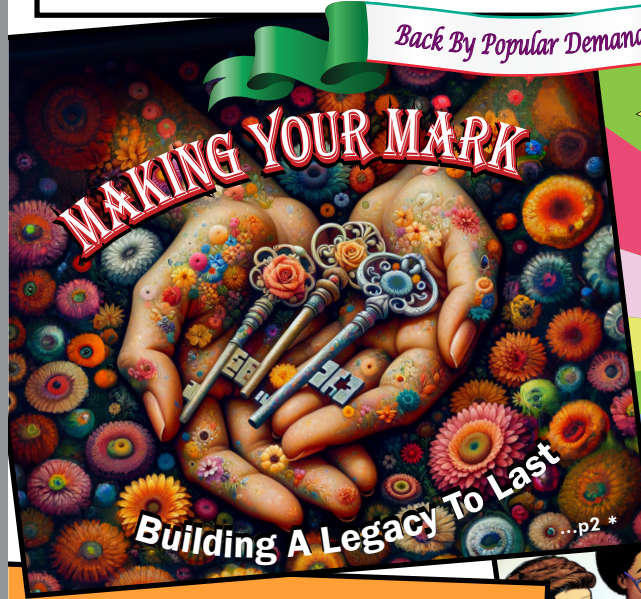


the Voicetrax Star

2024 Edition

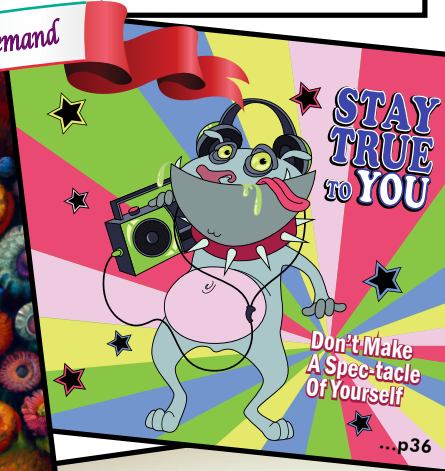
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Back By Popular Demand



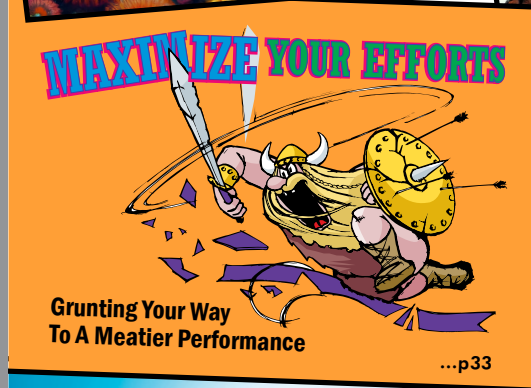
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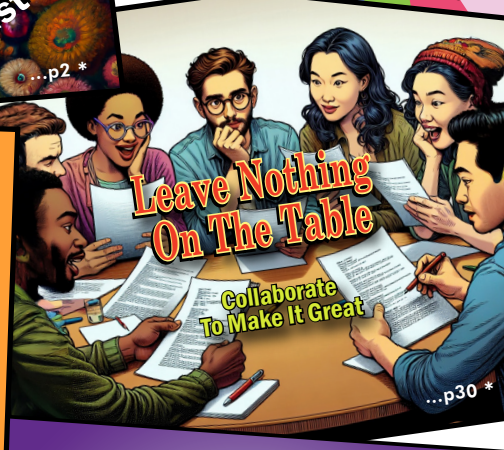
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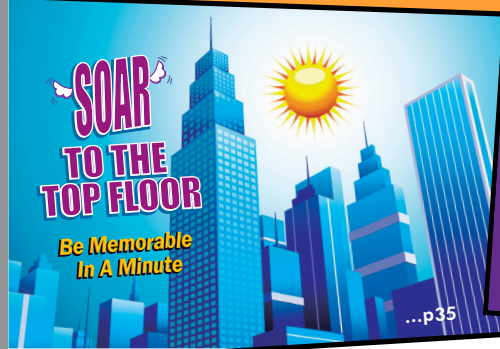
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Founder's- Think Tank Message

*Someone is sitting in the shade today because
someone planted a tree a long time ago*
~Warren Buffet

When the word legacy is bandied about, the discussion can be from the perspective of the person leaving the legacy or the perspective of the person (or people) inheriting the legacy. How do you integrate those two perspectives together? Well, we are about to attempt this in a one-of-a-kind message, that's not just from our Founder, Samantha, but from us, your new owners lovingly referred to as The Voicetrax Legen-**wait for it**-dary Think Tank: Vicki, Roni & Chuck.

A Venn diagram represents the union or intersection of two sets. The intersection shows what items are shared between those two sets. Luckily for the whole of the Voicetrax community, the Venn diagram between your Founder and The Think Tank is mighty expansive. And why is that? It's because all four of us have worked collaboratively for over a decade to evolve Voicetrax into what it has become today, collectively inspired by the creativity, courage and joy of you, our students. We have benefitted greatly from working for an owner that has continuously included us in most of the decisions, big and small, that have shaped Voicetrax. And Samantha benefitted from having a team that cares about you, the student body, as much as she does.

So where does that leave you now in this time of transition? The answer is simple: in good hands. (**Wait... we've heard that somewhere before...**) In the hands of three individuals who make a great team and have learned from a tremendous leader how to mentor each of you individually. One of the things that all four of us agree on every, single day is that we do all of this for you, our beloved community. And that is something that will never change.

But the Voicetrax legacy goes beyond community. For our school to have endured and thrived for over 35 years, there had to be a substantial foundation of educational excellence. From Voicetrax's inception, Samantha was single-minded in her belief that if someone came to her with a dream of becoming a working voice actor, that goal could only be realized with the highest pedigree of instructors. Those elevated standards were the cornerstone to the early success that Voicetrax enjoyed, becoming the number one voice-over academy in the country.

But you know what they say, it's much more difficult to stay on top (especially for 35 years) than it is to get there. That takes next level passion, grit and unyielding determination. Coming up with innovating classes year after year, taught by the industry's **FINEST**, always adding to our dynamic troupe of Guest Directors while mastering the online business model in a way no other school has. Thankfully for the last decade Samantha didn't have to do all of this on her own. She mentored all three of us, your Think Tank, to share in her passion and vision.

Our promise to you is that mediocrity will never find a home at Voicetrax. Our combined ambition to never settle for second best, deeply instilled in us by Samantha, is all a part of the Voicetrax legacy that we look to steer to even greater heights. So, it's time to get excited for yet another semester of cool classes with fun, funky names. Let's get learning!!

In Service to the Cause and Love Always,

Samantha, Vicki, Roni & Chuck



LEGACY

The idea is not to live forever, but to create something that will.

-Andy Warhol

Legacy.

Each day, we have an opportunity to influence what type of impact we make and the significance we leave behind. Our choices about the lives we live determine the impressions of the people around us who inevitably are the ones that tell the stories of our time on earth. Deep within all of us there is an intrinsically motivated, universal longing for purpose. We want our lives to have meaning, and to be remembered, as we leave an enduring stamp on the world around us. Being remembered provides us the comfort of symbolic immortality as we grow older. In short, we want to leave a lasting impression.

A legacy can take many forms. Ethics, core values, monetary, assets, etc. A legacy may come from one's character, reputation and the life you lead, setting an example for others that assists



in guiding futures. But what does it mean to leave a legacy? It means not only chasing and fulfilling your own dreams, but also inspiring others to achieve theirs. A good legacy can serve as an example for the next generation, so they can see the values you lived by and the positive impact left by your actions. Legacy is planting seeds in a garden and having someone else tend to it.

Unlock Your Passion

It makes sense that (*and you should wholeheartedly want*) your passions to go beyond your dream job of voice-over and become a part of your identity and an extension of who you are. Passion reflects your values and desires, and contributes

to your personal growth and is the source where destiny springs from. Yet many people are unwilling to do the hard work to realize the milestones that emanate from your dreams. Passion

is what gives you the grit to keep going, even in moments of doubt, which will undoubtedly crop up on any path that truly means something to you including such a creative endeavor as career in the voice-over industry.

Be Yourself

Your future (or current) voice-over career is literally begging you to be yourself. No matter how weird/alternative you think you are, you need to appreciate your distinct self, because clients will. Each person is unique, and everyone has at least a little weirdness in themselves. **Let it out.** And while we're at it why don't you stop doubting yourself. It can be very easy if you are constantly comparing yourself with others and wondering why is that student "better than me?" First off, who knows if they really are better than you: they're different, not necessarily better. Besides, that's not for you to decide so let go of that responsibility. That's for others (agents, casting professionals, directors) to decide. That's their job. Leave them to it. Secondly, it is entirely wasted energy to worry about your competition. You can't control their skill level. But the good news is you CAN

control your skill level with practice, consistency and determination. But to be clear, being yourself does not mean being stuck in the status quo. Aim for what you want and put in the work every day, even if it's just five minutes, for that accomplishment. The catch is improving while remaining true to yourself. Now we know this is very easy to say and much harder to do. You'll be amazed the more often you give yourself the benefit of the doubt and just be YOU, that your confidence with who you are will grow. Believe in yourself. The alternative is not helpful or moving you any closer to your end game.



The Need To Belong

Why do we feel the need to belong? Scientifically speaking, it's hardwired in our DNA. But beyond that, the social ties that accompany a sense of belonging are a protective factor helping manage stress and other behaviors. When we feel we have support and are not alone in our experience, we are more resilient, often coping more effectively with difficult times in our lives. The need to belong can increase empathic accuracy, cooperation, and performance. This is why the community we've built over the last thirty-five years plus at Voicetrax means so much, to so many.

*Your positive actions create a legacy
that inspires other to dream more, learn
more, do more and become more.*

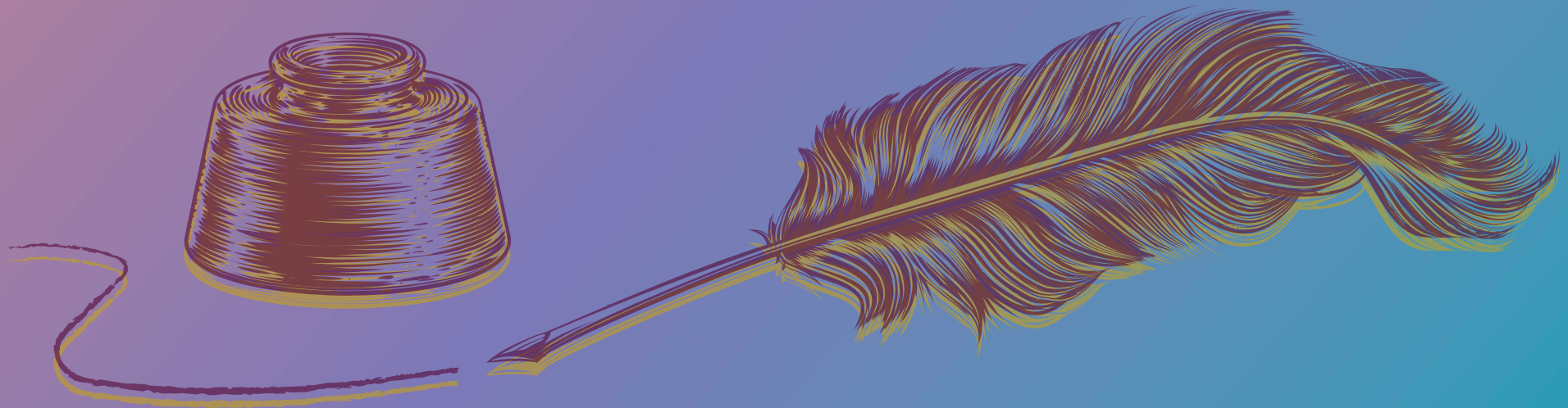
~Dolly Parton

There is an extraordinarily special generational legacy in the Voicetrax community. As you make your way through the different levels of classes, you tend to explore that landscape with some of the same people over and over, a cohort if you will. Bonds deepen with an unwritten understanding of a shared experience. And the beauty of consistently inviting new creatives to join our island of misfit toys, is there is a new group of people to help guide, inspire and encourage what you've already been through. That's a legacy. We are a product of all who came before us, and in the instance of Voicetrax that's a beautiful phenomenon.

It all comes down to treating people well, inspiring and supporting them to greater heights and taking one's leave at the peak of the party. Legacy also means new beginnings

while honoring what you've learned from the people, places and events that have come before you.

Be courageous. Challenge orthodoxy. Stand up for what you believe. Don't let average be your legacy. The things you do for yourself are gone when you're gone, but the things you do for others remain. You get to decide the legacy that you leave with the micro-decisions you make every day. And don't fret over having to be perfect because perfection never moved anything forward. Besides, your rule covers your ability to work hard and the determination with which you move forward, as well as the perspective you choose to take and the grace you offer as you interact with the multitude of people who come and go in and out of your life. And when the time comes in your life and you are in your rocking chair talking to your grandchildren (or grand nieces and nephews), many years from now, be sure you have a good story to tell. Legacy is not about leaving something behind for other people. It's leaving something behind in other people. We all have the need and the desire to be heard, to have our ideas, wants, and emotions expressed for others to hear, to see, and to understand. We all want to matter and leave a mark. What will yours be?



AFTERGLOW

It was another ROUSING success when The Think Tank held the most recent episode of our lecture series Inside The Voice Actor's Studio live from their hotel room while attending VO Atlanta, the biggest voice-over conference in the world! Our guest, Chloe Schneider, casting professional at DreamWorks, was on point from the very start by giving a valuable, important and relevant look behind the curtain. We spanned Chloe's entire career as an actor, talent agent and now, casting pro. So many amazing moments, but it seems it was one line that really hit everyone: Welcome To My Show, when explaining how to get over nerves and overthinking while auditioning. Your audition is YOUR show, so relax, be yourself and let the creativity rip!

Here's just a fraction of the feedback we received from students in attendance:

"Welcome to my show!" That left a remarkable impression on me!
~Donnabel Pastrana

This was an amazing experience. To have an insider's look into the casting process of a major animation studio was very informative and insightful. From listening to auditions all day, to talking with animation directors about projects, it's almost mind-boggling to see what she goes through for any project. I am thankful for this class for the wonderful information they've provided for us. ~Jessy Medina

Excellent. Extremely informative speaker. Very engaging and fun to listen to. Loved her giggle. ~Sandy Leonard

I enjoyed her honest responses. She gave some real valuable nuggets. My favorite quote of hers was, "Welcome to my show." That says it all about the mindset, confidence and ability to make a choice, commit and deliver when auditioning. She also talked about authenticity: "having a life is very important to being an artist." It was pleasurable to listen and I liked that Voicetrax allowed the students to ask our questions directly. ~Trenia Wearing

This class was invaluable. Vicki Baum's interview with Chloe Schneider provided great insights from her experience in acting, casting, and talent representation. The discussion reinforced the many lessons I've learned in Voicetrax classes. I came away with many useful ideas on how to move to the next level. ~Deb Skeaton

I truly enjoyed hearing the many insights and common-sense advice that Chloe shared during Inside The Voice Actor's Studio. So much great information that helps me and all of us see more clearly the journey we are taking. Brava Chloe and Voicetrax for your time and allowing us to hear from working professionals! ~Arthur Vassar

I had a great time Saturday. I would expect everyone mentions the great line "Welcome to My Show!" (I immediately wrote it down.) It was a great reminder that auditions and acting and doing this is supposed to be FUN. And that my personality is not only expected to be part of the audition but required. It was great to hear her perspective and be able to see auditions from a different angle. – Alex Drude

GET VOCAL!!



Newest Guest Director, Lee Porter, laying down some serious knowledge.



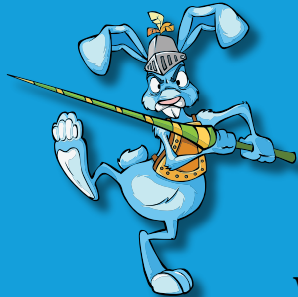
Brian Sommer, Chuck Kourouklis and a whole bunch of new voice-over friends in-person and online.



What an AMAZING day our 2nd Annual Voicetrax Community Day was. Not only were all our treasured 'Traxers who showed up (both online and in-person) in TOP performance form in the booth and from home, we enjoyed some gob-smacking performances from virtual and in-person newcomers! Special thanks go out to Character Extraordinaire BRIAN SOMMER who graced us with a few hours of his genius direction, and a very special NEW Guest Director, animation house showrunner LEE PORTER, who is joining the family this semester. Check out his bio on page 8 and his World Premiere class One Day Wonder: The Show Must Go On (hee, hee, hee... see what we did there?) on page 16.



Nora Schlepner (standing), the Ford family, Roni Gallimore and Laura Almada taking in the main studio action from the lobby.



SAMANTHA PARIS...

She will always be our Founder...

We are all full of gratitude that you are our founder and for enriching our lives in so many different ways. Congratulations on having the courage to continue to seek your own happiness and new adventures in life. Just know you will always be loved far more than you can possibly imagine, and thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you forever and ever and always.

~Augustin Stucker

We love you and appreciate EVERYTHING you have done for us. Thank you, my friend. On to an exciting new adventure.

xoxo

~Katy Lawrence

What an incredible journey and honor to train with you over the years. Thank you for everything you have poured into us.

We're the artists we are because of the principles and support you have given. Best wishes on this exciting new journey!

~Lyra Levin

*Wishing you all the best!
Italy is so beautiful, you'll fit right in! So happy you will still be a part of Voicetrax!
Lots of love and joy to you and Graz!*

~Carol Coyle

Being able to study at Voicetrax has been a dream come true for me. It's made me feel like I was finally a legit student of voice-over acting. Thank you for being you. You have not wavered from that, and I commend you. Thank you for truly caring about each one of us. It is not taken lightly or for granted. Best wishes on your continued journey of self-discovery.

~Deb Fowler

My deepest gratitude for your compassionate teachings and enthusiasm, and for guiding generations of fantastic actors.

~Mirabel Miscala

Your principles are the cornerstone of my philosophy of excellence, and I take them wherever I go. I've even felt like notes from class have got me through tough hours during my trail races.

~Tyson Underwood

So proud of all you've accomplished and all those that have passed through your doors. From one of your fortunate pupils and Sammy Award™ Nominee.

~Monterey Morrissey

Congratulations, not only on your own early success but on the huge influence you have had on thousands of people. I wish you the best in the delectable wonderland of Italy. Buona fortuna e buon viaggio a voi due!

~Les Villanyi

Change can be hard and the unknown, scary. But after the first leap, a whole new world awaits you. And the road you start out on may not be the one you end up on, but it's the one you were MEANT to be on. I'm so happy that you will continue in your role of Founder.

~Kerrilyn Garma

I will never be able to thank you enough for all your love, energy, wisdom and craft. So, I'm not even gonna try. I love you to the moon and back. Congratulations!

~Angela Marie Volpe

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. word for it, see for yourself. But first, a bit about our founder...

She will *always* be our Founder...

Voicetrax San Francisco Founder **SAMANTHA PARIS** is a multiple award-winning voice actor, 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). She has successfully run the most respected, comprehensive and unique voice over training academy in the nation since 1988. Proudly in March of this year, she handed over the reins of her company to her three most deserving employees of nearly twenty years: Chuck Kourouklis, Vicki Baum and Roni Gallimore.



For the past 35 years, Samantha has trained more than 15,000 aspiring and working voice actors in the San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, and now, from all over the nation and the world, thanks to video conferencing.

Among her peers and the VO community at-large, her contributions to the industry are legendary.

How it began...

Samantha began performing at the age of five under her given name, Bobbi Block and landed an agent as a teen. Over the next twelve years, Samantha enjoyed a career in Los Angeles 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 several leading appearances in episodic television and a starring role in the ABC After School Special, *I Think I'm Having A Baby*. She also starred with Michael Landon in a two-episode story line on *Highway To Heaven*. Samantha enjoyed tremendous success as a voice actor, including three Clio Awards.

In 1988, she moved to the Bay Area. While continuing her voice over career, she began giving VO lessons to budding voice actors and formed Voicetrax San Francisco. The media world quickly caught on to Samantha's groundbreaking work and widely featured her in media outlets throughout Northern California, including all major newspapers, the then hugely popular Ronn Owens radio show (several appearances) and local television programs.

By the time the *San Francisco Chronicle* deemed her "the most successful voice over coach and casting director in the Bay Area," Voicetrax had become a haven for people from all walks of life to "find their voice" through voice acting. Voicetrax was also the "go-to" for fresh up and coming voice actors and top voice over professionals, as it was the number one casting house for 15 years. Producers from the Bay Area and beyond were confident that through Voicetrax, they could find top notch talent for their projects.

Three and a half decades later, Voicetrax continues to stand out as the premier voice over training center in the country due in part to Samantha's fierce belief that "talent can be taught!" That and the fact that she is equally as passionate about mentoring each of her students as well as coaching them. To learn more about Samantha, read her acclaimed memoir!

As the new proprietors, Vicki Baum, Chuck Kourouklis & Roni Gallimore (aka VCR, aka The Voicetrax Legen – wait for it – dary Think Tank) are so proud to keep the over 35-year legacy of Voicetrax San Francisco alive. With a combined 40 years experience at the school, and being working voice actors themselves, they can empathize with you as they are all on a path of exploration and self-discovery themselves. Take a look...



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 our narration guru (Apple, Google and Cisco, oh my!), our very own villainous “Storm Queen” from the global phenomenon *Vainglory*, the ubiquitous voice of utility company PG&E, Voicetrax Alum (but she still takes classes!), and honored as Voicetrax’s Top Teacher in 2020, **VICKI BAUM**. Vicki’s outlook and personal experience, including her decade-long tenure as an employee of Voicetrax, 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 the most passionate and generous directors we’ve got.



CHUCK KOUROUKLIS

Now who manages to feel like a misfit for having a big, deep voice? It was the first question the 20-year employee of Voicetrax **CHUCK KOUROUKLIS** asked Voicetrax Founder Samantha Paris when he began as a Voicetrax student 21 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 weasel-ey “Agent Frank” on the Netflix animated series *Captain Fall* to the light-sounding guy next door for the multitude of commercials he’s done. 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.



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 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!

Vicki, Chuck and Roni are ready to build on the industry-leading legacy of Voicetrax. Their vision for the school will continue to focus on the students and what’s best for them including the most dynamic group of Guest Directors assembled offering the most distinguished level of acting tutelage anywhere.

None of this would have been possible without the support of their mentor, teacher and biggest cheerleader, Samantha Paris, the Founder of Voicetrax San Francisco. The new proprietors couldn’t be more excited to carry Voicetrax into a dazzling future!

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 Trebec. And considering he actually built the studio to service all these clients, he’s absolutely got your home setup covered no matter what challenges you might be facing! So, when you’re ready to hit those flippers and go full-tilt on your home studio, Kevin’s your man!

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'.



DAVE FENNOY

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



DEVIN GLISCHINSKI

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

MELISSA GRAY

It's actually something that sounds better when you scream it: "VOLUME IS NOT AN ACTING CHOICE!" – certainly a bedrock principle for all those tender, sensitive

microphones you'll encounter as a voice actor. But oddly enough, **MELISSA GRAY** wasn't even thinking strictly as a voice actor when she came up with that mantra. Melissa is a theater purist, you see, and although she'd studied with Stella Adler and Terry Schreiber, and then ignited a great career on stage, she had no idea what a voice-over even WAS until casting agents from a New York advertising agency wound up in the audience one night for a showing of *Burn This!* A one-week voice-over intensive program left Melissa with this piece of brusque wisdom: "you've got money written all over your voice, but you don't know squat what to do with it!" So, Melissa just resorted to what came naturally: she relied purely on her acting skills to translate and enliven commercial copy, booked a three-year campaign for Hanes Her Way panties right out of the gate and never looked back – and if that doesn't prove voice-over is all about *acting, acting, acting*, what does? Melissa's since developed an entire series of study for undergrads and MFA students in Acting and Creative Writing at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and she brings a specially tailored program to Voicetrax!



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.

PJ OCHLAN

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

KRISTIN PAIVA

“Oh, so what, are you Minnie Mouse?” Yes, **KRISTIN PAIVA** has heard it around 987,463 times – not that this sort of brusqueness surprises her much when she mentions her 18-plus-year history with Disney, but it's given her a bit of a complex about her ears. Nevertheless, Kristin takes the cliché with the good, because even after being raised on Disney and always wanting to work for them, she would never in a million years have dreamed she'd be the self-styled Disney Junior Queen, managing a myriad of Disney Junior casting projects including the Sensational 6! Kristin landed that Disney job one mere day after she moved from Northern to Southern California, and she hasn't looked back since, working with such greats as Tress MacNeille, Frank Welker and Dan Povenmire, creator of Phineas and Ferb. So it's no surprise Kristin is parlaying these storied accomplishments into the founding of Paiva Productions, where she channels her hard-won expertise into the realms of casting, dialogue directing, and voice-over coaching. And because of her fervent commitment to and steadfast support for emerging talent, we couldn't be happier to have her on board!



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 30 years.

LEE PORTER

Sometimes the key to success is simply not knowing what isn't possible. Take the case of Guest Director **LEE PORTER**, hailing from Toronto in the Great White North. He might have had no idea what he was getting into those years ago as a freshly minted recording engineer, agreeing to sound-supervise an unknown animation project, after hours and strictly on his own time – but 150 shorts for a pilot incubator and numerous popular series later, Lee came away with a comprehensive education in casting, voice direction, production managing, improv direction, and his Supervising Producer/Showrunner role at Look Mom! Productions. Fast forward a few years to a whole new show getting greenlit *days* before the pandemic shut everything down, and does it even occur to Lee to panic? NOPE! He spearheaded the organization of remote writer's rooms, recording gear distribution to cast members for set-up in closets, bathrooms and sheds to get as close to studio-quality as possible, ALL while recording Zoom ensemble performances drawing from actors in Toronto, LA, Australia and New Zealand – and completing two seasons of TV entirely from home! No surprise, then, that Lee has directed and produced shows for Amazon Prime, Roku, FOX, Discovery+ and Adult Swim, with shows in development for Hulu and Sony. Considering all the angles Lee's covered, we couldn't be happier to have him sharing the benefits of his wisdom at Voicetrax!

CARLI SILVER

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 & 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, PJ Masks, Prey, Watchdogs II, Rift, and Disney Hidden Worlds*. 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 all her knowledge and business experience here at 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 reflect, she realized 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

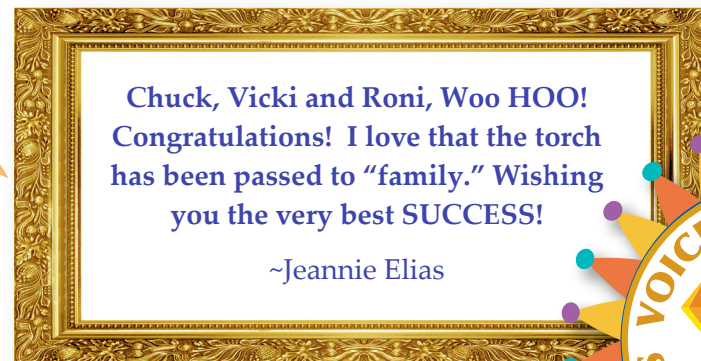
Hailing from San Francisco, Los Angeles & New York, *absolutely the finest around* – we'd seriously need numerous more pages of catalogue to list out just a fraction of the credits attributed to these talent agencies due to their impressive celebrity and non-celebrity client list. While SAG/AFTRA union 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 over 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 all-new hybrid class format where there are both in-person students as well as online students in the same class!

We realize that with the multitude of classes to choose from it may be a bit daunting to know what curriculum strategy would work best for your specific and unique situation. But because we are a school enthusiastically committed to mentoring each student individually, we encourage you to contact our team for guidance at (415) 331-8800. Any member of our team who answers the phone can help you identify the courses that are most appropriate for your needs at each particular stage of your training. For actual dates and prices of classes, please see the registration form on our website at www.voicetraxsf.com. See page 18 for legal disclaimer.



For Beginners

BEGINNING SEMINAR

Director: Roni Gallimore,
Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

If you are ready to begin your adventure into voice-over training, THIS IS THE PLACE TO START! Launch into a weekend hybrid (both online and in-person) seminar packed full of information, performance exercises and FUN. You'll explore basic voice acting fundamentals including detailed acting choices and script interpretation – including playback and feedback of recorded performances, making this class a unique experience in online training choices. As Roni and Aaron take you through numerous scripts, by the end of the weekend you'll have a much clearer understanding of the voice acting craft, and an awareness of the particular set of skills and techniques you'll need to succeed in the current voice-over marketplace.

CREATING CHARACTERS

Director: 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.


INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 5-hour one-day seminar

Class Notes: None

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 including figuring out who you are talking to, and really WHY you are saying the words on the paper (and btw it’s not because you are selling a product,) will not only give 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.



I want to say congratulations to you three, Vicki, Chuck & Roni! I couldn't think of better people to take over the reins. You all deserve it and have put (and continue to do so!) so much heart and hard work into keeping Voicetrax running, and it never goes unnoticed. I'm so happy for you all!

~Rhiannon Brogan

INTRODUCTION TO NARRATION

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

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. Learn not only the technical elements of narration – the mechanics going on “under the hood” – 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: 12-hour four-week workshop

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 – from community theatre to Hollywood – 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. 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: 10.5-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: None

What color is love...Violet? Trust...Blue? Excitement...Red? The Colors method 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 everywhere.

FOUNDER’S SEMINAR

Director: Samantha Paris,
Vicki Baum

Length: 8-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 and Vicki 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 the passionate pairing of Samantha and Vicki will turbo-boost your ability to dive into your imagination to make creative acting choices.

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.

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...99.9%) 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. 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, intermediate and advanced Voicetrax classes that require home recording capabilities and be several steps closer to professional grade recordings.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SETTING THE SCENE

Director: Chuck Kourouklis,
Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Looking over hill and dale, there is no voice-over copy to found in this world premiere class. A wide, rolling expanse filled only with scenes (dialogues) from movies and plays for you to work on over a month's time with a partner! As you dip your toe into the scene study pool for perhaps the very first time, you'll discover what we say from the start of your training: voice acting IS acting. Approach the skills of script analysis, self-direction and reacting to a partner as you strengthen your foundational acting skills in a whole new way. Lean into the visualization necessary as you learn to "block" (the physical movements) a scene. And before you start fretting about having to memorize your script, STOP! Memorization is not required, but you will be asked to become quite familiar with your scene which will come naturally as the weeks progress. And just as you think you've traversed every nook and cranny of your scene with Chuck, Roni will step in and offer further points of view to add additional layers to your work. And when it's all said and done you can translate all the advantages of working a script for weeks with the same partner and apply it to your voice-over repertoire because remember: voice acting IS acting.

WORLD PREMIERE!

VOICE-OVER 411

Director: LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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 Intermediate/Advanced Students



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 weave an engaging and imaginative story.

BE A BAD MOTHERCHUCKER

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

This barn burner of a seminar is part roller coaster ride, part memory jolt, and ALL an exercise in The Grand Unifying Theory for Voice Actors. Most voice-over pros are actively auditioning these weird, arcane, totally-out-of-context-one-sided character scripts. Now here's THE question: to fill in all those missing pieces and get that darn character off the page, how many of you are remembering to use the tools you've acquired over the years at Voicetrax? Chuck will pry the sarcophagus open and dust off some impactful tools you might have forgotten. Get ready for "anything goes" – spontaneous improv, spontaneous direction, turn-on-a-dime changes. And when the dust settles, you'll be one bad-ass motherchucker, just like our wonderful Mr. Kourouklis. Consider the resulting swagger a free gift with purchase.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

DESTINATION TRUTH

Director: Melissa Gray

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes homework assignments.

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



DIRECT THYSELF

Director: Samantha Paris,
Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 8-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 classmates, you will gain confidence in your ability to break it down for yourself when you are recording alone in your closet. Spend a weekend in the director's chair channeling your "inner Samantha".

The Dream Team of Voicetrax are the perfect and most obvious choice as the new owners. The legacy will continue! I know how closely you all work together and with Samantha. It is your expertise, experience, excellent coaching as well as your kindness that helps me and my fellow Voicetrax students. I appreciate your support and know that everything you do is meant to help me become the best voice actor that I can be. So, thank you for taking on this new challenge! I look forward to learning more and working with you for many years to come.

~Trish Healey



FINDING THE BUNNY

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 5-hour one-day 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. But lest you forget that 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!

FINDING TRUTH IN THE BOOTH

Director: LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

GOT GAME?



Directors: Chuck Kourouklis,
Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

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



IMAGINATION REVISITED

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

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

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: LA Agent

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

When asked what is the ONE thing she wishes every voice actor from beginners to seasoned professionals would absorb with a universal wave of her magical, directing wand, our wise and real-world tested Los Angeles agent immediately said: be as specific as possible as to WHO are you talking to! It's amazing how many actors forget this critical piece of the backstory when analyzing a script, even though it is one of the basic fundamentals taught from the very beginning. And be specific! Not some nebulous, faceless person, but somebody you *actually* know, so your imagination can visualize them, and grab on to the emotions of the script. Agent B will dig deeper into this part of script analysis to make sure you are precise in who you are talking to which will assuredly lead to an infinitely more natural and less "read-ee" performance.

Once Upon A Time: ACTING FOR AUDIOBOOKS

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

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

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

ONE DAY WONDER: PROMO-TIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Director: LA Agent
(NEW to Voicetrax)

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: None

Never done (or *haven't done many*) promos before? Well, consider this class the PERFECT place to start. We are so excited to welcome Agent N to the Voicetrax family. She loves teaching beginning promo students and will introduce you to the intentionality of promo scripts including cadence, dividing of the beats and the purposeful formatting. Not to mention the all-important tag line! Explore the subtle nuances (*who knew?*) in a promo script and discover which words to really sink your teeth into. Agent N will have a cornucopia of scripts including true crime, drama, sitcoms, kids, game shows and trailers for streaming movies. And then at the end of this one day wonder, after absorbing all that information, you will get an opportunity to listen to working professional auditions and try to guess who booked the job and why. After a whole day with Agent N, you'll come out the winner! *Promotional considerations provided by Voicetrax!*



*I think it is PERFECT to have Chuck,
Roni and Vicki be the new owners. It
couldn't be anyone else.
CONGRATULATIONS to all!*

~Karena Davis

ONE NIGHT WONDER: SOURCE CONNECT

Director: Kevin Cleland

Length: 3-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: Participants need to be prepared to download the FREE version of Source Connect. Kevin will walk you through it at the beginning of class.

Source Connect has become *absolutely essential* to any serious voice actor, allowing you to send a studio-quality feed from your computer. In fact, the majority of agency auditions now actually require you to have Source Connect; so if you want to maximize your income potential, you will absolutely need the capabilities Source Connect gives you – and the sooner, the better. An industry veteran, Kevin Cleland, will take you through all the finer points of installing and calibrating the software, and he'll show you just what to expect in a recording session, de-mystifying the whole process! You'll gather all the knowledge you need to arm yourself with this crucially important tool.

PLACE YOUR ORDER

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

RETAIL: NOT PRETTY, BUT PROFITABLE



Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

SCRIPT ANALYSIS



Directors: Samantha Paris, Vicki Baum, Chuck Kourouklis, Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes weekly homework assignments.

Simply put... if you don't get the script, you don't get the gig! This quintessential quad squad will help you unravel the mysteries of script interpretation as you analyze a variety of TV and radio commercials, animation, video game and narration scripts while discovering how to dissect copy intelligently to give you a leg up on the competition. You'll learn to look for hidden clues (aka “bunnies”) and not just the ones buried in the body of the copy, but the ones you can glean from the sound effects, visuals, directions, music, length, even the agency name. Strengthen and broaden one of *the most important* foundational skills necessary for voice-over success.

TAINTED TALES

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Devin Glischinski

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Remember all those classic nursery rhymes and lullabies from your childhood? Of course you do! But did you know that a significant number of them actually have a macabre story behind them? You'll explore that juxtaposition in this one-of-a-kind script analysis class with a deviously entertaining twist. Using those iconic rhymes as your copy, you'll be tasked with the challenge of finding the story behind the story including the tales of Hickory Dickory Dock, Humpty Dumpty and Three Blind Mice amongst others while your fellow classmates will participate in guessing games based on your performance. This incredibly unique class will focus on script analysis, acting choices, character work and fine-tuning your analytical ear. You may never look at your childhood the same again!

THE TAMING OF THE MIC



Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

If you want to be a musician you need to learn to play the instrument, so if you want to be a rock star voice actor you need to be able to do the exact same thing with the microphone. It's more than the technical things that include minimizing “p”-pops and distortion. It's about establishing a scene, the script analysis necessary to figure out that scene and then using proximity effect (your closeness to the mic) to leverage your authority, warmth or conversational quality. And then, oh yeah, lo and behold remembering to implement everything you've learned. Your mic technique skills should be continually developing right along with your self-direction, script analysis and acting skills.

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.

TOURS, TUTORIALS & TALES: THE STORY WITHIN

SIX weeks for the PRICE of FIVE!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: None

This workshop is prepared to take your narration skills up a notch or two or maybe even three (*it is six weeks after all*) 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.

VO CEO

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! *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.

VOICE-OVER ANGEL

Directors: Chuck Kourouklis,
Vicki Baum, Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Gain wisdom, confidence and the ability to think on your feet from this role-playing seminar as Chuck utilizes his fellow directors to throw numerous different real-world recording situations at you born from his wealth of personal experiences including running a session from your home studio with a director that's inexperienced and can't articulate what they want, a producer who doesn't want to direct you live (*cuz he's just too busy*) and *you're* supposed to figure it all out, or what about a live session where multiple directional approaches are thrown out at you? Don't fret, you are not alone! Chuck will serve as your "angel", determined to earn his wings by helping you learn to deal with adversity, uncertainty, insecurity and a host of other confidence assassins that can undermine an actor's ability to give their best performance. Feel more in control and better prepared to handle the art of self-direction even under the most challenging and demanding real-world circumstances.

WILD GAME HUNTING

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Tasia Valenza

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

For Advanced Students & Working Professionals

A GATHERING OF ACTORS

Director: Melissa Gray

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

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

AROUND THE CAMPUS LIVE!

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

Even though our beloved first born – the printed catalogue – is back (Huzzah!), we would never ignore our baby, the digital version of the catalogue. In fact, we want to kick it up a notch and that's where YOU come in! By adding an exciting audio component to our online class descriptions, benefitting those who are visually impaired, we are opening a performance opportunity of a different kind. In this brand-new idea from the Voicetrax Think Tank brain trust, the students in this class will help us bring the digital catalogue's class descriptions to life with an audio performance. These performances will live on our website for the entire semester as you zero in on your interpretation of the brand voice of the school's catalogue, The Voicetrax Star. And because the point of this class is not website glory (*although a little glory wouldn't be bad, now would it?*) and is about bolstering your acting chops, we can't get away from that "annoying little brother", yet vitally essential skill of self-direction. You'll be asked to weigh on your fellow student's performances in a collaborative environment bringing out the best you have to give.

BE SCENE AND HEARD



Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

BRITISH-ISH: A JOURNEY TO MID-ATLANTIC & BEYOND

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: PJ Ochlan

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Descend into the amorphous Mid-Atlantic accent without clear lines of distinction and no true right vs. wrong architecture. The ambiguity of this accent limits the “rule book”. Get ready as PJ – Dr. Dialect himself – demystifies the robustly requested (*and by robustly we mean all.the.damn.time.*) Mid-Atlantic accent. If you want to be competitive and book video games, this accent must be in your arsenal... FULL STOP. And what about the Beyond? We actually mean this literally and geographically this time around as PJ will incorporate aspects of English and other Euro accents to give everyone a bigger Trans-Atlantic toolbox to work with. This ups the challenge and gives you a lot more to play with as you rid yourself of that rudderless Mid-Atlantic boat in the middle of the ocean, sun beating down on your forehead, lips chapping, and focus in on a true Mid-Atlantic accent.



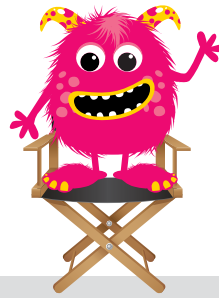
CHARACTERS OFF THE CUFF

Director: Janet Varney

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. This course is in-person only.

The Voicetrax universe is *sooooo* lucky to to count amongst the family 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: CHARACTERS

Director: Brian Sommer,
Kristen Paiva

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

After hitting the “send” button on a character audition or class assignment you recorded at home, do you find yourself second-guessing, asking, “Did I go too far... or not far enough? Is the character I chose too animated or too flat? Is there enough difference between the three characters I chose to audition? Did I play it too safe?” The answer to all these questions depends on whether or not you were able to separate the actor you and the director you. You need to think like a director and look at the big picture, considering the character in context of the story, the relationship with the other character and what’s actually going on in the scene. Not to mention, are you shaping a dynamic, reactive performance even if it’s just one side of a dialogue? Brian and Kristen will put you in the director hot seat to guide your fellow students into competitive character performances including shading and emotional range, giving him an inside peek at what you’re telling yourself at home.

KNØW YØUR ZERØ II

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

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

LEAVE NOTHING ON THE TABLE

Director: Janet Varney

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

A table read (aka read-through) is an organized reading of a script with all the actors present at one... table (*see what we did there?*) in which the voice-over, stage direction and scene headings are read out loud. Table reads are an essential part of the script development and writing process, as writers use them as an opportunity to fine tune their stories, sharpen their dialogue and hear what works and what doesn’t. Join the table read universe as you pre-record auditions at home for Janet to listen to and cast ahead of class. Then a true-blue table read will commence in-class with all the expectations of exploration, improv and living in the moment as the scene moves you to whatever your imagination can create. Be a part of this collaborative undertaking with one of the founders of the iconic SF SketchFest comedy festival.

WORLD PREMIERE!

Before I saw the new owners mentioned in Samantha's letter,
I knew this was the only way it could have gone in my opinion.
These 3 souls will do you proud and continue in their new
capacity with the utmost professionalism, knowledge and caring.

~Kerry Keller-Carranza



MEN ONLY: THE LEGENDS

Directors: Brian Sommer,
Dave Fennoy, Erik Braa

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

NO LAUGHING MATTER

Director: Frank Coppola

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

You've likely heard it said comedy is a *serious* business. Learning how to get the laugh is the foremost goal in this ridiculously FUN (and funny!) exploration into what makes comedy tick. Its use of language, which ranges from vernacular speech to puns and wordplay, its use of taboo subjects, and its use of incongruence and juxtaposition. Through physicality, comedic timing, distractions and more, Frank will help you to "get over yourself", and just let the comedy and laughter rip! Working on comedic scripts from plays, television and movies will most definitely help your overall confidence when behind the microphone.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

ON-CAMERA SCENE STUDY

Director: Frank Coppola

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Lights, Camera, Action! And that's not just a metaphor for this workshop that will not take place in the sound booth, but in front of the camera. After all the time you've spent behind the microphone learning the techniques necessary for voice-over work, it's easy to fathom that there is a whole other set of techniques for on-camera work. Using monologue and scene scripts, some chosen by Frank, some chosen by you, explore the world of on-camera acting including sizing your performance for the camera and picking audition material that's right for you. You'll also have the opportunity to review your recorded performances with video playback. Add more range to your repertoire and expand your potential for acting work by developing your on-camera skills.

ONE DAY WONDER: VIDEO GAME GRUNT WORK

Director: Erik Braa

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: None

Join The Viking himself as you breathe life into a video game character until you eventually help them shuffle off this mortal coil. In the morning, with Erik's expert tutelage, you will develop a character and run through scripts living and feeling as that creation. Then in the afternoon, things will take a turn to the darker side of video games, as Erik will expose you to all the levels of carnage and different ways that a video game character can die, by teaching you how to perform "efforts" and "impacts": the sounds of dying. How does it sound to expire from the stab of a small dagger versus the swinging force of a spiked battle flail? What's the difference between falling off a 30-foot cliff versus a 300-foot cliff? And while all this havoc and destruction is super fun, it's also super lucrative. Actors that have an inventory of death sounds in their repertoire are the ones that get the jobs. Sometimes it all comes down to making an effort. 😊

ONE NIGHT WONDER: AI VOICES



Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 3-hour one-day 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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! (no, seriously, it is)

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 3-hour one-day 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?

ONE NIGHT WONDER: SOUND & FURY SATURDAY (ON A THURSDAY!)

Director: Carli Silver

Length: 3-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: None

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

ONE-TAKE MASTERS

Directors: Vicki Baum, Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Let's be crystal clear, we aren't going to drop you in the deep end of the "one-take pool" straight away, but you best be ready to step up to the plate knowing you have one swing at booking the job. Gone is the wiggle room of letting your first couple takes be a warm-up, lazily leaning on the director to manufacture your performance, eventually hitting on something only to be asked... *why wasn't that your first take?* Time is money, people! And if you're actively auditioning (or even home-recording for class homework), allowing yourself more than two or three takes risks working the copy to death and overthinking everything. *Overthinking? We don't know any actors who do that!* We all instinctually know that the 7th, 8th or 9th take is never going to be better than the first few fresh ones. As two of the three members of the Voicetrax Think Tank take you through imaginative exercises and simulated auditions you'll gain confidence in your choices to be bold from the start. What happens when preparation meets pressure, so that you come "hot out of the gate" on your very first take?



I am so happy and excited for our trio
to be the new owners of Voicetrax! Wow!

~Nicole Squires



PRECISE & CONCISE

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

SHE SAID/SHE SAID: NARRATION

WORLD PREMIERE!

Directors: Vicki Baum, LA Agent

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Another exciting twist to this immensely popular class format. A duo never before paired together will give you their up-front, straight-forward, (whatever hyphenated adjectives you want to come up with) assessments to your narration skills. As the weeks progress, you will continue to get feedback from both instructors on the same narration performance. Did they say the exact same thing? Great! It's clear what to work on. Did they use different words (because one is an actor and the other is an agent) but still say the same thing, or did their feedback differ and what the heck does that mean? This approach is meant to strengthen the voice-over calculator in your brain, helping you translate all the data into useful information to improve your performance. Not to mention it's extremely helpful in those booked recording sessions when your director doesn't speak actor and it's your job to take what they say and translate it into a client-loving result. Learn to be quick on your feet and swift in your reactions to direction. Be a performer that is ready for anything because that actor gets booked again and again and again.


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WORLD PREMIERE!

SOAR TO THE TOP FLOOR

Directors: Samantha Paris,
LA Agent

Length: 8-hour weekend seminar

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

How much better does it get than The Founder herself paired with one of the top animation agents in the entire country? Spend a weekend with these two dynamic women fine-tuning your animation elevator pitch, i.e. how best do you present yourself when you only have the length of an elevator ride to do it. You'll start off with Samantha working through scripts concentrating on fine-tuning your best animation characters digging into script analysis and bringing the characters off the page. That will set you up to perform for our wonderful Agent R with confidence, clarity and conciseness, the three C's of the most effective elevator pitch. She'll give you her expert assessment on your wheelhouse performances to help your skills soar ever higher.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PROMOS

Director: Ryan Clark

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

TRIPLE THREAT: NARRATION NATION

Directors: Vicki Baum, Dave
Fennoy, Peter Dunne

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

The voice-over narration nation has exploded into numerous sub-genres including the three popular types these industry pros will be guiding you through. You'll work with one of the most prolific audio tour producers around, Peter Dunne, as well as narration dynamo, Vicki Baum, who will work with you on the ever-challenging and yet absolutely lucrative medical narration, along with Dave Fennoy who will put you to the test with a mystery narration style to be announced in class. After class, each director will submit the list of students that gave competitive performances in their category. Whoever shows up on all three lists will be deemed a triple threat narrator and will be awarded a free private lesson. How 'bout them apples?

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU (WILL) GET

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: LA Agent
(NEW to Voicetrax!)

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

How many times a week do auditioning voice actors see the words "friendly, natural and conversational" on a script? *Ahhhh yes, the over-used, generic Triad of Death. The place where commercial performances go to die.* You scream to yourself, doing your best Janet Leigh from Psycho impersonation, asking yourself: "How do I do that? What do they want?" The challenge is the vast majority of commercial opportunities are calling for that type of read. That's where Agent N comes in! She will guide you through understanding how to hone in on being the best YOU, you can be, instead of trying to emulate what you know it's *supposed* to sound like – or as we like to call it "chasing the melody" – of the style of commercial script you are performing. You'll work on commercial scripts that are in your wheelhouse, as well as ones that make you stretch. At the end of the weekend, you'll no longer fear the natural, conversational commercial read.

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

Director: 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.





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. *Cover pictures Making Your Mark and Leave Nothing On The Table are AI generated. Now read this disclaimer in 10 seconds, then 9 seconds, what about 8 seconds?!? Remember, practice makes perfect!