

the Voicetrax Star

2023 Mid-Term Edition

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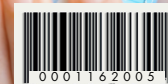
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A Message From Our Founder

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life"
~Confucius

Dear Students,

Amongst the inevitable conversations that are had when you meet new people or friends of friends, the question of what you do for a living always crops up. My answer always starts with, **"I've had a small business in Sausalito for 35 years..."** Before I even get to the part about what I actually DO for a living, I get a very incredulous, **"Really? You've actually owned a business for 35 years? How many small businesses are even around for 35 years?"** It's like they can't believe it. Then when I tell them what I actually DO for a living, they really don't believe it. Anyway, I politely accept the implied compliment, but at the same time just brush it off and think to myself, **"Of course I've owned a small business for 35 years. What's the big deal? I just do what I do... day in, day out."**

It wasn't until the Voicetrax Legen-*wait for it*-dary Think Tank completely surprised me with the student quotes in this catalogue (*yes, believe it or not, I begrudgingly agreed when they said: leave the theme of the main article to us*) that the successful permanence of Voicetrax further crystalized in my head and heart. It took me a long time to drink in all that is shared throughout these pages and I think I'm still doing it as you read this message. But here is what's clearer to me now more than ever before: I know how and why it is Voicetrax has been around so long. Yes, one major reason is the quality of training our fantastic Guest Directors provide so willingly and lovingly. But without the dedicated, courageous, faithful students that come to us year after year experiencing something more than just voice-over training, it's unlikely that Voicetrax would have sustained the longevity it enjoys today. Our little "Island of Misfit Toys"



brings together diverse but like-minded people that start out just looking to dip their toes into the voice-over pool, but then a magical alchemy takes over as you will read in the pages that follow.

To be sure, there's one hell of a lot of learning, supporting and healing going on here in this small, humble, brick-and-mortar as well as cyberspace place we call Voicetrax. I am forever grateful to all of you for continuing to point this very important fact out to me. And for also confirming in my mind and heart that there needs to be a 40th and a 50th anniversary, too. I mean why in the world would we stop? Why would any of us want to stop? I sure know Chuck, Vicki and Roni don't want to. And I suppose celebrating the second half of our 35th anniversary this way, is a whole heck of a lot better than opening up your previous dot form to confetti pouring out. Real sorry about that... lol.

Let the experience continue...

My love and devotion
to you always.

S.H.



ALONG THE WAY

“Every day is a fresh start. Wake up with a thankful heart.” -Anonymous

Ahhhhh, yes. Life Lessons.

They come at us from all directions. From the obvious places, of course: pain, strife, heartache, conflict and loss. But what about when you're having the time of your life? What about the lessons that sneak up on you when you least expect it. And when the chips are falling where they may, when the dust settles, at one specific a-ha moment, you realize the lessons you learned are helping you in areas of your life they weren't specified for.

Please allow us to digress for a moment...

We often find that when new students show up to Voicetrax, they are so intent on studying just one genre of voice-over. We get it. We understand that from the outside that does seem to be the most logical way to the finish line. Why study characters if you're going to be a narrator? But we would be decidedly remiss in our duties as your mentors if we let you arrive at any perceivable “finish line” being a one-trick pony. These days, any agent anywhere wants versatility, period. But with all the “acting” stuff aside, arriving at our 35th anniversary of coaching actors, we know there is so much more to this whole

wild ride than learning the nuts and bolts of the acting craft. Being so single-minded at the beginning is a trap that could prevent you from opening up to all the other lessons there are to be had on this path you are taking. Lessons that are so far-reaching they might upstage everything else.

So, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Voicetrax, a triumphant feat rarely achieved any more by a small business in our current world, we wanted to reflect on those far-reaching lessons that have shaped our students not only as actors, but more importantly, as people...



“The journey at Voicetrax is about SO much more than just taking voice-over classes. Sure, when I started I thought I had ‘the pipes’ for it. And, sure, I was willing to do the work to learn a new craft to make this my next chapter. But what I didn't realize was what it would ASK of ME. How it would literally peel back the layers of how I approached the world and ask me to show up in a more playful, energetic and flexible way. And that right there has been worth the price of admission. Here's a little preview of what you will learn as a ‘Traxer: this is not actually about your voice at all, and, for sure, this is not therapy.

That said, it will change you for the better if you let it. Get ready for a transformative experience!” ~Lisa Perry

I am learning to let go of unhealthy fear, which is so liberating!! ~Michael Martin

"I always loved making funny voices and pretending to be someone else. As an introvert, this is something that would never leave the safety of my house. However, I gained confidence while working not only with the teachers at Voicetrax, but also the other students. Now I'm not afraid to really get into character while playing Dungeons & Dragons with my friends. Unbelievably, I was also encouraged to start a Twitch channel, where I now will play indie video games and voice the characters. These aren't things I ever would have even considered doing before. The immense amount of love and support I've gotten from Voicetrax has been incredible. I'm still a beginner and still growing, but now I feel good about what I'm doing."

~Keegan Worth



"Oh, the lessons I've learned at Voicetrax! So many, but there are two that really stand out to me. Number 1: Be your authentic self. I cannot count the number of times Samantha has said to me in class, 'That was good, but it didn't sound like YOU'. I am now realizing how true and important this little knowledge nugget is to a successful voice acting journey. Number 2: There is room for EVERYONE at the voice-over table. Everybody brings something different and unique, so don't compare yourself to others and think you are not good enough. The most wonderful thing is these lessons cross over to assist with pretty much everything in real life, too! Voicetrax has given me the confidence to believe in myself, and for that I am forever grateful."

~Heather Fischer

Among the many lessons I've learned at Voicetrax, two of the happiest are: Old dogs CAN learn new tricks, and thankfully, when it comes to voice acting, young dogs don't learn those lessons any faster than old dogs."

~Harold Sogard

"When I first came to Voicetrax, I was shy and fearful. I was lost and had low self-esteem. Broken to be honest. I never had found a place where I could grow and be supported. My inner child kept begging to be nurtured. Well, I found it and then some at Voicetrax. My self-esteem has grown, and I feel proud of my voice-over work. I don't doubt myself as I used to. Yes, do I still struggle, of course. But I can see that I am forever growing and learning. That's the biggest thing to take from all of it. We don't need to compete with ourselves or others. We learn from watching, guiding and being guided by our peers and teachers. I used to compare myself and think 'wow, I wish I could be like them/do what they do'. My fears lied to me. I CAN do what they do. We have doubters, though. The little voice in the back of my brain is always poking, trying to find a way to keep me locked up tight. What has helped though, is feeling comfortable and encouraged to take risks in a safe zone. I found my home at Voicetrax."

~Nicole Squires

"A common theme throughout my acting career has been accepting that I am enough; just be me. Well, that's easier said than done! Voicetrax has been instrumental in showing and teaching me how special that feels and sounds. It's truly amazing how simple acting is when I'm just me, just authentic. It feels like I'm doing nothing and that's because I'm telling my truth. Funny how art can imitate life or is it life can imitate art?"

~Taylor Brock

"I remember during one of the intermediate classes a student said, 'Someone asked if I liked characters because I don't like being myself' and that resonated with me, who wants to be just another person in a world of a 5 billion people when you can be a mega demon destroying worlds?! But as I continued to suck at commercials (I'm not afraid to admit it), I began to wrack my brain. Why is it that some people were better at commercial work than I was? Then I began to theorize: maybe it's because they're comfortable in their own skin! I tested my theory of just being myself in a few classes and it worked! Now I'm testing how to enter flow states, that come so easily in characters, and trying to apply it to commercial work. Moral of the story? I, and subsequently you dear reader, are enough! Quit being someone you aren't!"

~Alvin Lin

"In truth, a family is what you make of it."

~Marge Kennedy

And it might sound cliché, (*hey, don't all clichés start with a modicum of truth?*) but the unique community that has organically grown at Voicetrax does truly feel like a family. And you'll hopefully pardon the simplicity in this familial thought: When we have each other, we have everything.

"In a fabulous class I had one weekend, the instructor asked us 'what was our proudest accomplishment in our voice-over experience'? I had no hesitation in saying that my proudest accomplishment was the friends I have made in this community. What really stands out to me are the extrinsic rewards of being a part of Voicetrax. The friends, the chats, the highs and lows we experience together and the continued support I receive from all of you. I can't thank you enough for always cheering me on, talking me off a ledge, and so patiently organizing all the classes and homework." ~Lynn Douglas

"I love the fact that we are all different ages, but that doesn't make a difference when you are on this adventure together. Voice-over has become so much fun, and the people I have met through Voicetrax have added joy, friendship, trust and excitement to my life. These voice-over actors are an amazing community." ~Janice Cunningham

"I had my first intro class and I immediately fell in love with these people. I couldn't have found more supportive, caring, and lovely teachers to be surrounded by. Samantha stole my heart. She immediately knew who the type of person and actor I am, and saw potential in me, and really, I have never felt that with any acting coach, teacher, or peer in my life. Then working with the extraordinary Vicki Baum who guided me, pushed me, and truly believed that I have potential. She gave me the feeling of believing in myself when I was at a really low point in my life. She changed my view on how to approach a script. This is the first time I can say out loud that I am proud and feel like I have the talent to pursue voice acting. Whenever it is, no matter what, I am ALWAYS welcomed and celebrated to be back in class with family." ~Olivia Campisano

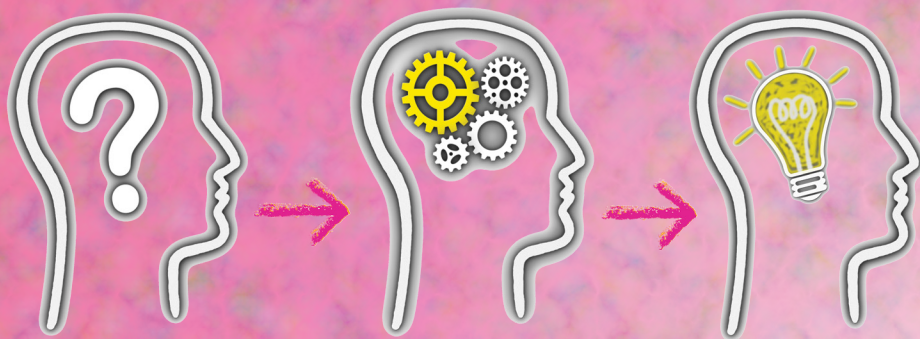
I stepped into a world where everybody, and I MEAN EVERYBODY – the staff, the instructors, all the fellow students are so incredibly positive, supportive and wanting to see everybody be successful on whatever terms success means to them.

The only thing separating me from my goals is desire, dedication and willingness to learn the craft. Having the best time of my life ever learning things alongside other like-minded individuals. Also, chances are fun! If you haven't done so yet, learn to laugh at yourself, which permits others to laugh along with you which strengthens the bonds and trust between everybody. We're all human and make mistakes and when we can all laugh, learn and become better humans together, well, very few things in life are better than that. ~Augustin Stucker

***"When the mind is pure, joy follows
like a shadow that never leaves."*** ~Buddha

In the world that surrounds us, some days it feels like all joy and happiness is lost. So, it falls upon us more than ever to protect, serve and still make space for the things in our life that bring us exhilaration and delight, to be open to the lessons that will make us stronger and allow us to live as authentically as humanly possible. To lean on the people who every day champion your right to be happy and to pursue your dreams.





"Boy have I changed in my time at Voicetrax. I can't put into words how much I absolutely adore and am thankful for this amazing and supportive family. Yes, I have learned all kinds of lessons on being a better actress, but the Voicetrax community really helped me the most by simply existing during my lowest point in life. The beginning classes helped me find new goals for myself and started bringing joy back into my life. I was rediscovering my confidence and loving it as I moved into more advanced classes, continuously being inspired by all the other students' talent. And now here we are! To everyone I have met and all of you I have yet to meet, sending the biggest hugs!" ~Megan Ratto

"Voice-over acting is an art, and like any art it takes study, practice, and perseverance. Don't let anything get in your way and you'll go far. If not now, when?"

Here are some teacher quotes that have inspired me:

'Acting is at the core of everything.'

'Bring yourself to the party.'

'If you act well, there's no such thing as over the top.'

'Give me 1, 2 or 3 words that describe your Attitude.'

'What are the BEATS – the shape of your script, where do the thoughts change.'

'Visualize everything'

'Find the Bunny'

'Each part of your body has a place where a voice lives.'

This path I'm on is a wonderful and wild ride. Thank you Voicetrax teachers, you are a source of constant inspiration and joy." ~Katy Lawrence

"Despite being nervous in my first class, the teachers at Voicetrax saw something in me and it's helped me to change my world view quite a bit. Voicetrax gives me hope, and not a lot of things do that anymore. Every class I feel more confident and surer of the concepts I learn. Not to mention that classes are a place where I can feel like a kid again, lost in a golden moment when everything about the world seems to glow with aspiration and joy. Okay, I may be getting a little too sappy here, but I truly think being a Voicetrax student is one of the most valuable things I've ever experienced." ~Tenee Crockett

When I first started taking classes, I worried that certain people in my life would think I was just being frivolous. But it didn't take me long to understand this: nothing that feeds your soul is frivolous. ~Heather Orosco

We not only have a right to be happy in our lives, we have an obligation to be, because our happiness has an effect on everyone around us. Living authentically is such a beautiful state of being. You shouldn't compromise something so critical to your lifelong contentment to create something that is false. Authenticity, camaraderie, support, love, challenges, highs, lows, fears, triumphs. These are all portals to life lessons. Make mistakes, take chances, be silly, be perfect in your imperfection. Every day is a new day to take a baby step that moves your goals, your dreams, your life forward. Most importantly trust yourself and follow your heart. Be it known from here on out: There is no such thing as failure, just a future life lesson waiting for you in the wings.

Not enough heartfelt, inspirational student quotes for you? You'll be delighted to find out there are more quotes sprinkled throughout the following pages of this catalogue. We hope you continue to be inspired!



A Few Minutes With... **MATT MOY**

Round and round we go, and where do we stop? Oh, we know... on one of the most heartwarming returns to the fold we've ever had in our continuing lecture series, Inside The Voice Actor's Studio. Our guest is none other than Voicetrax Alum Matt Moy, whose credits include animated series Steven Universe, on-camera series regular on the hit television show 2 Broke Girls and his current, recurring role on American Auto. As is our tradition with this little featurette of ours, we dip our toe in the Matt Moy pool, ahead of our big interview on Saturday, September 16th, to give you a sneak peek into the fun and fruitful learning to be had chatting away with Matt...

Voicetrax: Did you dream of a creative career when you were a boy?

Matt Moy: No, not at all. When I was a young boy, I didn't know what I wanted to do. When I was in high school, I did theatre with my friends, but that was just to hang out with my friends. It wasn't to become an actor. I was still too shy. When I was in college, I majored in Japanese and Linguistics because that was what I was good at. Acting or anything creative wasn't a tangible career for me. It's a weird thing



when you go into arts. You think, it almost seems like a dream. But it's not. It's the same as any other job once you possess the skills necessary.

VT: So how did you make your way to voice-over?

MM: By the time I graduated college I had kind of fallen out of love with my Japanese major. Can you imagine spending all that time and money and then telling your mom I don't really want to do that anymore? Luckily for me both of my parents were very supportive, and my mom suggested, "Well you enjoyed yourself when you were acting in high school with your friends and you were pretty successful at it. Why don't you try voice-over"?

VT: Why voice-over and not theatre or on-camera?

MM: Because it was behind the scenes. I didn't really like the notion of being in front of a camera. Still too shy.

MM: Yeah...

VT: And how lucky were you that your parents were so supportive of a creative career path!

MM: Actually, I hadn't told them I wanted to be an actor. At the time, I didn't even know for myself that I wanted to be an actor. They just knew I had a hard time keeping a job because I would very quickly get bored and quit. I ended up jumping from job to job to job. They were just searching for something – anything – that I might actually stick to. My mom found the Finding Your Voice intro class with Samantha. I decided to try it

out and see if I liked it. And in that first class, I fell in love with voice-over. I started taking class after class and I was talking about what I was learning to my parents every single night. They just knew I was going to stick with it.

VT: *So, you found your passion?*

MM: *Weeeelllll, yes, I suppose, but equally important I found something I liked that I could also build a career at. This probably isn't very "actor-y" to say, but when I hear people who tell me they want to be an actor and it's going to be a "journey", I think whoa, pump the brakes. What my ears hear when they say that is: they're going to dabble a little over there and a little over here and take a semester to view the sunset over the mountain ridge. I'm like, no. If you want to build a career at voice-over, you need to roll up your sleeves and work, just like anything else you want to achieve. You can have the dream, but dreams need to be accompanied by actions. A dream without action is just a dream.*

VT: *We're all about action around here!*

MM: *(laughing)* Don't I know it!

VT: *You've already had an amazing run with your on-camera career so far, being a series regular for six seasons on 2 Broke Girls. (Ed. note: Go watch it. It's hilarious.) What commonalities do on-camera and voice-over have?*

MM: I really cut my comedic timing teeth on the set of 2 Broke Girls and that definitely helped me with my voice-over. I actually booked the animated series Steven Universe a few months after we started on 2

Broke Girls. With the brilliant actors I was working with live on set, I had to be on my toes, stay ready for anything, listen to my partner and perform on cue. Those are all skills I use in voice-over.

VT: *We're really looking forward to your animation lab that's happening after the big interview. There will be 12 lucky students who get to be in your class. What should they prepare for?*

MM: *(laughing)* Anything and everything. Improving live on in-class animation scripts, coming up with a second and third characters on the fly and recording something at home for us to dissect in class. We are going to pack a LOT into those three hours!

Be sure to join us for Inside The Voice Actor's Studio, Saturday, September 16th, (p. 20) as we dive much deeper into Matt's approach to acting, some seriously fun behind the scenes stories from a network television show set, and the thoughtful, yet super logical and straight-forward philosophies Matt utilizes in regard to his very successful

acting career. So much to learn on so many levels! Plus, as previously mentioned, Matt will be teaching an afternoon animation lab The Moy Wonder (p. 30) later the same Saturday from 2:00-5:00pm PST.





NEW RULE: We're just spit-balling here copywriters, but how about cutting down on the specs when the audition copy is a :15 second tag? Go ahead, put the thesaurus down, and take the day off from prattling on for page after page after page (after page) about the childhood minutiae, political preferences and fashion choices for a three-line piece of audition copy on where to buy auto filters. And don't forget, spell check and the dictionary are your friends. Gravelly is something entirely different from Gravelly after all.

NEW RULE: Advertisers: Look, we understand hygiene and deodorant for various bodily regions can be a delicate matter, and empirically important to some if not most dating lives. But the question is, do YOU?? So for the love of all that's sacred in this world... would ya please keep private parts private, FFS? Because lately we're getting ads for The Revolutionary New Organic Aromatic Balm that you apply

straight to your (*insert R-rated frat-boy language here*). What's next, a 3D road map? Ew. Forget we said that. Remember, unmentionables are called that for a reason.

NEW RULE: Beloved Students of Voicetrax, please, pretty please get your homework in on time. Remember when your 7th-grade teacher would constantly call you at dinner time to ask where your homework was? No? Well *isn't that something*. So why on earth would you want to put yourself through that as a grown-up? The good news is your agent certainly won't harass you like this. May even wind up leaving you alone entirely... *hmmm...*

NEW RULE: Thou shall not demand hybrid classes and then refuse to get out of thy pajamas to come to class. If we're here, thou ought to be here, too! We miss you and totally need a hug! 'Nuff said!

NEW RULE: Just because the copy you're auditioning is for television doesn't mean you should sound like you've taken a pill from your kooky Aunt Zelda's Magical Medicine Cabinet. Television voice-over is meant to support the visuals, not put your audience into a hypnotic, catatonic state. Take a risk...sound alive!

And FINALLY: under the heading of: *Do you really want to become Internet famous for this...*

NEW RULE: If you are going to use the Zoom filter that turns you from a human head into your spirit animal (*humming birds and horses apply here*) before class, it's important that you know how to turn it off once class starts. *Hold on... wait a doggone minute...* on the other hand... **leave it on**. It's bound to bring a new JOY to your performance extolling the virtues of a blanket that looks like a tortilla for people who want to be as warm and snuggly as a burrito. It exists, people, look it up! Oh Amazon, you are a complicated cornucopia of the weird and wacky.

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



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.

Kay Bess

Join us now as **KAY BESS** guides us through the mystical world of spirit animals! Might Kay's be the majestic condor, the wily lone wolf or the graceful deer? Not exactly... "The three-toed sloth is my spirit animal. It gets a bad rap in this fast-paced world, and why the sloth's particular behavior is considered one of the seven deadly sins, I'll never understand... It's just how they're built. They're long-haul creatures. They move at their own pace. They stay the course. Like me." That only stands to reason when you consider Kay's dedication to overcoming a stutter to master commercial and narration work, not to mention recorded promos for every major network! Her latest frontier? Two years of Meisner technique to brush up, then video games, on titles like *Agents Of Mayhem*, *Rise of the Tomb Raider*, and *The Last of Us 2*. Steady evolution and constant self-improvement have been key to Kay's 35+ years in the business, which is why we're delighted whenever she can spare a weekend from baking sourdough bread and mortifying her daughter on TikTok to share her cultivated wisdom at Voicetrax! "As a side note, baby three-toed sloths are particularly darling when grouped together in little baskets."

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.

Ryan Clark

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

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 Trebek. 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!

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 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-Reuben-esque 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 reeeaaally 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 verrrry 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!



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!

Dan Gilvezan

With great power comes great responsibility... not that we're trying to dazzle you with words of wisdom, it's just something **DAN GILVEZAN** heard a lot on one of this first jobs in LA (*Spider-Man & His Amazing Friends* on NBC)! Dan really does go that far back, from *Spider-Man* through a memorable on-camera Jack In The Box campaign and episodic TV to video game titles like *Transformers: Devastation*, dancing and weaving all the while with this jealous mistress known as Show Business. But while she can be cruel, Show Business can also be seduced with a combination of talent, training, stick-to-itiveness and a pinch of luck – and Dan has wooed her for over forty years with that winning combination. As a voice-over pro, TV guest star, stage actor, screen personality and author, Dan has bucked the odds and carved out a place for himself in a challenging profession, all the while gaining a wealth of knowledge of the inner workings of the business of voice-over show. And lucky for us, he's more than willing to share the secrets of that winning combination with you here at Voicetrax!

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!





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!

Anna Mathias

Improv is a quicksilver art, at its best convincing you there's NO WAY it wasn't scripted. That's how it was when **ANNA MATHIAS** performed in an improv troupe with the late Robin Williams, the audience SURE they had secret scripts – was it truly bottled lightning? How could all that hilarity be "ad-libbed"? When you consider that Anna could hang with someone like "Mork" himself, it's little surprise that she should win a Clio for an entirely improvised dialogue on a San Francisco Chronicle spot! Anna's been around enough to see shows in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where they consider improv important enough to teach in high school; to cajole a Pixar feature film director she met on a Southwest flight into admitting, "if they don't know how to improvise, I don't want to see them". THAT'S how important Improv is, and it's why Anna's always thrilled to help actors crack through the crusty mantle of self-judgment, fear, and over-"adulting", to see what a rush taking a few risks really is! We couldn't be more pleased to have this original Groundling with us.



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.



Matt Moy

Talk about an extremely success Voicetrax alum... with voice-acting credits like *Steven Universe* and on-camera credits including being a series regular on *Two Broke Girls* and recurring on *American Auto!* If you've ever wondered about a 'Traxer made good, look no further than **MATT MOY!** It wasn't so long ago that Matt was sitting in your exact position as a Voicetrax student – just like any of us, except perhaps with a more interesting existential philosophy: life is about getting your \$#!+ together. So when it comes to honing your skills at the feet of the best in the industry, let commence the process of getting your \$#!+ together. When an LA Guest Director takes notice of you, when moving to LA becomes a realistic option (and you've built a little nest egg), and finally when Samantha herself says, "if you're going to LA, you might as well do what you've been training to do", there's a cue to get that last bit of – well, you know – together and start the momentum rolling! It could be as simple as "working hard, laying the groundwork and taking care of yourself" as Matt maintains – to say nothing of his deep gratitude to family, peers and Voicetrax for supporting him throughout his continuing career. We are *delighted* to have him back in the fold!

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.

Richard Redfield

Don't look now, but we may have a resident evil genius now on board... Using his superior skills in creating movie trailers, **RICHARD REDFIELD** has probably tricked you into seeing at least one movie that turned out not to be nearly as good as the trailer! He offers his apologies, along with his insights gained from directing over

a thousand VO sessions over his career with top VO talent and sometimes movie stars. Richard's long career in movie advertising as an award-winning creative director/producer of hundreds of movie trailers and TV spots for movies over the years has born fruit for *Ocean's Eleven*, *Inception*, *The Hangover*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *Wonder Woman*, along with TV promo work. And just as you might guess, Richard has helped boost the careers of several VO artists over the years by giving them opportunities on movie campaigns under his seasoned direction! Richard enjoys teaching and advising VO talent, from relative newcomers to well-known VO artists, and we're delighted to have him on board.

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!

Christy Summers

She's a Giants-cheering Formula 1 fan... she bakes some of the most amazing cakes a humble oven has ever produced... she teaches pole fitness classes(!) Does this sound like a cog in a wheel to you? Don't get us wrong, cogs serve a noble purpose, and without them the whole machine grinds to a halt. But is that *really* all you want to be professionally? That's probably not enough for you, and it certainly wasn't enough for **CHRISTY SUMMERS!** Christy was all about the corporate life until she wasn't – there just wasn't any authenticity or creativity in the daily grind to feed her soul, which is why she turned to voice-over! But while you can take the girl out of business, it's harder to take the business out of the girl. Turns out Christy parlayed voice-over into such a mean little enterprise, she found herself getting lots of questions on how to run a business! Enter Daytime Hero, a company she launched in 2022 to teach the **business** behind voice-acting. And with her psychology degree, an MBA in Management, and over 20 years in corporate and small business experience, she's ready to share the benefits of her all her knowledge and business experience here at Voicetrax!

Maurya Tollefson

Oh *sure*, senators and governors and other political figures get all the glory but *be ye in no doubt* who actually runs their affairs behind the scenes: their AIDES. Guest Director **MAURYA TOLLEFSEN** knows a little something about that, having served previously as aide to a Virginia Senator and a Governor of New Hampshire! And after managing all the details, minding the minutiae, and indeed, herding all the figurative cats that being aide to a prominent politician produces, you can bet Maurya has a lock on her current role as Senior Strategist at Storefront Political Media. And don't be fooled by the name – sure, Maurya knows **exactly** how a political ad is supposed to sound and how you are supposed to sound on one, but Storefront also manages the public-facing images of companies and institutions with nationwide reach. Hey – if she can wrangle an image and brand for high-profile office-holders, directing actual pros to a good voice-over performance follows more naturally than you might think! Holder of a Master's degree from Dartmouth and proud graduate of Coro's Women in Leadership Program, Maurya brings a new level of expertise in a key genre to Voicetrax.

Tasia Valenza

What's in a name? Well if you should happen to associate Mickey Mouse and an army of self-sweeping brooms with **TASIA VALENZA**, that *might* be by design; "Tasia" actually comes from Disney's Fantasia! You might expect a child star to spring fully formed with such a name, and you wouldn't be entirely wrong; Tasia found herself working at an ice cream store one day and booked for a major motion picture the next, all at a mere 15 years of age! Pile on a role with *All My Children* and the near-immediate money and fame that came with it, and there's no surprise it can all get a bit much at that age. So after taking some time to take

some stock, it was time for a career reboot: "Hi, my name is Tasia Valenza and I'd like you to represent me doing voiceovers. I'm an Emmy nominated Actress... I have a great voice and it seems easy." To Tasia's great fortune, that agent gave her a business card – not for another agent, but for a voice-over coach, and she learned that yes, voice over was indeed a skill and craft very different from on camera, theatre or any other form of acting... and she *loved* it! After six years of doing both on camera and voiceover, it became clear Tasia's heart (and voice!) belonged just to voiceover. Tasia's since cut across nearly any genre you can name – commercials, promos, trailers, narration, radio imaging – recently winning a Telly Award and an Emmy! And she loves teaching such a wonderful craft at Voicetrax too.

Janet Varney

We're big on the Inner Child around here... but for being so pint-sized, some inner children cast a mighty long shadow on their adult selves! Take a 5th-grade **JANET VARNEY** – voracious reader, Weird Al fan and practitioner of silly public voices, parody song-writer and puppeteer, spinner of stories right off the top of her head – and all this at the age of ten? Well look at the grownup performer: voice-over as Korra in *The Legend of Korra*, Mera in *Harley Quinn*, Wonder Woman in *Injustice*... on-camera work in *Stan Against Evil*, *You're The Worst*, and Apple TV's upcoming *Platonic* with Seth Rogen... playing with pals like Rachel Dratch, John Michael Higgins, Michael Hitchcock and Oscar Nunez in Improv supergroup *Theme Park*... and creating *Neil's Puppet Dreams*, starring Neil Patrick Harris and The Henson Company puppets! And let's not forget – Janet is also Co-Founder and Creative Director of *SF Sketchfest: The San Francisco Comedy Festival*, 20 years strong now as one of the largest comedy festivals in Northern America. We think 10-year-old Janet would approve, and we're delighted to have grown-up Janet aboard as a Guest Director at Voicetrax!

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 36 for legal disclaimer.



For Beginners

BEGINNING SEMINAR

Directors: 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

Director: 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

Director: 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

Director: 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.

FOUNDER'S SEMINAR

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

This challenging weekend seminar is script analysis, mic technique and a few surprises all rolled up into one. It's *uncanny* how much better your acting gets when you understand the script, so Samantha will take an in-depth look at that crucial skill of analyzing the script. You'll work on dialogues and bring the scene alive while tapping into a creative side you never knew you possessed that sits lurking beneath the surface. And those surprises we spoke of? Well, if we told you what they were, it wouldn't be a surprise now would it? At the end of the weekend, you'll be shocked, amazed and most importantly excited at the new level of performance you're now capable of. And let's be honest, any time spent with Samantha will turbo-boost your ability to dive into your imagination to make creative acting choices.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

IMPROV FOR VOICE ACTORS

Director: Anna Mathias

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Ever wonder what a bowling butterfly would giggle like? How would a rhino with low self-esteem approach a confrontation with a co-worker? Get ready to find out as you open your mind to all the endless possibilities that live in the universe within you while getting rid of that pesky fear that oppresses your true creative self! In this energetic and fun workout, Anna will jolt you out of your predictable everyday choices, freeing you to take chances and find new and unusual characters, voices and approaches to copy that even you didn't know you had. Using a variety of tried and true theater games and improv techniques that she's perfected over decades of experience, you'll gain confidence as you learn to relax. Not to mention that well-placed improv is an effective way to shake up an audition and get you noticed by casting professionals, a true secret weapon for working voice actors.

VOICE-OVER 411

Director: LA Agent

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: None

This intensive workout with one of Los Angeles' most experienced and enthusiastically supportive talent agents will consist of industry insights, advice and how-to's. Topics such as professionalism, attitude, goals and industry do's & don'ts will be explored. Along with the informative industry conversation with someone who knows the lay of the voice-over land, you'll participate in live in-class performances, getting feedback from Agent B, while getting an exclusive behind the scenes peek at what agents are actually looking for in the auditions they receive. You'll get to ask an industry veteran all your burning questions. A voice-over gift for sure!



For Everyone

INSIDE THE VOICE ACTOR'S STUDIO

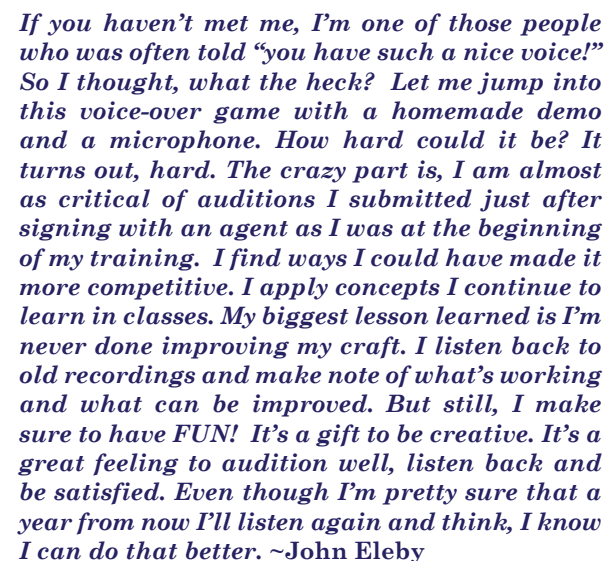

Moderator: Vicki Baum

Special Guest: Matt Moy

Length: 3-hour interview

Class Notes: None

We cannot contain ourselves in anticipation of the next special guest we've invited to our ongoing lecture series. We are so fortunate to welcome our homegrown hero, Matt Moy! As a very successful 'Traxer alum, Matt is prepped and ready to lay down the wisdom he's earned from his already active career including animation series Steven Universe and on-camera in the hit shows 2 Broke Girls and American Auto. Of course, we'll delve into his process of creating a character and analyzing a script (remember this is still a class with lots to learn!), but we'll also dig into the emotional and philosophical approaches of an acting career. We are looking forward to seeing you there to help us digitally welcome Matt home!



If you haven't met me, I'm one of those people who was often told "you have such a nice voice!" So I thought, what the heck? Let me jump into this voice-over game with a homemade demo and a microphone. How hard could it be? It turns out, hard. The crazy part is, I am almost as critical of auditions I submitted just after signing with an agent as I was at the beginning of my training. I find ways I could have made it more competitive. I apply concepts I continue to learn in classes. My biggest lesson learned is I'm never done improving my craft. I listen back to old recordings and make note of what's working and what can be improved. But still, I make sure to have FUN! It's a gift to be creative. It's a great feeling to audition well, listen back and be satisfied. Even though I'm pretty sure that a year from now I'll listen again and think, I know I can do that better. ~John Eleby

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.

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!

VO CEO

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Christy Summers

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: None

As independent contractors, voice actors not only need to be "the talent", but they also need to be the CEO of their voice-over "company". Invoices, goal setting and self-promotion, oh my! The idea of all this "paperwork" can be understandably overwhelming if you've never had to do it before. Worry no more! We are so excited to welcome Christy Summers to the Voicetrax family! *And why you ask?* A voice actor herself, Christy brings her MBA to the lesson plan as she takes you through Business Planning, Marketing and Website Development (*and by development we mean the actual building of a website!*) all with the total understanding of what it's like to be in your exact shoes. You'll explore the business side of show business, so you can get back to the show part in no time flat.



For Intermediate/Advanced Students

ANIMANIA

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Would you like to bolster your confidence, test your creativity, sharpen your technical abilities and strengthen your auditioning techniques? Of course you would! Delve into cartoon and game scripts with one of the best-known animation agents in the business whose clients have voiced some of the most famous animation characters in history including Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Yosemite Sam, The Joker, the Tick, Wakko from the Animaniacs, both Ren and Stimpy, two of the three Powerpuff Girls and half the characters from Futurama. Not to mention hundreds of characters in blockbuster video games like World of Warcraft, The Last of Us, Mass Effect and Transformers. *We're pretty sure at this point, you get our drift...* And that's just *scratching the surface* of her credits. With her trademark straightforward style, this unparalleled authority in the animation field will provide succinct feedback and direction, while still maintaining the fun, spontaneity and inventiveness that character work is all about.

AUDIO TOUR NARRATION

Director: Peter Dunne

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

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

Remember the first time you were transported to another place in time just by listening to an engaging museum audio tour? Learn the art of storytelling with Peter Dunne who has locally cast, directed and produced audio tours for many of the world's best-known museums and most prestigious exhibits. To expand your audio tour auditioning skills, you'll read a wide range of copy from scholarly and intellectually demanding narratives to funny scripts for kids. Peter will coach you on getting through the challenges all voice actors face during long sessions including reading cold, taking direction on the fly, handling difficult words and sustaining energy, characters, dialects, concentration and connection to the copy as you describe and tell an imaginative story.

BRINGING OUT YOUR BESS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Kay Bess

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Come study with a consummate professional that is well into her third decade of voice-over success in the competitive Los Angeles voice-over market. Kay is a true chameleon, crossing all genres of voice-over in her career. She brings her go-getter philosophy to this class while covering several genres including commercials, narration and video games. Kay will even weave in some of her Meisner technique knowledge throughout the weekend to help you get out of your head and behave instinctively to the surrounding environment to bring a truthful luster and personal authenticity to your performances. Work with a dynamic actress whose approach to her acting career and life is to be a perpetual student of the world.

CHARACTER CASTING CALVALCADE



Director: Ned Lott

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Audiences are consuming content in many different ways, and with the plentiful streaming platforms, there are more animation opportunities than ever before. So you better get going on fine-tuning your character auditioning skills. Voice-over producer and director Ned Lott takes you through a series of audition challenges to teach you how to stand out in the casting process. While the cartoony characters definitely still exist and are asked for, the demand for characters with a real sound is increasing, and in this fun and wacky workshop you'll get to perform both. Participate in a "real-world" audition exercise, as a casting notice will be sent to you where you'll "audition" and submit your recordings before class, just as if you were signed to an agency. You'll get an inside look on what casting professionals listen for, as Ned plays back and provides feedback on your auditions.

CHARACTER DISCOMFORT ZONE

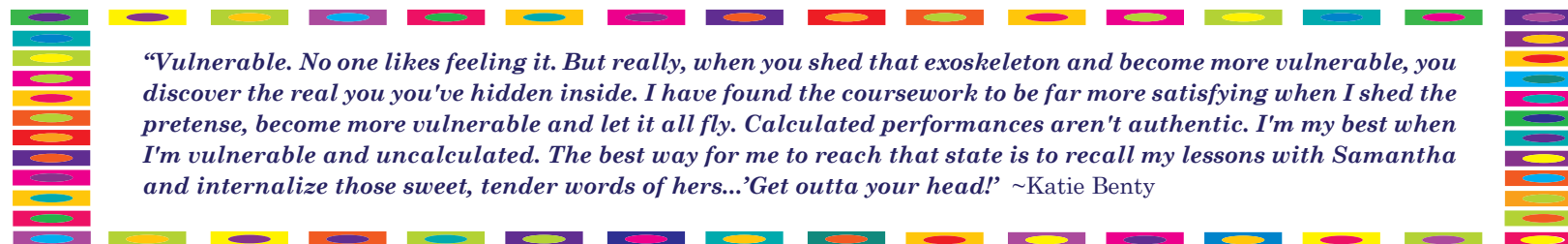
WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course has weekly homework assignments.

There you sit all snuggly and oh so comfortable... aaaahhhh... (insert annoying air horn here) **Now get the "H-E-Double-Hockey-Sticks" up!!!** Are you ready for a challenge? Of course you are because you know very well that nothing ever grows in your comfort zone. But don't fret! Roni, the kindest member of the Voicetrax Think Tank, will guide you through character scripts that are quite intentionally outside of your wheelhouse to make these specific roles, well... part of your wheelhouse. Each week Roni will come at this incredibly relevant exercise from a different approach. One night she might give you a dialogue and plenty of time to practice with your partner, or maybe you'll have a monologue with little to no time to prepare and only your instincts to guide you. As you stretch and grow in a safe environment, you will be amazed at the sizable menagerie of characters you are capable of bringing to life.



"Vulnerable. No one likes feeling it. But really, when you shed that exoskeleton and become more vulnerable, you discover the real you you've hidden inside. I have found the coursework to be far more satisfying when I shed the pretense, become more vulnerable and let it all fly. Calculated performances aren't authentic. I'm my best when I'm vulnerable and uncalculated. The best way for me to reach that state is to recall my lessons with Samantha and internalize those sweet, tender words of hers...'Get outta your head!' ~Katie Benty

COMMERCIAL CONFIDENTIAL

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Dan Gilvezan

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

How does an actor continue to book and flourish after 30+ years in the business without gaining a reputation for being "old school"? Find out as you pick the brain of the incredibly versatile and prolifically successful on-screen and voice actor Dan Gilvezan, who among hundreds of other gigs was the on-camera Jack in the Box spokesman for numerous years! Work out on a variety of commercial copy (some Dan will provide, some you will bring into class, some you will have recorded ahead of time) with the master, and get Dan's take on where you stack up against professional voice actors from Los Angeles. Spend the day with an actor who is enjoying a rich, deep career and who, after all these years, is STILL one of the most sought-after commercial actors in the industry!

COMMERCIALS VS CARTOONS VS VIDEO GAMES

REVISED

NEW GUEST DIRECTORS/+ EXTRA WEEK

Directors: Dan Gilvezan, Kemma Filby, Brian Sommer, Samantha Paris

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This class can and **should** be repeated.

The class name remains the same, but everything else has changed. With these three powerhouse instructors and our Founder utilizing their decades of experience to stretch you, this class could be considered a world premiere! This workshop offers you a side-by-side-by-side look at the differences and similarities between commercial, cartoon and video game characters – when to be broad, when to be subtle and real and everything in between. You'll discover the appropriate lively tone and energy for your Saturday morning characters and learn how to "dial it down" while sustaining the reality and intensity required for video game characters, not to mention developing the funny yet conversational and believable characters that commercial copy demands. You'll gain a deeper understanding of the nuances of these unique voice-over genres and challenge your versatility which is a good thing since our fearless leader, Samantha Paris, will make her appearance in week four where you'll show off your new-found skills and whoever is the best all-around performer in all three genres will **win a free private lesson** with Samantha!

DEPTH OF CHARACTER

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.

DESTINATION TRUTH

Directors: Melissa Gray

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

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

DIALOGUES ONLY



Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Sooooooo.... 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



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

By now you've had a touch of the self-direction ideology of voice-over, and you've likely (*and by likely we mean absolutely, 100%, for sure*) heard from multiple teachers and working professional students that self-direction is the name of the game when it comes to auditioning, and they'd be exactly right. These days you are on your own to create an attention-grabbing, competitive audition. This seminar presents your chance to sit in the actual director's chair, and you'll soon realize that by having to articulate a clear analysis of a script as a director for one of your other classmates, you will gain confidence in your ability to break it down for yourself when you have to. Spend a weekend in the director's chair channeling your "inner Samantha".



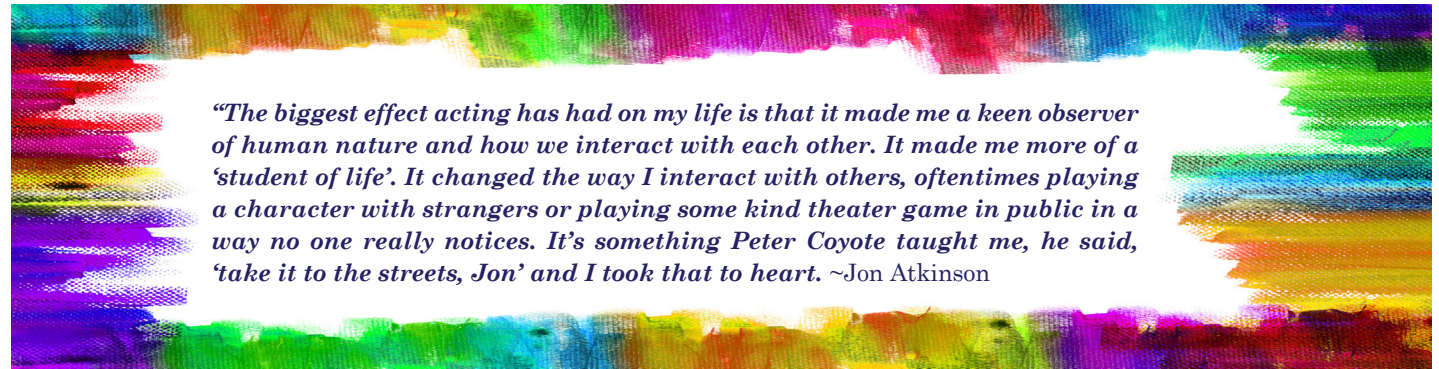
FUNNY MONEY

Director: 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.



GET IN THE ACTING GAME

Director: Dave Fennoy

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: None

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

IT REMAINS TO BE SCENE

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. This course has a one month drop deadline.

It does your acting good to take a break, every once in a while, from voice-over scripts, lest you think the whole world speaks in nothing but thirty and sixty second clips. And Jeannie wanted us to tell you that *"there will in no way, shape or form be ANYTHING voice-over"* in her world premiere, jam-packed, scene study seminar. She will however be partnering you with a dialogue partner and providing you a scene from a film or play (*don't fret there is no memorizing required... whew!*). You will explore, analyze and disappear into your scene throughout the weekend. And because we know that voice-over is acting for the microphone, any time spent strengthening your acting skills in a different medium will inevitably make you a better voice actor.

OFF THE PAGE

Director: Tasia Valenza

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

As you start to really amp up your performances to a working professional, real-world, competitive level, one of the hardest things to do is to take words that you didn't write and might not ever say, at least not in the way they've written it (*have you EVER said introducing while sharing an exciting secret with a best friend?!?*), and make them feel genuine, alive and real, aka "getting the words off the page". Professionally performing since childhood both in front of the camera and behind the microphone, Tasia will employ her tricks of the trade, literally born from a lifetime of breaking down scripts of all flavors, to assist you in digging deep to flush out the true meaning of the script while developing the skills necessary to get unnatural voice-over copy to sound off-the-cuff and true. Approach commercial scripts as "mini plays" from a true actor's perspective to get the most of out the script and your performance.

ONE NIGHT WONDER: GIBBERISH



WORLD PREMIERE!

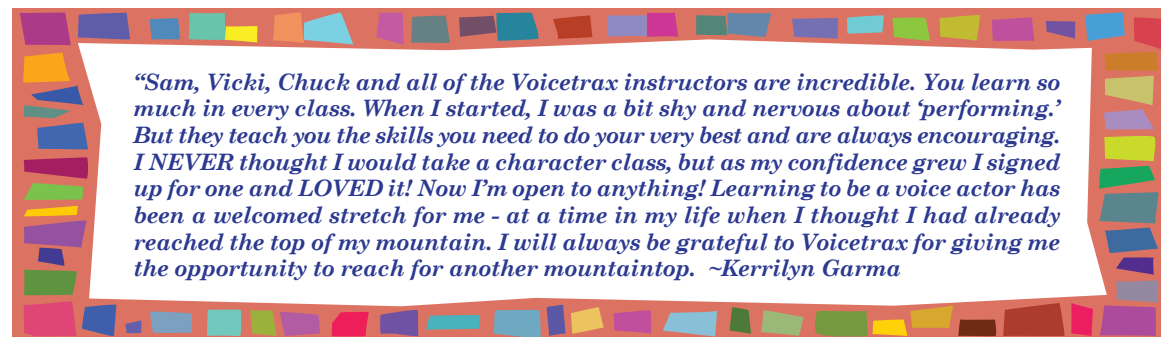
Director: Aaron Miner

Length: 3-hour lab

Class Notes: None

We know gibberish (giving voice to a character without any English words) is intimidating. We totally get it. So, we've taken it upon ourselves to offer you this very lucrative voice-over sector in an easily consumable, non-threatening portion: A One Night Wonder three-hour lab! Experience the freeing, imaginative FUN that comes with gibberish. Using improv games amongst other things, our resident gibberish expert Aaron, will break down this skill set into manageable parts, and build it and you back up again. Before you know it, you will be speaking a language straight from your imagination. And we're betting that like everyone else who took the jump into gibberish before you, that although you might be a bit afraid at first, you will end up calling the office afterwards saying, *"OMG why didn't I take this class sooner? It was so much fun and one of the best classes I've ever had!"* Yepers. We hear that a LOT.

I was told constantly by my family that I was shy, always clinging to my mother's skirts. When I took Vicki's Know Your Zero class, I immediately listed shy as one of my personality traits. Vicki questioned this, so I started investigating the word and discovered that I wasn't really shy, but reserved and quiet; liking to be in the background but still telling people what to do and being in charge. My experience in this class made me realize that I can be strong in who I am, and that I have my own unique voice. Voicetrax has given me new confidence in myself. I find myself willing to experiment and stretch, pushing my boundaries beyond how other people define me. Thank you Voicetrax for helping me make this discovery. ~Sandy McCosh Leonard



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.*

THREE IN A ROW

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



TO EACH HIS OM



WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Erik Braa

Length: 7-hour one-day seminar

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

Take a moment to get into an extra comfortable position, preferably lying down if that's possible, as you take in the information of this world premiere class description. That's right... breath in... and out... *wonderful*. The meditation app industry is set to hit a billion dollars revenue in 2023. Keep that breathing slow and steady, but yes, we did say billion with a B. That kind of snuck up on all of us, didn't it? We have manifested the unlikeliest of instructors to take you on this "guided" tour (see *what we did there?*) of what it takes to be a competitive meditation narrator. Erik Braa, more famously known for his burly, Viking-like characters in a zillion video games, just happens to have the delicate touch for meditation. He'll let you in on the techniques necessary for this burgeoning slice of the voice-over pie. And hey, at the end of the day, who else will be able to say they've been taught how to narrate a meditation app by a Viking?

TOURS, TUTORIALS & TALES: THE STORY WITHIN

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

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

For Advanced Students & Working Professionals

AUDIO TOUR NARRATION: THE NEXT STOP

WORLD PREMIERE!

Directors: Peter Dunne

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

An innovative approach has taken hold (*and getting more popular by the day*) in the audio and multi-media tour industry. While many museums and famous sites still adhere to the narrator/curator driven "guided-looking" method to audio tours, others are looking elsewhere for more immersive and evocative approaches to interpreting art. In this workshop, Peter will explore some of the approaches being developed and expand the conversation into what these might sound like. You'll play with ways to convey the language from these new scripts, which are often informal and suggestive of audience discovery rather than a definitive narrator feel. This workshop will also serve as a refresher for the many audio tours that still seek to offer an informed perspective because well-delivered information never goes out of style!

BEST DAMN DEMO PERIOD: CHARACTERS! & NARRATION!

Directors: Character: Samantha Paris, Brian Sommer
Narration: Vicki Baum, Chuck Kourouklis, Sirenetta Leoni

Length: Character: 15-hour five-week workshop
Narration: 21-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 develop a clear understanding of the demo production process from start to finish including copy selection, recording, editing and post-production. You’ll 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.



CHARACTERS OFF THE CUFF

Director: Janet Varney

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

The Voicetrax universe is soooooo lucky to welcome the incredible Janet Varney. With a lengthy list of character voice-over and on-camera credits, Janet is widely known as the co-founder of the iconic comedy festival, SF Sketchfest. She also has a mighty impressive track record of mixing it up with her famous friends in the improv world. Characters and improv... Improv and characters. *Hmmmmmm... We’re sure we’ve heard that somewhere before.* With Janet combining character scripts with improv games, this class is going to be such a hoot, with lots of zany antics, laughs, and learning, too, that Zoom just won’t do. *Even though we all know how Voicetrax is basically crushing this whole online class thing, if we do say so ourselves.* It’s clear this party has to be experienced live, so it will be an in-person class only. After all is said and done and the frivolity has run its course, Janet will have put a jolt in your character performances that will take your interpretation off the page and book the job, all while having one hell of a time.

WORLD PREMIERE!

DIRECT THYSELF: THE ULTIMATE UNDERTAKING

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 21-hour six-week workshop
(Three Friday afternoons followed by three Thursday nights)

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

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



WORLD PREMIERE!

FINDING THE BUNNY



WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Ah yes, the *infamous bunny*, hopping around with his mischievous smile, wreaking havoc and trampling all over your script analysis confidence. How many times have you found yourself in class or auditioning at home, screaming to yourself, “Where is that f#cking bunny?!?” Well here’s an interesting fact for you to ponder: *sometimes in scripts there isn’t a bunny at all. Wait... what?!? Auuugh!* To help you traverse this panorama is none other than the originator of the whole bunny concept herself, Miss Samantha Paris. *C’mon, who else was going to teach a class called Finding The Bunny, for reals?* Utilizing scripts from Sam and some you pick yourself, the class will include really digging deep into scripts, staring at them to figure out if there truly is a bunny there or not and then performing or directing them. Basically, it’s a Sam class so be ready for anything. Lest you forget finding the bunny in a script will put you ahead of 99% of the rest of the actors you’re competing against, giving you an amazing advantage to book the gig!

F#@K THE SPECS

Directors: Samantha Paris,
Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

The specs on a piece of voice-over copy have long stirred epic debates on how much or how little to pay attention to them. Are the specs a barren wasteland that say, “friendly and conversational”? On the other end of the spectrum, are the specs verbose (*longer than the actual script even*) and conflicting, making it easy to get caught up in them, getting in the way of a truly connected (translation: bookable) performance? So, what do you do? Every time you look at a new script the FIRST THING you should be asking yourself BEFORE you look at the specs is “*what are the words in the script telling me?*” In this workshop, you’ll get the answer to that all-important question. Samantha and Brian will take you through various spec-centric exercises with commercial and characters scripts respectively including reading the script without benefit of the specs to see if you naturally SEE the specs in the script. Find out what happens if you let the words on the page tell you what to do instead of relying on the specs. Take your script analysis skills to the highest level by making strong acting choices that result in a SPEC-tacular performance. *See what we did there?*

HOW'D I BOOK THAT?

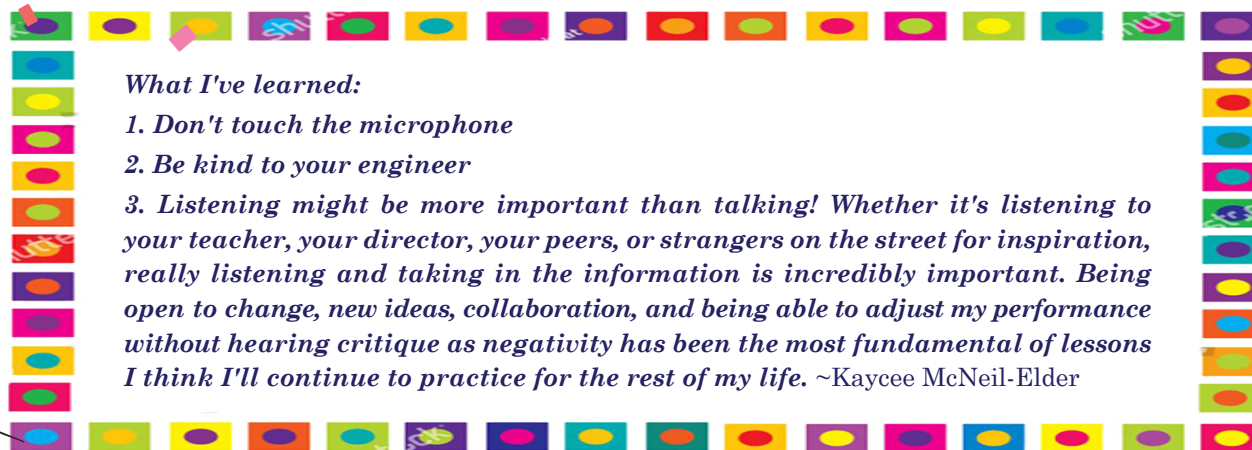
Directors: Thom Pinto, Chuck
Kourouklis, Vicki Baum, Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Do you ever wonder what the actor who booked the gig did in their audition? What was special? What risks did they take? How did your audition stack up against the winning audition? In this exciting class format, your four Guest Directors (*that’s right people, we said FOUR*) will answer all of these burning questions. Each week students will receive two scripts to perform, with minimal direction, since that’s what it’s like in your closet at home. After listening back and discussing the in-class, stand-out performances for each script, you will get to hear the WINNING audition plus a recorded commentary from the actor who booked it. And how lucky are we that it took little to *no effort* to line up numerous former and current Voicetrax students who were eager to help out and lift up their fellow ‘Traxers by divulging their tricks of the home-auditioning trade? Another bountiful benefit sprung forth from the celebrated Voicetrax family camaraderie. A unique and wonderful window into the thought process of successful, working voice actors.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



What I've learned:

- 1. Don't touch the microphone*
- 2. Be kind to your engineer*
- 3. Listening might be more important than talking! Whether it's listening to your teacher, your director, your peers, or strangers on the street for inspiration, really listening and taking in the information is incredibly important. Being open to change, new ideas, collaboration, and being able to adjust my performance without hearing critique as negativity has been the most fundamental of lessons I think I'll continue to practice for the rest of my life. ~Kaycee McNeil-Elder*

IT TAKES TWO

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course has a pre-class homework assignment that includes memorizing an assigned scene prior to class which means this course has a drop deadline that is one month (not two) before class starts. **Class may be repeated.**

Dive into the invigorating world of partner work using scene scripts from plays and movies. Explore the true, honest, human connections that allow the craft of acting to truly awaken in your soul and lead you to a riveting or hilarious or poignant performance. Your time with Samantha will strengthen your overall acting skills including being more authentic, "in the moment" and letting the character speak through you. Ultimately this experience will absolutely, positively make you a better voice actor.

MEN ONLY: WELCOME TO ANNOUNCERVILLE!

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Men, if you've been told once, you've been told a million times in specs, "we don't want an announcer, blah, blah, blah". But what about all those roles as newscasters, sportscasters, play-by-play commentators, game show guys, talk show hosts, field reporters, retro announcers, newsreel announcers, infomercial guys? (take a deeeeeeep breath) Oh yeah and there ARE still commercials who want a traditional announcer. So, if you've been told you're too announcery then this class is for you. And even if you haven't been told you're too announcery, there is money to be made in this area, so ALL MEN serious about expanding their range and marketability should be developing these skills. Act now!! Limited time offer!!! Operators are standing by.

NARRATION DISSERTATION

Directors: Vicki Baum,
Thom Pinto, Maurya Tollefson

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

It's time for Voicetrax students to speak up! Perhaps not as long as an actual dissertation (*it rhymes with narration, so we had to use it. Whaddya gonna do?*), but in this world premiere seminar, students will be asked to verbalize exactly what their interpretation of the script is BEFORE they perform. These three experts will send their feedback back at you on three levels: 1) On your "thesis statement" and how successfully your plan was deployed, 2) whether or not it was the best plan for that particular script, and 3) on the actual performance itself. Three different and popular subgenres of narration covered... three narration experts... giving three levels of feedback. Triple the FUN!

WORLD PREMIERE!

ONE NIGHT WONDER: AI VOICES

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 3-hour lab

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

With the development of voices actually created by computers, where do voice actors fit in the AI cosmos? How do you actually do AI voices? Fear not, the good news is computers can't act! Brian will help you through the examinations of: should your voice be robotic or sound like Siri or just sound like a normal person? And how do you find range in your AI audition? Ironically, how do you bring AI voices to life? All these pressing questions and so much more will be covered in this lab. You'll dig into the exploration of the subtle nuances necessary to bring the computer, robot, high-tech aliens, whatever they think of next, etc., etc., etc. to life.

ONE NIGHT WONDER: MEDICAL NARRATION



WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 3-hour lab

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

Do you wonder if medical narration is right for you? News Flash: It is! Once you get past any initial hesitation, you'll find that long medical words are just... words. And before you think you don't have the right "voice" for medical narration, we are here to tell you that those doors are opening wider and wider with each passing year. It's important to remember that this niche of the narration world is very profitable because once medical narration clients, producers and the like know they can trust you with the necessary jargon, they will hire you time and time again, creating a lucrative repeat client. We're pretty sure that's the dream, right?



REMOTELY SPEAKING

Directors: Carli Silver,
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, no-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 additional of New York-based Carli from the casting juggernaut Sound & Fury never before has this class been so on-point about how to turn out bookable performances.

T.G.I.F.!

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 16-hour four-week workshop

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

In this buffet 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 ALL-TOO-REAL REALITY CHECK

Director: LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

It's time to get real, people... no, *reeeeally* real... a competitive, professional kind of real. And there is NO ONE better for that assignment than our sublime Agent R from The City of Angels. Following our popular Reality Check brand of classes, this new animation edition will be jam-packed with feedback on your home-recorded performances. Straight-forward, precise but thorough, our super experienced instructor will open your eyes to the multitude of ways to tackle animation.

WORLD PREMIERE!

THE MOY WONDER

Director: Matt Moy
Length: 3-hour lab

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Students must have home recording capabilities.
Prerequisite: Attendance at the Inside The Voice Actor's studio morning session.

Lo and Behold! Our beloved son has returned, and boy oh boy does he have a tale to tell. From his time on prime-time television or his character credits, Matt is stoked to guide you through a variety of animation scripts. After attending the morning's *Inside The Voice Actor's Studio* session and learning all about Matt's story, it'll be time for you to work with this very special Voicetrax rock star! From home recording performances that will receive feedback in class, to fun and exciting animated characters performed live in class, you'll get an opportunity to pick his brain and learn how Matt's experienced, comedic timing applies to dissecting scripts. And with Matt at the helm, a wondrous time is sure to be had by all.

WORLD PREMIERE!

Lessons I learned at Voicetrax:

- *Clench your butt to sound serious*
- *Yellow is my least favorite color*
- *Characters are fun AF*
- *It's selection not rejection*
- *People in power don't need to raise their voice*
- *Performing helps me not overthink*
- *Be unexpected*
- *You'll get used to the sound of your voice*

~Grace Barrett-Snyder



TRAILERS AND PROMOS AND \$\$, OH MY!

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Richard Redfield

Length: 7-hour one-day seminar

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

Any class that has dollar signs in its title is not being subtle in the least. *Hey you! Yeah, you! Money over here!* Follow Richard Redfield, a prolific producer in this realm, down the yellow brick road to voice-over riches in the movie trailer and promo branches of the voice-over industry. Both deceptively challenging, trailers and promos definitely have a melody all their own and Richard is here to be your conductor in this snappy, one-day lab. You'll dig into this world that requires booming voices AND the girl/guy next door read. *Do you know how hard it is to write a trailer class description without saying "in a world"? Oh snap, we just said it.*

UTILITY PLAYER UNIVERSITY

WORLD PREMIERE!

Directors: LA Agent

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

Just like any career, the more versatile your skill set is, the more attractive you are to agents, producers, casting agents and ultimately... clients. School is in session and Agent B is locked and loaded and ready to knock your socks off with her "cornucopia of variety" lesson plan. Each night the focus will be on a different genre of voice-over, so not only will you receive feedback and script analysis ideas, techniques and approaches from one of the hardest working agents in the business, you'll be strengthening your ability to create momentum in your booking rate by being the ultimate utility player.

VOICE-OVER PENTATHLON



Director: Samantha Paris, Ryan Clark, Kemma Filby, Anna Mathias, Tina Morasco

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: We're sure with the plethora 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 SIX different lesson plans with a little something here for everyone including commercial, promo, characters improv and more, *(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.

"Voicetrax has been a transformative experience. While I once feared taking on a character, I now relish it! I look forward to a bright future with their help." ~John Anderson



WHAT'S IN YOUR WHEELHOUSE

Director: Vicki Baum, Roni Gallimore, Brian Sommer

Length: 10.5-hour three-week workshop

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

There are quintessential animation characters, popular commercials types and archetypal narration reads that producers and casting directors ask for on a regular basis. Do you know what they are? And more importantly, do they reside in your wheelhouse? They better... because versatility is the key to success and knowing what the industry calls for is the key to versatility. Spend three weeks with voice actors Vicki, Roni & Brian who will provide you a detailed list of the kinds of characters, commercial and narration types that land in their email inbox every single day. What does Generation X or a Millennial sound like? How many video games villains do you need in your back pocket? Is your health care read in check? And just what does transgender sound like? After absorbing this valuable knowledge, you'll begin your wheelhouse adventure working through scripts that fit the required read. A three-week odyssey of discovery with soooooo many different lessons to learn!



WOMEN ONLY: THE LEGENDS

Director: Samantha Paris, Kay Bess, Tasia Valenza

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

What happens when you bring three powerhouse women together? A weekend you'll never forget! Your three instructors are bringing their top-notch stuff (*c'mon, when don't they?*) to this "ladies only club" of a seminar. You'll cover a variety of scripts (commercial, narration and characters) focused specifically for women and learn from Samantha, Kay & Tasia how they created longevity in their careers and how the opportunities for the female gender continue to grow every day in the voice-over industry. This seminar will be a combination of learning A LOT and growing together in a nurturing environment, the kind that Voicetrax is legendary for. There's nothing better than when a group of dynamic women get together headed by the power of three.

WORLD PREMIERE!

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN: THE ART OF SELF-DIRECTION

Directors: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

A world-class authority on the intricacies of home auditioning, Thom will guide you through developing a critical ear on playbacks, examining your initial tendencies (good or bad) when left on your own, covering the bases for an audition with no outside direction (*minus some likely confusing and unhelpful specs*) and finding the best rhythm for auditioning amid demanding day jobs and all the responsibilities that stem from that little thing called life. After class is finished, Thom will provide each student with a customized analysis, a cheat-sheet if you will, based on what he observed in class to keep you on the right path as you record at home and enable you to produce consistently impressive home auditions all on your own. Now that home auditioning is here to stay, this course is more relevant than ever!

One of the first pieces of advice I got was to be patient. That's really hard in an instant gratification world and also for someone (me) who's been waiting to do voice-over for years and who's an eager learner. Be patient? But fast forward and I'm so much more aware of how much there is to learn. And I am determined to be patient as I keep learning along the way! ~Hilary Percy



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!