

Erik Braa

Cue the Horns from the marauding raiders! But WAIT – does that mean the hallowed ram battle horns favored by the heathen kings of old, or some good ol' rock 'n roll devil horns? **ERIK BRAA** is happy to accommodate you either way! When he's not moonlighting as lead vocalist for Kryptic Memories, Erik is the #VikingofVoice... well, he is a Viking for anything really. He got his start in video games and has garnered success in all areas of acting, perhaps best-known as the voice of "Draven", "Jax", and "VelKoz" in League of Legends. Erik has lent his voice to hundreds of games, from Heroes of the Storm and many Blizzard titles, to The Walking Dead game for Telltale Games! But you can hear him doing audiobooks like "White Tiger Legend" and Stories like "TransSiberian Railroad" in the Calm app, as well as Commercials and Promos. And if you recognize him, perhaps that's because of his busy on-camera career! Pillaging sound booths everywhere, here comes the Viking of Voiceover! And we're pleased to have Erik share his storied voice acting wisdom here at Voicetrax.

Kevin Cleland

He doesn't just play a mean pinball. When **KEVIN CLELAND** isn't busy restoring old pinball machines, he's winning professional league contests (2nd in his division for 2019)! Considering the 20-year sound engineering career he's had, 17 of them as owner of Mai Tai Studios in Burbank, perhaps his pinball passion isn't so surprising. Kevin's audio recording prowess saw him zinging and zagging across all VO genres – video games, audio books, ADR, and of course, mixing, finishing, and polishing so many of the demos we produce here at Voicetrax! Kevin's storied trajectory has included clients like Fisher Price, Verizon and the LA Zoo; and personalities like Blake Shelton, Adrienne Barbeau and Alex Trebec. And considering he actually built the studio to service all these clients, he's absolutely got your home setup covered no matter what challenges you might be facing; so when you're ready to hit those flippers and go full-tilt on your home studio, Kevin's your man!

Townsend Coleman

"SSSSPOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOONNN!!" TOWNSEND COLEMAN is known to howl this every once in a while – but it's not just a love of quality flatware that makes him "Tick". Townsend was also at Ground Zero for this funky little '80s animated series you may have heard of: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. And Michelangelo was just the start; **Pinky and the Brain**, **Inspector Gadget**, **Fraggle Rock**, **Jem**, and *The Transformers* all followed with hundreds of other titles and of course the cult classic cartoon, *The Tick*! That might be plenty by the standards of most, but Townsend has had serious moxie in promo voice-over too, for decades: NBC's "Must-See TV", *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, and *Saturday Night Live*, just to skim. Townsend's multifaceted specialties lend a unique energy and a whole new dimension of fun to his classes; you haven't really stretched yourself till you've tried an NBC promotion as a flying squirrel, and you haven't really lived, either. Townsend is just the man to take you on that tour!

Frank Coppola

So how many times do you hear something like this: an actor, freshly minted as a Big Apple performer, *Fiddler On The Roof* his first Broadway show, understudy for 13 roles because what are the odds, right? DON'T YOU KNOW IT, a flu epidemic hits and on one night, this understudy has to fill in for SEVEN ailing actors. And dancers. AND singers. Switching roles sometimes in the same scene, mustache and beard for a Jewish character, clean-faced for a Russian, sweating enough he had to hold the mustache on with a hand, NEVER breaking character. What, give up show business? NO WAY for **FRANK COPPOLA** who went on to multiple Broadway and off-Broadway shows before moving to LA to work in TV and films, directing or performing with actors like Bette Midler, Bea Arthur, Susan Sarandon, Billy Crystal, Don Johnson and Rue McClanahan! That track record is why Frank's in demand as an acting and presentation skills coach, and why we're happy to have him aboard to drill down into the acting preparation necessary for competitive performance on commercial script and dramatic monologue alike.

Peter Coyote

He was Agent Keyes in *ET: The Extraterrestrial*! AGENT KEYES! Besides Dee Wallace, **PETER COYOTE** was the only grown-up in that entire movie you weren't itching to KILL! Not such a bad guy in *Erin Brokovich* or *NCIS* or a hundred other features, either – what more do you want? Well there's actually a LOT more when it comes to voice-over! How about being the national voice for dozens of television commercial campaigns like General Motors or Brita Water Filters? How about *sight-reading* hour upon hour of narration for Ken Burns going back decades now – *The Vietnam War*, *The Dust Bowl*, *Prohibition*, *The National Parks*, and an Emmy-winning turn on *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, to say nothing of a previous Emmy for narrating *The Pacific Century* and countless other projects. But even without all his accomplishments as an actor, writer, and practicing Zen Buddhist, Peter might still have a coaching technique that you'd

need to experience to believe: harnessing the uncanny creativity that springs to life from gazing at your reflection from *behind* a mask, a technique that produces results so profound, Peter's third book is all about it! It's no surprise how such an exercise liberates you as a narrator, because it liberates you as an actor first – and we're proud and privileged to offer that experience here!

Peter Dunne

If you're directing John Rhys-Davies – "Sala" from *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*, "Gimli" from *Lord Of The Rings* – and you catch him in the mother of all flubs and a good-natured F-bomb, where does that go? The outtake reel, of course! Leonard Nimoy waxing lyrical about his sensitive, artistic side, or Morgan Freeman's humble-brag as a self-styled "raconteur"? Yep, the outtake reel. When you work with that kind of A-list talent, you're bound to pick up a few nuggets along the way, and **PETER DUNNE** has been known to start more than one class with That Famous Outtake Reel! And when it comes to produced audio tours, Peter's really got some feathers in his cap: Metropolitan Museum in New York audio tour? Yes. The Art Institute of Chicago, the dulcet performance coming in through your headset? That one too. The LA County Museum of Art, SF MOMA, Graceland, Ellis Island, the Biltmore House? Yep, Peter Dunne! Peter's personal melting pot of producing and directing experience has made him one of the country's go-to producers for a genre that shows up a lot in the Bay Area: Audio Tour Narration. And not for nothing, but Peter's been known to audition a student or two on one of those... and cast them. Just sayin'.

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.



Dave Fennoy

From Los Angeles to New York to San Francisco to London to Atlanta to Bahrain, Voicetrax Alum, **DAVE FENNOY** is one busy, globetrotting man! That's because when gamers appreciate your

voice work, they reeeeaally appreciate your voice work, and the whole notion of "your public demanding you" takes on global significance as you factor in gaming conventions all over the world, filled with fans dying to meet you. Dave even had a die-hard fan fly up to us here in San Francisco from Singapore just to see him in person! So when Dave's not engaged in voice acting or working as a highly in-demand voice acting teacher, he meets his public as best he can, jetting from one corner of the world to the other. It's only fitting when you've put in the kind of work that Dave has, spanning from Jazz radio broadcasting through Hulu and BET promotional announcing, to some of the most iconic video game characters out there, "Lee Everett" from Telltale's *The Walking Dead* among the most notable. Dave got his voice acting start at Voicetrax years ago, and we're so happy to have him back on board!

Kemma Filby

Don't. Just SPARE HER. We know she's one of the leading character coaches in the industry. But if you have some sort of half-baked Lucky Charms leprechaun in your character stable, you're best advised to be verrrrry careful showing it off around **KEMMA FILBY** – 'cause after all, she hails from Dublin, Ireland, and she has some idea what that accent is really supposed to sound like! Working both behind and in front of the camera, Kemma has partnered with many major studios such as Paramount Pictures, Amazon Studios, FilmNation Entertainment, and Disney/Pixar. Kemma formerly served as an animation coordinator for DPN Talent for numerous years. Kemma is now the CEO of Seasick Studios, currently in production of their first television series, *Parallel*. Kemma's voice acting credits? Just look to Disney+'s *Cars On The Road*, Pixar's upcoming short film *Pete*, and Netflix's upcoming *High In The Cloud*. Her on-camera credits include *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and Amazon's *Life Itself*. Kemma teaches screenwriting at Azusa Pacific University and on-camera acting through her own studio. Needless to say, we're excited to have her renaissance-level versatility here at Voicetrax!

Ben Gabaldon

Can you imagine it... a musclebound berserker with a 350-pound mace and absolutely nothing to say? How about a wellness app fruitlessly waving you your step count in sign language, or a little dog robot with a soul-crushing case of muteness? Luckily for all of humanity, we have sound designer **BEN GABALDON** to spare us tragedies like these! With a ten-year history heading Audio Design at organizations like Somatone and Anki, Ben has worked with some of the most amazing voice talent in the Bay Area, directing what seems like every character description imaginable. Ben's experience cuts across developers like Elevate Labs and Gameloft, covering global titles like *League Of Legends*; so if you need someone with a finger on the pulse of exactly what interactive developers want, here's your man. All in a day's work for Ben! Apps and gadgets and video game characters all need a voice, and Ben considers himself fortunate to help find them – and you never know what he might find in you!



Roni Gallimore

Just some characters, are all she wanted. Nice modest characters, like say... a precocious chipmunk in a multimillion-dollar Pixar feature! Is it *really* so much to ask? **RONI GALLIMORE** is a lady of simple pleasures, even if her gourmet cupcakes are downright exotic. And all she was hoping to do was make a little mark for herself in some character work when she walked through the doors of Voicetrax all those years ago. While we're not talking Pixar – not just YET, anyway, because she did have a Pixar callback audition(!) – it *still* worked out to be a matter of "BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR". The genre of audiobooks was just sitting there waiting, and Roni answered its siren call. How many characters are there in the typical novel, anyway? 50? 75? Dozens of audiobook titles and HUNDREDS of characters later, Roni got so clobbered with her wish in this roundabout way that she's now TEACHING audiobooks here at Voicetrax! Roni will show you not only some surprising ways to differentiate the characters in an audiobook, she'll help you get a hold on that central character in any book, the NARRATOR. Whether you've got a jones for character work or are dreaming of storytelling, you might want to give Voicetrax Alum Roni a try... long as you're careful what you wish for!



Devin Glischinski

It takes a tough man and a tender jerky to mess with Sasquatch. But when those Jack Links Jerky auditions came rolling around, 'Traxer and Resident Voicetrax Strapping Lad **DEVIN GLISCHINSKI** proved more than up to the task! He was a fan of that whole Jack Links "Messin' with Sasquatch" campaign to start with, but he researched it thru YouTube just to brush up; so when his turn at the audition mic came up, Devin knew just the right mix of dry humor and rustic charm to seal the deal! Not only did he nab a national campaign VERY shortly after signing with his agency, he showed everybody the way to do the homework that gets the booking. Devin's another Guest Director and Voicetrax Alumnus who's persevered to get where he is today – and he's shown a proclivity to some fairly bent class concepts besides. *Tainted Tales*? That class where you return innocent-sounding nursery rhymes to their macabre roots in your performance, or maybe even figure out some twisted NEW angle on "Humpty Dumpty"? Yup, all Devin's idea and a great pure acting exercise to boot. Gotta say, we're very much looking forward to Devin's next Big Idea...

Melissa Gray

It's actually something that sounds better when you scream it: "VOLUME IS NOT AN ACTING CHOICE!" – certainly a bedrock principle for all those tender, sensitive microphones you'll encounter as a voice actor. But oddly enough, **MELISSA GRAY** wasn't even thinking strictly as a voice actor when she came up with that mantra. Melissa is a theater *purist*, you see, and although she'd studied with Stella Adler and Terry Schreiber, and then ignited a great career on stage, she had no idea what a voice-over even WAS until casting agents from a New York

advertising agency wound up in the audience one night for a showing of *Burn This!* A one-week voice-over intensive program left Melissa with this piece of brusque wisdom: "you've got money written all over your voice but you don't know squat what to do with it!" So Melissa just resorted to what came naturally: she relied purely on her acting skills to translate and enliven commercial copy, booked a three-year campaign for Hanes Her Way panties right out of the gate and never looked back – and if that doesn't prove voice-over is all about *acting, acting, acting*, what does? Melissa's since developed an entire series of study for undergrads and MFA students in Acting and Creative Writing at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and she brings a specially tailored program to Voicetrax!

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!



Chuck Kourouklis

Now *who* manages to feel like a misfit for having a big, deep voice? It was the first question **CHUCK KOUROUKLIS** asked Voicetrax Founder Samantha Paris when he began as a Voicetrax student 19 years ago: is there a place in voice-over for people with deep voices anymore? It sure didn't seem to be what we were hearing on radio ads at the time. Years of stage acting, years of broadcasting – some as the overnight lead-in to Jimmy Kimmel's morning radio show – and yes, that big, beautiful voice. Chuck has managed to NOT rest on the laurels of his natural talents because he *understands that voice-over is all about acting and not about your voice*, no matter how distinctive it is. Chuck has mastered navigating the ever-changing demands of voice-over from big announcer types to the throaty "Darius" in *League of Legends* to the adenoidal "Mr. Toad" in Telltale's *The Wolf Among Us*, to the light-sounding guy next door for the multitude of commercials he's done, and most recently a Netflix cartoon series he's not allowed to talk about yet. Then like

a master puppeteer wielding control of his voice-over strings, he sprinkles back in a little bit of that natural born gravitas for all types of narration, especially medical. This Jack-of-all voice-over trades is a stalwart professor for all Voicetrax students, as his booming voice belies his patient and nurturing teaching style.



Sirenetta Leoni

To this day, Dennis Haysbert – President Palmer in the TV series *24* and the current Allstate Insurance spokesman – is an imposing man, can we all agree? Now wind the clock back to imagine him in a college scene study class, early 20s with a 6-inch Afro, clutching a monologue from Neil Simon’s “Plaza Suite” for a middle-aged Jewish business owner in New York City! Dennis himself wasn’t sure anybody would buy it till his classmate and director for this scene, **SIRENETTA LEONI**, told him, “relax, you’re in good hands” – and then proceeded to shape his performance beyond ANY question. And the rest, as they say, is history! Sirenetta is no stranger to pressure, which is why a giant tech firm can throw her and a voice actor into a break room with an excavator breaking boulder-sized concrete chunks right outside the window and STILL come out with a pristine recorded performance! She’s acted on major interactive projects like Telltales’ *Tales Of Monkey Island* and EA Games’ *The Godfather*, she’s directed the voice of Google Assistant and Google Home, and she’s forgotten more about audio tours, educational game VO, and directional prompts than many of us will ever know! And, she’s our narration demo guru to boot! Sirenetta started her acting career at Voicetrax and teaches with us to this day.



Ned Lott

You wander in a ring like Jane Eyre caught in some grave peccadillo, except there’s a mic in there capturing you performing crowd noise for a film... you’re watching some strange track of a movie with countdown beeps, and on the third, you’d better be ready to *jump in* with your line... or maybe, you’re just flat-out SINGING – and not merely as yourself, but as a character! **NED LOTT** started at Voicetrax and then went out into the world of voice acting, as voice director for The Learning Company, then Senior Manager at Disney Character Voices, and finally as the freelance producer, voice acting coach and casting director who put Liam Neeson into the role of Aslan the wise lion for *The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe*. It all added up to a body of experience that left Ned flush with ideas how to run Voicetrax students through practical, real-world booking experiences (and run a few of our engineers right into straightjackets)! Every Voicetrax class is eventful, but Ned Lott’s classes are actual events – and your mind might just be blown by what you pick up after taking a few!



Aaron Miner

Behold Voicetrax’s own Blackbelt in Karate! He also dabbles in JiuJitsu. What does this tell you about **AARON MINER**, aside from the fact that it’s probably not the best idea to piss him off? There’s

nothing quite like martial arts to instill focus, discipline, dedication and confidence in the practitioner – all of which have become immensely helpful habits for Aaron, who’s certainly put his time in and paid his dues as he studied at Voicetrax. Even when it looked like there was no end in sight, he NEVER LET UP in pursuit of his goal and dream. As with martial arts, Aaron came to understand the struggle in voice acting – getting back on your feet after failure, using defeat to make yourself stronger and better and lay a strong foundation for the ultimate success he now enjoys! Which is exactly why Samantha saw him as ideal Voicetrax Instructor material: *your experience as a student* is something Aaron understands, because his own experience is still so vivid in his mind. From a Gingerbread Man for NorCal Honda to industrial narration for Visa and Enbrel, video games including Concrete Genie and Dr. Crumb’s School for Disobedient Pets through an entire cadre of Crate Creatures for Creativity. For showing you the sheer joy of this craft, Aaron’s one of the best we’ve got.

PJ Ochlan

At the tender age of four, **P. J. OCHLAN** looked at the TV and said aloud, “I wanna do that.” His mother of course responded by pretending not to hear him... for seven years. But on his eleventh birthday, Mom finally relented, and PJ’s never looked back! Decades later and counting, P.J.’s masochistic obsession with the entertainment industry has made him an award-winning actor, director, producer, and coach. His diverse career includes Broadway, the NY Shakespeare Festival under Joseph Papp, critically acclaimed feature films, numerous television guest star and series regular roles, and working alongside countless icons including Jodie Foster, Clint Eastwood, Robin Williams, and Al Pacino. But PJ is best known behind the microphone as a widely acclaimed and record-setting audiobook narrator of more than 500 titles. His work has been recognized with multiple Audie Awards, Earphones Awards, Voice Arts Awards, and the Odyssey Award. So perhaps it’s no surprise P. J. is **also** one of the industry’s leading dialect and performance coaches, teaching from coast to coast at conferences and universities. And since he’s the official dialect coach for Universal Studios and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, he’s one of the only people on the planet who actually teaches at Hogwarts!

Thom Pinto

He’s not nearly so short, and he’s even less green, but if there’s any director who qualifies as Voicetrax Yoda, it’s our Inaugural “TOP Teacher” vote-winning **THOM PINTO**! For decades, students have come to Thom for his uniquely granular and incisive coaching, not to mention his occasional tough-loving body-slam; getting “Pinto-ed” has long been a Voicetrax rite of passage. Thom came up through the Golden Age of voice-over “Thunder-Throats” sounding more like a regular guy, which is what made him so determined to succeed through sheer force of acting performance. Advertising trends, visual editing and its influence, the TV promotional flavor of the month for *EVERY individual network*, mind – there’s not an aspect of voice acting anyone can name that Thom has not pored

over and rigorously analyzed to find that special auditioning edge. Thom demonstrates the mastery of versatility and range you can attain *by being a constant student of voice acting*, and that's what's propelled him to genre-defying heights – authoritative voice for CBS evening news to whimsical poet for Clorox to down-to-earth narrator for Discovery – he's like that instantly-recognized character actor you can't quite name, who might as well be a leading man for his omnipresence. And as the author of the "Colors Of Your Voice" and "Think Visually, Act Vocally" curricula, he's bestowed his singular wisdom at Voicetrax for more than 25 years.

Randall Ryan

And now, for the holistic approach to voice acting, we offer veteran Video Game Casting Director **RANDALL RYAN!** Known for his voice direction on such video game titles as Dungeons and Dragons, Lord Of The Rings, Cobra Kai and Nickelodeon's All-Star Brawl, Randall brings a uniquely philosophical approach to casting and directing for voice actors: "As a musician I watched so many really talented people spend countless hours honing their skills in the belief that, if they were just a little better, that it was the key to success... What they didn't do was to nurture their inner voice, to remember why they were playing an instrument, singing, and songwriting in the first place... So yes, I want to help actors get better on the mic, with character development, realism, versatility, and vocal care. But it's also about nurturing their souls... Reminding them of their worth as people, as storytellers, as reflections back to society, and to hold onto the love of the art form." A philosophy so *Voicetrax* it almost hurts! With an outlook like that, it was obviously inevitable we welcomed this highly accomplished Guest Director to the fold, and we couldn't be more excited to have Randall join the family

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!



Brian Sommer

Let's face it, heroes are boring. They have to follow the rules. Animated 'good guys' spend their time singing and dancing with furry creatures in the forest and are forgotten by the time the credits roll. Snooze! Now, on the other hand, the villains and smart-ass sidekicks are the ones we remember, the ones we quote, the ones that T-Shirts were made to be adorned with. And they are exactly what has built the career of Voicetrax Alum **BRIAN SOMMER**. Nearly 20 years and over 200 video game titles, Brian has brought vocal life to all manner of unique characters. From silly to sinister. Where can you hear his work? How about *The Walking Dead*, *League of Legends*, *Diablo III*, *Elder Scrolls Online*, *The Wolf Among Us*, *Sam and Max*, *Tales of Monkey Island*, *Rambo*, *Assassins Creed*, *CSI*, *Vainglory*, *Watchdogs II*, *Rift*, and *Disney Hidden Worlds*. And most recently via his LA agency there's *Ben 10: Power Trip*, *Psychonauts 2* and a bunch of other stuff he can't talk about yet. So if you are tired of dancing with squirrels and want to give your characters some character, Brian is the man to see!



Emiko Susilo

Back in the day when there were VHS videos – Google that if you need to – little **EMIKO SUSILO** would set up her mom's camera and video herself interviewing herself (yes, long before TikTok). But one day she realized there were no people who looked like her on ANY screen ANYwhere, and on that day she said to the mirror, "There's no place in this business for you." So she made a beautiful life for herself in Balinese dance (a *whole other beautiful story unto itself*), till that fateful day she saw a video with a dog talking about maple bacon. She realized that was a voice actor and started connecting dots, finding Voicetrax online, having an unforgettable initial call with Vicki, and the rest as they say is history! Emiko's just moved to LA and had her first session at Margarita Mix Hollywood, a gorgeous studio where she was treated like a queen. The crazy thing? The producer who brought her the job and that royal treatment, was one of her best friends/fellow dancer/student/former co-worker. So now, Veteran 'Traxer Emiko teaches all about how there is a place for each of us and about how not giving up who we are can be the best way to move forward. Oh, and if the word 'networking' makes you a little squeamish, it has that effect on Emiko, too – but that won't stop her from sharing some profound wisdom on the subject with you!



Katherine Tole

When it comes to leveraging your opportunities in voice acting, there's networking, and then there's *networking*. Scoring a PSA from a chat with a pal who works at a radio station? That's nice – *seriously*, nothing wrong with that. Getting your first paying job, then your first FIVE FIGURE paying job from your personal network of friends? Now that's the kind of experience **KATHERINE TOLE** brings to the party! It turns out online

casting and personal networking can be a potent combination to land voice-over experience and some nice compensation even before you sign with an agent. When you can count clients like Microsoft and PetSmart charities among your long-term scores from Voice123 and HTC'S Vive VR headset tutorial and Seattle Indies Trailers from networking through friends and local meetups, you must be doing something right. Katherine, a Voicetrax Alumna herself, knows exactly what that would be, and we couldn't be happier to have her along to unlock those secrets for you!

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 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!

Talent Agents, Booth Directors & Agency Owners/Partners

Hailing from San Francisco, Los Angeles & New York, absolutely the finest around – we'd seriously need numerous more pages of catalogue to list out just a fraction of the credits attributed to these talent agencies due to their impressive celebrity and non-celebrity client list. While SAG/AFTRA union bylaws prohibit us from listing their actual names and agencies, it is not an exaggeration to state that these individuals are the most sought-after professionals in the field, working at the most successful talent agencies in the world with hundreds of years of combined experience. Chew on that shiny penny for a while...



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 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, breakout rooms for rehearsing, and our 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. See page 33 for legal disclaimer.

**Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and booster is required for all in-person classes. To view our COVID-19 policies in their entirety, please visit <https://www.voicetraxsf.com/covid-policy>.*



For Beginners

BEGINNING SEMINAR

Directors: Samantha Paris,
Vicki Baum, Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

If you are ready to begin your adventure into voice-over THIS IS THE PLACE TO START! Launch into a weekend packed full of information, performance exercises and FUN! You'll explore basic voice acting fundamentals including detailed acting choices, script interpretation, microphone technique, monologues, dialogues, improv and video game characters – *including playback and feedback of recorded performances*, making this class a unique experience in online/hybrid (both in-person and online students in same class) training choices. Get ready to jump in from the very beginning experimenting with partner improv exercises and audience participation guessing games that revolve around making specific acting choices. By the end of the weekend, you'll have a solid understanding of the voice acting craft, and an awareness of the particular skills and techniques you'll need to succeed in the current marketplace, and perhaps even a different perspective of who you are and what stories and characters you can create!

CREATING CHARACTERS

Directors: Chuck Kourouklis,
Brian Sommer

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Whether or not you think you “do characters”, we’re here to tell you that you DO! Why? Because you’ve been six years old, when playing wasn’t about pretending to be a character, but about *being the character*, letting go and using your imagination. And with that mindset, you can learn to do anything, even characters. This daring duo will share their insights, tricks and techniques that have led to their remarkable success in the character genre. Gain an enhanced understanding of the character creation process and realize just how freeing and exhilarating it is as an adult to simply let go and play. After this weekend, you will possess an increased confidence in your ability to invent colorful and memorable, yet realistic characters. With Chuck and Brian’s expertise and encouragement, get ready to unleash the characters that live within you that you never knew existed.

FINDING YOUR VOICE

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 3.5-hour overview

Class Notes: None

Join Voicetrax founder, Samantha Paris, for an enlightening overview that’s half “everything you ever wanted to know about voice-over” and half interactive exercises where volunteers who are game get to jump right in and actually record a character or a radio commercial! After decades in the industry, Samantha is *thrilled* to be able to pay it forward by offering this information in a fun, loving, tell-it-like-it-is way. Samantha will offer a straightforward outlook regarding the financial realities of the business, the commitment and training required to become a successful, working voice actor, the advantages and pitfalls of online casting, and how you’ll know when you’re really ready for a demo and a talent agent. What a fun way to spend a Saturday!

INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

Directors: Samantha Paris

Length: 3-hour lab

Class Notes: None

Whaaaat? 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.

INTRODUCTION TO NARRATION

Directors: Vicki Baum

Length: 11-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

We live in a world where communication is way beyond the written word. Companies brand their innovative products through videos, employers train their employees through videos, medical professionals learn about new treatments through videos and on and on and on. And what do all those videos around the world need? You guessed it... narrators! The different genres of narration are endless including audio tours, audio books, tutorials, medical narration, television shows and documentary narration amongst many others. During this class, you’ll explore some of those narration styles and techniques as you work with a wide variety of copy including the always growing field of narration for the populous tech companies. Learn not only the technical elements of narration, but also how to engage the listener and weave an engaging story that takes your audience along for the ride, without overpowering the visuals. You’ll acquire a clear perspective on the storytelling skills required to deliver strong, connected, narration performances.

SIMPLY ACTING

Director: Frank Coppola

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

This class could just as easily be called "Introduction to Script Analysis". Frank teaches the fundamental acting techniques he's learned and used successfully for decades on-camera and on the stage, both as an actor and director, including breaking down the script into beats and assigning intentions, developing your character's back story and asking yourself what happened right before the script starts. These script analysis skills are a critical and mandatory expertise that every actor whether it be voice-over, on stage or on-camera absolutely needs to book the job. Through participation in theater games and improv exercises you'll increase your comfort level, gain confidence in your performance ability and learn to make bold choices that will bring your acting to life. You'll also spend time learning how to apply these fundamental acting concepts to performing commercial voice-over copy.

For Intermediate Students

COLORS OF YOUR VOICE

Directors: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

What color is love...Orange? Trust...Blue? Excitement...Red? The Colors method, originally developed by one of the nation's most sought-after coaches and veteran Voicetrax Guest Director Thom Pinto, has helped thousands of actors including your instructor, construct a richer, more vibrant voice-over foundation by assigning different emotions to a specific color. As Chuck leads you through an exploration of your full vocal and emotional spectrum and associates it with colors, you'll uncover a multitude of voices and interpretations that you've never before considered or realized you were capable of delivering. Not to mention you'll now possess a tool that is so relevant and effective, it is used *every single day* by busy, working voice actors.

GOT GAME?



Directors: 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 powerful pair 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!

TO PARIS AND BACK

Directors: Samantha Paris,
Vicki Baum

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Join our founder, Samantha Paris, as she takes you on a whirlwind journey, exploring the world of voice-over. Through comedy-driven commercial monologues and dialogues, Samantha will take you through "real world" audition exercises, just like the pros do it. And for good measure, Vicki will crash the party on the second day to work you out on some cool animation copy. Samantha takes great pride in the fact that she personally guides each student through every step of their voice-over voyage, whether your personal path lasts a day, a couple of years or a career lifetime. Working one-on-one with our Founder will not only develop your acting and script analysis skills exponentially but working directly with you will allow Samantha to get to know you on a deeper level, so she can recommend with personal, first-hand knowledge your next best step as your adventure through the voice-over world continues.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Directors: Chuck Kourouklis,
Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

At Voicetrax, we are all about teaching real-world skills and scenarios so that when your time comes you will be ready to perform like a seasoned professional. This workshop couldn't get more real-world if it tried. Using dialogues to work on "sides" (one half of a two-person dialogue) you'll start to cultivate the skills necessary to make one side of a dialogue sound as if the other person is actually there acting with you. News Flash: in the real-world there likely won't be anyone on the other side which is why you need to be able to bring to life your part of the conversation all on your own. Chuck & Vicki will use a multitude of tools they've learned throughout their careers including utilizing each other. That's right you'll be performing dialogues with your Guest Directors! *Gasp! Are you freaking kidding?* But, please, there is no reason to be intimidated. Chuck and Vicki will make it easy for you to jump on in and have FUN while you're learning this important skill. And honestly this two-thirds of the Voicetrax Legen-wait for it-dary Think Tank is about as intimidating as a Shar Pei.

WORLD PREMIERE!

For Everyone

INTRODUCTION TO HOME RECORDING

Director: Kevin Cleland

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Students must understand basic computer commands such as Cut, Copy, Paste, Save, Save As, Undo/Redo, etc.

In a voice-over industry full of remote live direction and where auditions are predominantly (*and by predominantly we mean, like...99%*) done at home, the opportunity to break into the business is as ripe as ever. And while being a well-trained, skilled actor will always be paramount, so now is having a professional-grade home studio. But don't fret, that does not mean spending thousands of dollars or being a genius engineer, but you do need to be educated. Join Voicetrax's Los Angeles-based, demo production master Kevin Cleland as he takes you through the basic fundamentals of home recording including recording hardware and software, editing conventions, exporting sound files along with suggestions for a basic set-up if you don't already have one. By the end of this factually jam-packed workshop, you will know how to record, edit and submit an mp3 of sufficient quality so you can start getting in on all those super cool, advanced Voicetrax classes that require home recording capabilities and be several steps closer to professional grade recordings.



MASTER YOUR VOCAL PROWESS

Director: John Baron

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Does flub-inducing tension crop up the minute you get behind the mic whether it's at home or in a studio? Discover how your breath, articulation, clarity of sound, mind/body connection, range, tone, placement, vocal tension and performance anxiety can affect the way you communicate and ultimately your performance, not only in "the booth", but in other areas of your life. Learn how to rid yourself of verbal blocks and vocal patterns – that you don't even know you have – that interfere with your ability to speak smoothly, naturally and with ease. John will help you zero in on vowel and consonant combinations that continually give you pronunciation trouble, increasing your mastery of the cold read and decreasing your flubs overall. After spending four weeks with a true "vocal coach" and his methods, you'll be exponentially more relaxed behind the mic leading to a future full of natural yet commanding performances.



Pay It Forward Parlour

Directors: YOU and your fellow students (and perhaps a Guest Director will pop in!)

Length: 3-hour lab, monthly

Class Notes: None

There's seriously never been something so "for everyone" in the 35-year history of Voicetrax. We really mean it: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced/Working Professional students, even Alumni! E.V.E.R.Y.O.N.E. is invited. This special lab was born from our desire to give back to our Voicetrax family and provides the virtual "bricks-and-mortar" for a FREE monthly workout group. For one day each month we are opening one of our Zoom channels for you to remotely drop in and work on whatever kind of script YOU choose including dialogues as we utilize breakout rooms for partners to practice in private. You'll get the opportunity to receive performance feedback from your fellow students as well as providing constructive critiques of your own, which we all know very specifically helps with the ever-important self-direction skills necessary for success. Learn and have fun in a casual environment. And did we mention there could just *maaaybe* be a surprise pop-in by an elite Voicetrax Guest Director? Guess you'll just have to show up to find out!

THE JURY IS OUT!

Directors: Peter Coyote, Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course is an auditing opportunity.

The who's who of Voicetrax students will be working with none other than Emmy® award-winning Peter Coyote and our fearless leader, Clio award-winner and Founder Samantha Paris, and you, as an auditor, get to witness the whole darn thing! From first rehearsal to showcase performance and everything in between, you'll see every nuance and how the imagination from the brain of a brilliant actor moves, as Peter works with advanced Voicetrax students on a memorized monologue. How will the performers adapt, adjust and immerse themselves in their monologues? As you witness this process you'll be absorbing and learning the entire time. And if that's not enough, at the end of the showcase performances, YOU as a member of the "jury" will help Samantha choose which portrayal will be deemed The Winner.

WORLD PREMIERE!

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 ready, set, "GO" from Brian (*he has a stopwatch and he's not afraid to use it*), you will have **3** minutes to make your acting choices preparing for your performance, **2** chances to record the copy with Brian and will choose **1** of those takes to submit. Because Brian will be putting a "revolving door" on the class 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 and trust your training to create a believable, unique character.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

A GATHERING OF ACTORS: SCENE STUDY



Director: Melissa Gray

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

Jump into the fray with Melissa Gray to explore the acting essentials necessary to make an emotional connection to the script. You'll explore your wants, verbal action choices, selection of beats, variety of rhythms and nuancing, subtext as you work on a scene with a partner. Your scene work will bring a sense of relationship to the performance that translates to radio dialogue work, video games, character pieces... *ok, literally ALL of your voice-over acting endeavors*. Continue to expand your listening skills so that you are spontaneously reacting, creating a performance that will come from a true sense of what you need and feel in the moment. Work within a custom packet of scenes pre-selected especially for you by Melissa, no voice-over copy to be found! The emphasis will be on script analysis and the emotional and vocal values that translate to the voice-over medium.

AUDIO TOUR NARRATION II

Director: Peter Dunne

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

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.



COPY 911: TURNING DISASTROUS INTO FABULOUS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Samantha Paris, Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 12-hour 4-week workshop

Class Notes: None

If you're ready to take on a real voice-over challenge, come prepared to do some very heavy lifting, because this workshop is designed to tax your script analysis and self-direction abilities to the nth degree. Give any average voice actor a well written script, and chances are that he or she will do at least an adequate job of performing it. But it takes a true voice-over champion to turn a horrific script into a listenable or even good commercial. Why is learning this skill relevant? Because in the real world of auditions, bad commercial scripts outnumber good scripts 2 to 1 (*at least*) and the pay is the same. Throughout this class, you'll tackle script after cringe-worthy script and learn how to clear this minefield without getting blown to smithereens! **PRIZE ALERT:** This workshop will include a fun mystery challenge whose reward to the winner will be a **free private lesson** with Samantha!

DEPTH OF CHARACTER

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

What really grabs the audience and gets them invested in your characters and the stories they inhabit? Psst... look at the title of this class... If they don't care about your character or have seen similar character types before, they'll disengage, and you'll lose them. Join Samantha as she guides you through an extensive exploration of character scripts to get to the true heart of the matter and probe the soul of your character. You'll go beyond archetypes, reveal their motivation, understand their emotional landscape, explore their flaws and ultimately go beyond what's on the paper to construct a dynamic, relatable and thought-provoking character that casting professionals, directors and producers won't soon forget.

DIALECT INTERVENTION

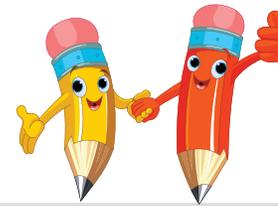
FORTIFIED NEW GUEST DIRECTOR

Director: PJ Ochlan

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Your bad accents have affected us negatively in the following ways: it makes us sad that your British video game character sounds more like he's from New York high society and it keeps us up at night thinking about the session where you'll have to sustain your shaky Chicago accent (*that regrettably sounds equal parts Irish, US Southern and just plain bad*) for 100+ lines of dialogue. But don't give up, there is hope! We've invited interventionist, award-winning voice actor and dialect dynamo, PJ Ochlan, to rehab your inconsistent dialects. This class is formatted to give you the time you need between classes to absorb the process, so that when you finish you will possess the knowledge necessary to practice and polish an accent you can take to the bank. Throughout this odyssey PJ will introduce you to his tried and true approach to building ANY accent in the world, which translates to solid gold for a video game voice actor. The time has come for you to make a decision. Will you seek help today?



WORLD PREMIERE!

DIALOGUES ONLY

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Sooooo.... yeah.... welp... this class will include dialogues.... *only*. But you probably already knew that, riiight? *Anyhoo*... actors at their core long to work with real, live partners, but when it comes to professional voice-over that's rarely the case. Yet even when you are performing all alone, you need to be able to sound like there is a real partner standing there beside you. And what better way to practice that skill than an entire seminar of nothing but comedic, partner work? It also stands to reason that by working with a partner on voice-over copy it will strengthen your acting skills overall. So, join our founder for a fun, freeing weekend of reacting to one of your Voicetrax family members.



DIRECT THYSELF II

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Direct Thyself I or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Why do you need Direct Thyself II or the more than a dozen other self-directing classes we offer? Because learning this tricky-but-totally-crucial-to-your-success thing called self-direction takes tons of practice. It's a process that takes patience and evolves over time. We like to call it "time in the saddle". The twist this time around is working on scripts you should do well, but whatever reason you don't. It's uncanny how directing another person allows you to see more clearly what the script actually needs therefore clearing the way for you to perform it well. At the end of this weekend you will be a better performer having sat in the director's chair again. Giddyup, Hoss!

FUNNY MONEY

Directors: Erik Braa

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Get your funny on, as you work with one of the most naturally hilarious and spontaneously goofy (*in a good way*) voice actors we know! Utilizing comedic monologues, dialogues and group scripts, Erik will avail himself of his years of experience to help you bring comedic performances to life. Not only is comedy FUN, it's a skill that you'll definitely want to develop as comedy is an incredibly lucrative business. Actors who have the cheekiness to just let go are a dream situation for agents, casting professional, directors and producers. Nothing is off limits. Reacting to your partner? Yes. Getting lost in the scene? Absolutely. Improv? *You better believe it*. All of this is in full play as you get serious about the business of funny.



WORLD PREMIERE!



IMAGINATION REVISITED: THE VOICETRAX THINK TANK EDITION



with Add'l
Think Tank
Members

Directors: Vicki Baum, Chuck Kourouklis, Roni Gallimore aka VCR

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

The moment is here... Their fans have spoken... And we've listened. The first EVER class taught by the Voicetrax Legen-wait for it-dary Think Tank (*aka the two carrot tops and cue ball*) has arrived! And they're ready to put you to the test! 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 develop 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 two weeks with Roni and one week with Vicki digging deep into each character's backstory while performing commercial scripts. With feedback from The Rowdy Redheads and help from your peers, figure out which of your three concepts was your strongest character embodiment, and perform as that character for Chuck in the final week who'll choose a "winner" who will win a free private lesson with Roni! Commit to the character deep dive and just go for it. Stretching your acting muscles has never been so freeing!

JAPANESE ANIMATION ESSENTIALS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Have you ever dreamed what it would be like to become a voice talent for dubbed anime films and games? These are very good days in the anime business, especially in the West. More anime shows are reaching a wider audience than ever before. Japan is really taking Western audiences and their viewership seriously and depending on revenue coming from Western fans. At the heart of these upward trends is the revolution of online streaming. What does that mean for voice actors? One very exciting word: Opportunity. And you can be sure if there is a voice-over genre where the opportunity is growing, we will bring it to our students! With Ned's decades of expertise in this growing piece of the voice-over pie, you'll participate in a real-world, hands-on learning experience, as you develop the skills necessary to deliver lines in a natural, "non-dubby" way. You'll even be introduced to the concept of "lip flap" with a real-time dubbing exercise in class. Gain a better understanding of how to break into this flourishing branch in the voice-over universe.

NO SUCH THING AS A MONOLOGUE

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Talk to me, baby! Trained actors know there's no such thing as a monologue. Even when there is no other character in a commercial, you are always speaking to someone, gauging their reaction, hoping to move, inform or to get something you need from someone. With Jeannie's guidance, you will focus on mastering the commercial "monologue", both comedic and serious, in the spirit and with the mindset of a dialogue. You'll learn to identify the arc of the scene and the character's objectives. Bring your monologues to life! Find out how to stay present using techniques like substitution and pre-life and create the truthful communication that is necessary for contemporary commercial reads.

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!

SHIFTING GEARS

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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 let's face it... he should know!

SIMPLY ACTING II

Directors: Frank Coppola

Length: 9-hour three-week 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.

TAINTED TALES, TOO

Directors: Devin Glischinski

Length: 10-weekend seminar

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

Continue skipping down the spooky, wooded path with those classic nursery rhymes and lullabies from your childhood that have a macabre story behind them. In this super spine-tingling sequel, Devin will let you loose on dialogues from these iconic stories. But somehow Devin has made an already twisty class even more twisty. Between Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother and the Big Bad Wolf who's the predator? Or perhaps the acting partner on one side of a dialogue will get the chance to prepare and the other actor will just have to react. Once again this incredibly unique class will focus on script analysis, acting choices, character work and fine-tuning your analytical ear. You may never look at your childhood the same again!

WORLD PREMIERE!

TAKING ON THE PROTOTYPES

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Producers frequently (*what's a word that's more frequent than frequent? Oh yeah, always...*) cast voices or write character specs using "prototypes" as a frame of reference. Whether they're looking for someone who sounds like the hot "celebrity du jour" or a veteran voice actor who is highly regarded within the industry but not a household name, this seminar will give you a chance to immerse yourself in a wide variety of styles while listening, duplicating, and broadening your own vocal range by "borrowing" from the most sought-after spokespeople and character actors. By mimicking another actor's syncopation, tone or attitude it will not only widen your interpretation possibilities, but it can open the door, inspire creativity and be the foundation of a whole new character for you to develop. This is a "must have" skill for any working voice actor.

TEAMING WITH TALENT

Directors: Vicki Baum,
Aaron Miner

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This class will include weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

We stopped short of calling this Vicki vs. Aaron (*who would you bet on?*), but it's true that each week the roster will be divided between two teams who will duke it out for serious bragging rights. But don't get too cozy on the team you're on initially because each week the teams will be rearranged based on a very specific genre and style including commercial girl/guy next door, accented video game and cartoon characters, villains and villainesses, wise storytellers and authoritative but approachable narrators. This class hits on self-direction, script analysis, script choice, performing without much time for preparation, and includes a wide variety of genres and roles that are asked for often in auditioning. Super relevant and taught by two working voice actors. And if this jam-packed workshop isn't enough, at the end of the four weeks, both Aaron and Vicki will each pick an overall "winner" and whomever they pick will win a free private lesson from them. *C'mon, we needed to have some kind of contest, it is called Teaming With Talent.*

WORLD PREMIERE!

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE WEIRD

Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

In this workshop you'll traverse down the track through the multi-faceted land of characters from good to bad and all the way to the wacky world of weird. Stretch yourself from week to week as each class focuses on a different category. Team up with Brian, your character conductor, as you make stops at Goodville (*princes, maidens, superheroes*), Bad Harbor (*mad scientists, thieves, assassins*) and Weirdburg (*zombies, aliens, robots, oh my!*) characters. The last week will culminate in a free-for-all, as you bring all your diverse characters to life challenging your ability to pivot from one to the other to the other on cue!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE TAMING OF THE MIC

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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 sibilance, 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.

Director: Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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 in the action 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. Performer, director or judge. What part will you play? 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.



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 some of the pages from her voluminous character binder. To create your own pages, you'll use visual elements including magazines, books, online pictures, key words and fabric (*yes we said fabric*) to create a life story for a commercial, narration and character persona and then perform them using an appropriate script. Vicki has over 50 questions that she'll continue to ask as your creation materializes before you. 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.

YOU SHOULD BE COMMITTED

Director: Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

No, we aren't making a public statement on your sanity (*seriously, who are we to talk?*). We're just saying that to really stand out and get your performances noticed whether it be by your agent, a producer or someone hiring online, you have to make clear, strong acting choices and then... **GO FOR IT!** (*we were going to say "just do it" but apparently that's already taken...*) Through a series of specially designed, practical exercises and games, you'll be exposed to important acting concepts including being crystal clear about who you are and who you're talking to, raising the stakes, setting the scene, being in the moment and actively listening. You'll discover how crucially important these questions are and why being ultra-specific and then totally committing to your choices will bring about a more engaging and ultimately more competitive performance.

For Advanced Students & Working Professionals

A REAL PAGE-TURNER

Directors: Roni Gallimore,
PJ Ochlan

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

The skill of captivating storytelling that beguiles your audience is at the heart of every successful audiobook ever no matter the subject. Yet if you don't understand the author's intent you can't tell their story. Roni will kick off the weekend helping you assess specific book styles with a packet of at-home audition copy to see what kind of books are specifically right for you. As she hands off your learning experience to PJ, he will focus on understanding the author's intent, the nuances of the multitude of possible author points of view and how that can and should affect the tone of your storytelling. You'll pick apart scripts and spend time deep diving into the true purpose of the story being told, so you can assemble them back together in the most compelling way. You'll also hear about the business of audiobooks from two different perspectives: the actor that records at-home and the one that goes to a studio. A comprehensive look at this billion-dollar industry.

WORLD PREMIERE!

BEST DAMN DEMO PERIOD: CHARACTERS! & NARRATION!

Directors: Character: Samantha
Paris, Brian Sommer
Narration: Vicki Baum, Melissa
Gray, Sirenetta Leoni

Length: Character: 15-hour five-week
workshop
Narration: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: Both of these courses include a pre-class and weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities for each class.

When we hit on a format that works, we have no shame in going back to the well and "gently petting that alive-and-kicking horse" (*Get it? We're lovers, not fighters*). Our troubles emerged when we were trying to decide which genre we should develop for class: characters or narration, narration or characters? Finally, a member of the legen-wait for it-dary Voicetrax Think Tank said, "ummm... why don't we just do both?" Brilliant! Format refresher: During these two separate information-packed (*and when we say packed, we mean stuffed to the rafters and beyond*) workshops you'll explore what you do well and what you should do well, and therefore what you should continue to focus on in your training. For a narration demo showing range is the key. For a character demo what are the most common archetypes that you need to include in a professional demo? In these eye-opening classes you'll develop a clear understanding of the demo production process and 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. But most importantly, these workshops break down into a major self-direction exploration.

WORLD PREMIERE!

CHARACTER TRIFECTA

Director: Kemma Filby

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Just as the name suggests our Los Angeles voice-over professional, Kemma Filby, 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! Hmmm...



DIRECT THYSELF: THE BLACK BELT EDITION

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 24-hour six-week workshop

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 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 ~~set~~ 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!

DISCOVERING YOUR INNER ARTIST

Director: Chopper Bernet

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Join Voicetrax alum, Chopper Bernet, and discover the joy and passion that has always driven true artists to cultivate their craft. This class is about risk taking, finding your strengths and weaknesses, and learning to tell stories through acting. Perform scripts you usually don't get the chance to do that will get you out of your comfort zone and push your artistic boundaries. Find out what happens when you go deeper into your own personal story and bring that organic honesty to your read. Be ready to go for it, potentially fall on your face, get up and do it again, ultimately learning and growing from the experience which will result in you becoming a much stronger actor.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

FINDING YOUR CHARACTER COMPASS

Director: Townsend Coleman

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

Do you sometimes feel lost when receiving a character audition in class or from your agent? Do you get overwhelmed with what to do to make it original, rich and believable? Iconic character voice actor Townsend Coleman is back "in town" (*digitally, of course*) to be the Sacagawea to your Lewis & Clark. Students will record scripts at home for in-class critique. Townsend will be your guide and delve into your performance choices flushing out the different facets the character offers. After receiving Townie's sage advice, you'll get an opportunity to get back into "the booth" (*digitally, of course*) and try it again, which most actors are always itching to do. Your expedition from good to great starts here by getting the good kind of "lost" in the genuine character that springs from within you. Happy Trails to you!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



HOME RECORDING III

Director: Kevin Cleland

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

The fact is that as an auditioning, working voice actor these days, the quality of your audio is just as important as the performance. Great sound quality means increased opportunities for income, since what you record at home is actually ending up on the television or radio more and more often. There are powerful tools at your disposal, but you can do a lot of damage if you don't use them correctly. How far do you go before you leave the sound file alone? And what is the difference between cleaning up a file and going too far, making it sound slick and too professional and losing all the authenticity you worked you're a\$\$ off to achieve. These days it's not just about your sound quality, but also your ability to be the engineer. Building a reputation as a voice actor that can do it all - act and engineer - will bring you even more opportunities. And what about sound connection platforms used in professional session like Source Connect? This workshop is designed to make you into the jack-of-all trades, capable of connecting with the client, recording the session as well as quickly analyzing what might be technically wrong and responding with a precise fix, and acting (*oh yeah... THAT!*). When a producer or director works with you and listens to your audio, the only thing they should be aware of is your brilliant performance.

HOW TO WALK, TALK & CHEW GUM

Director: Allyson Vox

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: 10 students only.

This seminar will launch students into the very exciting technology of Performance Capture (PCap) – (*formerly 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 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!

~~KNOW YOUR ZERO~~ III

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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 Vicki Baum, 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!*

MARKETING: FROM GRASS ROOTS TO HIGH TECH

WORLD PREMIERE!

Directors: Emiko Susilo,
Katherine Tole

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Great, so you've been studying, working hard, and you feel the time has come to start working on the business side of your voice-over career. But where do you start? We've brought together two Voicetrax home-grown alumni who'll come from two different approaches for this particular part of the industry. Emiko will start you off with her successful philosophy including face-to-face networking and utilizing your sphere of influence. Then Katherine will join the festivities to share her technology-driven method of marketing including what social platforms are most effective, what's important for a website and obtaining agents in multiple regions. A fun fact (and who doesn't love a fun fact?) Both of these ladies enjoyed success before they had agents, so this information-packed workshop is definitely the place to start!



MEN ONLY: THE LEGENDS

Directors: Erik Braa, Dave Fennoy,
Brian Sommer

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Can't you just hear this class title being performed with a booming voice rattling your bones and your soul? We sure can, *every single time*. This triumvirate of video game expertise has come together to take you through what it means to be a man in the world of video games. A Viking? Check! A Zombie killer? Check, check! A Barbarian King? Check, check and check... But guess what? It's not all about big voices. With the explosion of video game opportunities that just keeps getting more and more robust, every kind of voice and man is required by game producers. So along with the requisite big and hairy characters, these gentlemen will take you through a cornucopia of different roles to stretch your range, add to your variety and make you a video game man to be reckon with.

ONLY ON THE VOICETRAX CHANNEL

Directors: Thom Pinto, Chopper
Bernet, LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Next on The Voicetrax Channel: What's better than a promo class with a top-notch promo performer as Guest Director? How about a promo class with TWO skilled, successful promo wizards whose authority on the subject is absolutely unparalleled? And an LA Agent that auditions the best of the best for promo work? Well, we just happen to have the holy trinity of promo experts. Thom (current KRON-4), Chopper (former national NBC) and Agent X represent decades of experience in this genre of voice-over, and they will take you through numerous styles of promo (*spoiler alert – promo is not all the same*) including news, talk shows and television show teasers to give you a well-rounded exposure to this world of well-paid promo performers. And ladies, before you think that promos are only for guys, the times have changed and there are opportunities for everyone. So set your remotes for expertise times three, premiering this spring... Only on the Voicetrax Channel!

PRECISE & CONCISE

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Have you ever found yourself at home, trying to self-direct and gone on so long in your head that you don't even remember what the actual question you asked yourself was? Have we got the class for you! Half game show, half talent agent wisdom, our industry veteran agent and one hell of a guy will take you on a self-direction odyssey where you will have to explain to him (*without nattering on, please*) right before you perform just exactly what you are directing yourself to do. What's the twist? There'll be a maximum word count allowed for your explanation. Can you do it in 50 words? 20 words? Can you describe exactly what you are going to perform in just one word? Yikes! With the master of short but potent direction himself, Agent T will help you to create the habit of being precise and concise with yourself so you come out the other end with a specific, authentic and job-winning audition, all by yourself from the comfort of your own home.

WORLD PREMIERE!



REMOTELY SPEAKING

Directors: Carli Silver, Tina Morasco, TWO LA Agents

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: This course will include a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities. This class could and should be repeated.

New York & Los Angeles... two of the capitals of voice-over... with agents and casting professionals. Who better to give you direct, non-nonsense feedback to your pre-recorded performances. We're pulling out all the stops, so you can virtually criss cross the country and back again to hear what the best in the business think of your acting chops. The accomplished professionals steering this ship will illuminate different approaches or angles for you to try in the scripts provided to you to record in your home studio for expert in-class feedback. And with the addition of New York-based Carli & Tina from the casting juggernaut Sound & Fury never before has this class been so on-point about how to turn out bookable performances.

REVISED/NEW DIRECTORS

SOMMER SMACKDOWN

Directors: Brian Sommer, Ben Gabaldan

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

Let's get ready to ruuuuumble!!! Join Brian in this voice-over octagon of his making, where real-life is gonna smack you in the face. In this video game class Brian will provide you with audition sides which you will perform live, (*so no chance to do 4,000 takes and edit the hell out of it like - ahem - perhaps you do at home*). Brian will then cast the video game after giving you "the gloves are off"-type feedback on your audition. You'll practice your assigned role with Brian, all to get ready to perform for former video game director/producer extraordinaire, Ben Gabaldan. It's time to get real, and this class is as real as it gets.



Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

In this cornucopia of a workshop Samantha is locked and loaded to bring the FUN back to Friday and give you *exactly* what you need. How is that possible? Because before this class happens, Samantha will look at the class roster and custom build her lesson plan to specifically address what those 12 particular students need at the moment. Could it be commercials or characters? Maybe a dramatic monologue? Might it be exploring famous prototypes? Perhaps a name draw where you will secretly observe your fellow 'Traxer over the duration of the 4 weeks and perform as that person on the last Friday? We *know* it will be self-direction, oh and a contest! Well, of course, a contest... And, well, whatever it is, it will have you saying, "FUN abounds on TGIF" once again!

THE MASTER'S MASTER CLASS

WORLD PREMIERE!

Directors: Peter Coyote, Samantha Paris. Whoa! Both of them? *You better believe it...*

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course will include a pre-class homework assignment. 10 students only.

Join The Master himself, Peter Coyote along with Voicetrax Founder, Samantha Paris in this high-level dramatic and comedic scene study class. The crème de la crème of Voicetrax students will come to class with one side of a memorized dialogue chosen for them and a partner with tremendous care by the Voicetrax Think Tank. They'll work all day with the Emmy-Award winning actor Peter Coyote and Clio-Award winning actress, Samantha Paris. You'll be flabbergasted by what Peter's brilliant acting mind will glean from the words on the page and the emotional context he brings out from inside you. Then they'll immediately go to a breakout room and work side by side with Samantha who will bring her own world-class script analysis to the performance. On the second day, students will participate in a Samantha-hosted showcase of all the dialogues. Then the jury of auditors that have been watching all along (*oops... did we fail to mention there will be a real "live" – and by live we mean online – audience of fellow Voicetrax students? Our bad.*), along with Samantha will chose a "winner" who will win a free private lesson from the founder herself. Two Master teachers, a live audience AND a prize at the end? Total perfection!

THE VERSATILITY FACTOR

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

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

One of the main components of a successful career in any industry is versatility, and voice-over is no different. In fact, versatility is mandatory to make it in voice-over. Get ready to stretch yourself and run the gauntlet through many of the various disciplines of acting as Samantha takes you through a memorized scene study, characters, commercial and... really... *who knows what else?* You know that Samantha *always* has a few tricks up her pretty little sleeve, but they are invariably for your own good. What we do know is that self-direction skills will be needed throughout. You'll dig deep each week to strengthen your skills in each category (*no one-trick ponies here*). And after all that hard work, the last week will be a performance showcase where you bring your best stuff, all for the prize of a free private lesson from the founder herself. Huzzah!



THREE IN A ROW: LEVEL II AND BEYOND

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Three In A Row or prior approval from Voicetrax. This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home-recording capabilities.

Lights, Camera, Action! (*insert catchy theme song music here... bap, bap, bap, ba, ba da, dap...*) Ok, so *technically* there's no camera involved since this is a voice-over class, but this show must go on! Why? Because being able to effectively perform a tagline or branding phrase three times in a row each with distinctly different attitudes is a mandatory skill for every voice actor working professionally everywhere. Thom will take the lessons offered in the first and second level classes and crank up the heat, asking you to direct yourself on different copy including the ever-challenging two and three-word lines *and* direct you live. This skill is so current and relevant that no matter what kind of audition you submit or job you book – commercial, video games, narration...even medical narration (*it's true!*) – having the finesse to give them a variety when asked to rip off three in a row will truly pay off!

WORLD PREMIERE!

THROWN FOR A LOOP: ADR WITH NED LOTT

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 7-hour one day lab

Class Notes: None

The technical definition of Automated Dialogue Replacement, also referred to as “looping” is the process of re-recording audio for purposes including improving audio quality or reflecting dialogue changes. But it's so much more of an artistic challenge than that. It's replacing a lead actor's voice or bringing the characters in the background to life through improvised dialogue. Sound interesting? It should, since it represents yet another huge set of opportunities for working voice actors. The first half of this lab helmed by ADR veteran Ned Lott will focus on learning the ADR process with some exercises to prepare for spontaneous and improvised acting. Then you'll put your newfound knowledge to the test in the belly of the beast and virtually go into an actual ADR studio in Burbank to work on numerous ADR skills including streamer vs. beeps, walla, listen and do, callouts, follow the line, assigned dialogue and sound-a-likes. Don't know what these things are? You will after this action-packed day.

TWO IN A ROW: THE VIDEO GAME VARIATION

Directors: Randall Ryan, Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Your trusted steed Chuck will lead you into this weekend, establishing the ground work and creating a safe space that will allow you to unlock the inner voice of your artist heart that brings the unique you to your character performances. So when Randall Ryan takes the helm you'll be ready to hit your mark. Variety is the spice of life and in video games it's the whole meal. You must always possess a viable (*not just different for difference's sake*) second take on any video game character you do for auditioning and most definitely when you're in session. Yes, Randall will explore character development, realism, versatility and vocal care (dying can be a real strain on the 'ol vocal cords), but he's also about nurturing your soul, reminding you of your worth as people, as storytellers, as reflections back to society, and to encourage you hold onto the love of the art form of voice-over.

WORLD PREMIERE!

VOICE-OVER PENTATHLON



Directors: Samantha Paris,
Thom Pinto, Melissa Hutchinson,
TWO LA Agents

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

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.

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU (WILL) GET



WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

What's that? Over the hill and beyond the horizon? It's you, envisioning yourself in a scene, fully engulfing yourself, letting the moment take you over. No phones, no computers, no responsibilities. Just you and your imagination taking you to creative and inspiring places. Once back from that mind-bending projection, Vicki will assist you in applying that freedom of imagination to your acting experiences, bringing realism, authenticity and heart to anything you do in the future whether it's a Pulitzer-prize winning play, a comedic television show or ruminating on celery for 99 cents a pound. You'll travel through numerous visualization exercises that will no doubt connect you to a deeper, more profound part of yourself. A far-ranging and illuminating seminar to be sure.

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!

