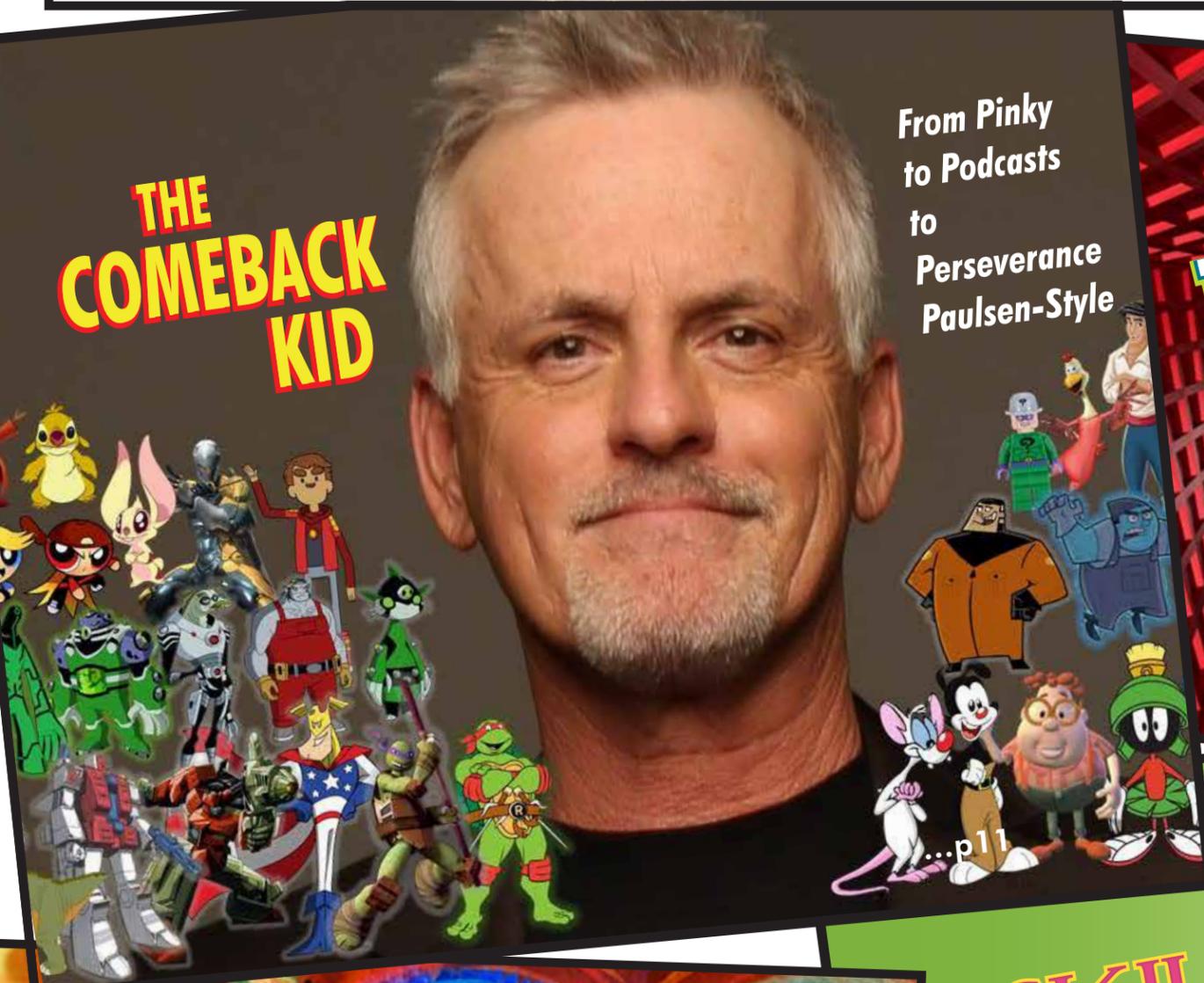


the Voicetrax Star

2021 Edition

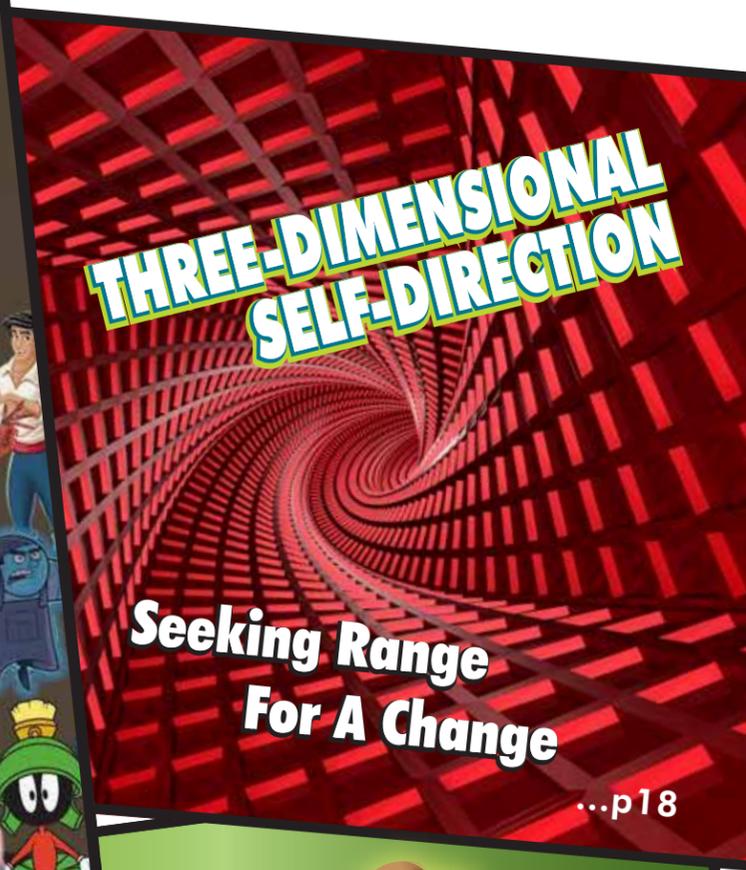
Stay in the loop – follow Voicetrax on [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) – [www.voicetraxsf.com](#)



THE COMEBACK KID

From Pinky to Podcasts to Perseverance Paulsen-Style

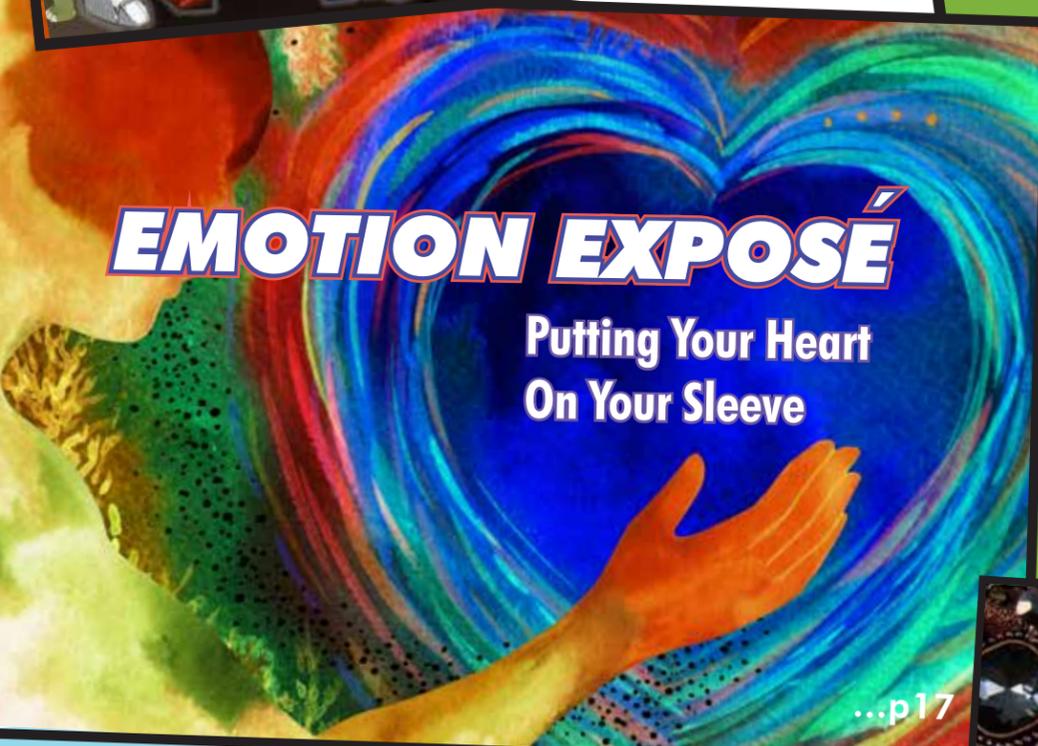
...p11



THREE-DIMENSIONAL SELF-DIRECTION

Seeking Range For A Change

...p18



EMOTION EXPOSÉ

Putting Your Heart On Your Sleeve

...p17



SKILLS INVENTORY

Fill Up Your Voice-Over Designer Bag

• Secret Agent IS Included!

...p15



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Jump The Hump

...p2



The Queen Reveals All

Scandalous Details Inside!

...p18



A Message From Our Founder

*The more things change,
the more they remain the same.*
~ Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr



Dear Students,

We are all living through a tumultuous year, one filled with unprecedented pain, upheaval and new beginnings. As a business, Voicetrax had to completely re-invent our business model when this pandemic forced us to morph into a completely (for the time being) online academy. Administratively, everything had to change except one element that I insisted remain intact. Our catalogue, The Voicetrax Star.

There is a joy in receiving the catalogue and all its contents by way of the good old-fashioned postman. I know there is a moment of connection for all of us in receiving it, a physical and emotional link that we have always appreciated, that we know is sorely lacking in this current virtual world. Holding something special that the postman delivers is understanding that someone else has touched it, that we are unsealing an envelope that someone sealed. We feel the paper they felt and read the words that were crafted with the utmost care. In our present world of being physically distant from one another, we understand the importance of this ritual moment of anticipation, and relish and appreciate all the decisions that led to these words reaching their destination. The colors of the ink, the choice of graphics, the class content for sure and yes, the infamous Dot Form.

If there is one persistent question I've been asked over the 30+ years that I've been doing these handwritten mentoring love notes, it would be, WHY!?!?! I constantly hear the echoes of others saying: "Samantha, writing handwritten notes to over 300 people TWICE A YEAR is insane". I always just shrug my shoulders, knowing that for me, there is just no other way. "You do know there is technology now, ever hear of simply just typing those damn things?"

The Charlie Brown teacher's wah, wah, wah is all that plays in my head. Simply put, I know these notes, in all their misspelled words and sometimes shaky handwriting matter because you matter to me. There is such a deep, profound connection I feel when I write them. It's as if with every word I write, I am willing you to succeed and to achieve all you are dreaming of and more.

And then there are the finest, highest-pedigreed group of voice-over professionals ever assembled under one roof – cyber or otherwise – our Voicetrax Guest Directors. They continue to cheer you on, applauding your courageous efforts, a beautiful and comforting constant throughout Voicetrax's 33-year history. But I must applaud their efforts. When we faced the daunting task of changing the method with which they brought their wisdom to you, they didn't blink, they didn't complain, they marched forward and adapted. I guess that's why they call teaching a calling, right? That call continues in this remarkable 2021 catalogue. You might notice there is an influx of agents teaching this semester. Remember that this industry we love so much is always clamoring for new voices.

Joyfully, we continue... undeterred and unwilling to sacrifice our high standards in order to continue bringing you the unsurpassed training you so richly deserve. There is no obstacle we can't overcome... together.

My love and devotion as always,

S.A.C.



*Our greatest glory is not in never falling,
but in rising every time we fall.*

~Confucius

Overcoming obstacles, whether great or small, is nothing more than a string of disputes between the part of your brain that wants to stop and the part of your brain that wants to keep going. You either decide to proceed or quit. Simple enough, right? If it was really that straightforward and uncomplicated, an entire self-help industry built on lifting up the human psyche to achieve success and happiness would be brought to its knees, and this would be by far the shortest article to ever appear in the Voicetrax Star. But alas (or fortunately, depending on how you see it), there is so much more to examine and explore.

Let's start our expedition at a communal starting line by defining what an obstacle is. The answers are bound to be as different as we are and manifest themselves in a multitude of unique ways, but in general an obstacle is a thing, feeling or belief that keeps you from something you desire. Some environmental obstacles in life appear that you don't have much control over including change, the past – yours or anybody else's, other people's beliefs and death or disease. Yet some, and we would argue the majority of the main obstacles in your life, have been placed in your path by somebody you know quite well... yes, it's YOU! (We know, we know... shocking surprise...) These self-inflicted psychological barriers to happiness and success include perfectionism, envy or comparison, self-doubt, fear and procrastination. And before you berate yourself or feel bad for recognizing one or more of these in



yourself, stop it! That's just another obstacle you are putting in your way. An obstacle about obstacles, how very meta of you. Now that we have sufficiently defined the embodiment of what an obstacle can be and are on the same page literally, let's get to the business of overcoming them.

*In the middle of every difficulty
lies opportunity.*

~Albert Einstein

Overcoming an obstacle comes when determination exceeds doubt. But buried deep within your struggles is an opportunity for growth. As explored before in these pages and still a philosophy we doggedly prescribe to today, if you approach difficulties with a growth mindset, it means you view set-backs as an opportunity to learn and flourish instead of an excuse to quit because things are too hard. Of course you'll struggle at times, we all do, but whatever you do, don't quit. Any action (good or bad) repeated numerous times becomes a habit, and that includes quitting. When you feel like packing it in remember why you started or what you might lose if you give up. Before you quit, pivot to something that sparks joy in you for long enough to get your mojo back, then come back to the thing that is vexing you with increased energy and drive, ready to take your troubles

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

on either physically, emotionally or psychologically. And listen, if Plan A doesn't work, don't panic! There are 25 more letters in the alphabet. But most importantly, don't go it alone.

Humans are hard-wired to be around other humans, and when we face challenges it's more important than ever to reach out for support. The brain is so accustomed to being enveloped by a social network that it goes into a state of alert when nobody else is around further complicating issues you may be experiencing. Yet so many times people who are struggling tend to isolate themselves for a myriad of reasons. Withdrawing to protect yourself from risk, judgement or embarrassment is a natural coping mechanism for humans. Some of us have been raised to believe that asking for help means we're weak (Super Important News Flash: this is categorically not true). Or perhaps you don't want to burden your friends and family with your troubles and aspire to project that you can still fit into the life around you and do what's expected and needed of you. This was the approach that legendary voice actor, and Voicetrax Guest Director, Rob Paulsen (Pinky of *Pinky And The Brain* and Yakko of *Animaniacs*) resorted to when diagnosed with throat cancer (*get your minds around that wicked irony, people*). Rob had always been the guy cracking a joke, doing a voice of one of his iconic characters just to get a smile from fans – especially children – with life-threatening medical situations. Now he was the one that needed the propping up but didn't know how to ask for it and was too embarrassed to try. Rob expounds: *I was very fortunate to have the love of my family and friends, who were nothing short of heroic in their support. That's my message to folks who love someone struggling with a serious health challenge; all you do for us: bringing a glass of water, standing outside the bathroom door while we hone our puking skills... for hours, knowing what we need before we know it, etc., are courageous, impossibly important and utterly human skills that seem to show up at EXACTLY the right time. Never underestimate your heroism and ability to rise to the challenge.*

The mettle to overcome life's hurdles also brings us to the mother of all life lessons: the almighty power of perspective. As Rob explains: *Courage, empathy, mindfulness, like love, can come from the most unexpected places. I remember driving from chemo to radiation one afternoon and the side effects were really starting to kick in. I was feeling sorry for myself when, at an intersection, an older woman crossed the street dragging a huge bag of recyclables, presumably to earn a little money. I immediately recognized my glorious circumstance. Here I am in a fancy car on my way to a loving family, a beautiful home, a clean Cal King bed, big bathroom, clean water, world-class health care, and I am blessed with a relentlessly positive countenance. If this sweet woman were lucky enough to find that she had a treatable form of cancer, how many bottles and cans would she need to pay for it? Would she have five doctors making sure she was treated with utmost care? Who would drive her to treatment? Where would she go to feel awful for a few months? Who would hold her hand, head and heart? Tell her a joke? Wash her clothes? Tell her she looks "GREAT" when she's lost 50 lbs. I will never forget her and just by her existence, the lesson in grace. Maybe there are no accidents.*

Obstacles are put in your way to see if what you want is really worth fighting for. And as Rob tells it in his autobiographical book titled *Voice Lessons*, there was absolutely no doubt. His beloved family life, circle of creatively dynamic friends, and extraordinary decades-long career he had worked his ass off to build was damn well worth fighting for. And fight he did, through brutal radiation and chemotherapy to reclaim his life and become a survivor who is thriving today in all aspects of his life like never before. Finding inspiration in the victory of others is a great technique to encourage yourself through your own obstacles. Rob found this in others as we can find in him.

Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts.

~Edward R. Murrow

Remember the struggle you might be experiencing today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow. Obstacles don't block the path, they are the path. Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, it's you who becomes stronger, more resilient and irrevocably qualified to take on any future bumps in the road. The bigger the obstacle, the more joy there is in overcoming it. And the momentum that ensues can transform your life, increasing your confidence, propelling you forward, grasping enthusiastically for your dreams. The good news is the more obstacles you overcome, the more you grow, the more you realize there is really *nothing you can't achieve with the proper mindset, support and perspective*. Strength doesn't come from excelling at what comes easily to you, it comes from overcoming the things you never before believed you could. The struggle is real, but as we overcome life's trials and tribulations we are all the better for it because your existence in this wacky world is too short to chase anything that doesn't light an inextinguishable fire inside you.



This is a special place where you can grow professionally and personally. Sam is absolutely dogged in her resolve to help her students achieve on both those levels, and it truly comes from a place of love. To find an environment this challenging and supportive is what makes Voicetrax such a gem of an opportunity for anyone interested in acting, regardless of their previous experience (I began as a total novice). I couldn't be more grateful to Sam & the many wonderful instructors I've worked with there. The work ethic and the love is inspiring!

~Dave Gast

A Few Minutes With...

KIMBERLY MOHNE HILL



You know when you meet someone, and you immediately feel like you've known them your whole life? We were lucky enough to meet the extraordinary **Kimberly Mohne Hill** at Santa Clara University where as an Associate Professor she guides aspiring actors in the department of Theatre and Dance. She was chosen to be the interviewer for Samantha's book event at the school. From the moment she opened her mouth, it was obvious to see she had done an enormous amount of research to prepare for the interview. She asked articulate, engaging and relevant questions making for an exciting event. Once it was over, Samantha immediately said to the Voicetrax Think Tank: *She needs to be a teacher at Voicetrax.* A couple of years and several Voicetrax classes later, here she is, and it's time the entire student body got to know her...

Voicetrax: Were you interested in the arts and performing from a young age?

Kimberly Mohne Hill: I knew I wanted to be a teacher at 5 years old and I knew I wanted to be a theatre person at 9 years old, and so all the decisions in my life moved me towards those goals both consciously and subconsciously. In elementary school, I would come back in from recess and tell my teacher I had a show to put on for the class and surprise... they would let me do it!

VT: So, you were writing, producing, directing and starring in one-woman shows in fourth grade?

KMH: *(laughs)* I guess I was! It was usually a Broadway review of songs that although they were from different musicals, they had common themes. Around that same age, I saw my first real play: *Annie Get Your Gun* at the local high school. It was magic. I was mesmerized by the lead actress and immediately I was hooked. So, if there was any kind of drama class or show being produced at school, I was there. The colleges I applied to were chosen because of their drama programs. I eventually ended up at The American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco for my graduate degree. It's always been about acting for me.

VT: When did your love for acting intersect with being a teacher?

KMH: School was always a stabilizing force in my life as I worked my way through a tumultuous childhood. Specific teachers during college and graduate school got me through, showing me love, care, concern, encouragement and mentorship. My very first teacher in college was

an acting and dialect teacher, and because I absolutely adored and idolized her I wanted to do what she was doing, so along with acting I really focused in on dialects. I've always felt that teaching was in my DNA. Many things in life can make you anxious or nervous where you are unsure, feel out of your element or the need to prove yourself whether it be personal or professional. But when I'm teaching I am at total peace. It's my calling.

VT: What excites you about teaching acting?

KMH: When a student is open to my ideas about a scene, executes my direction and really feels it in their own body and you know you're witnessing something special, how in that instant they're being affected in a profound way. I get totally lost in that moment, so much so that sometimes I am so enraptured by what they're doing that I will uncontrollably jump up and yell YES, therefore ruining their scene. *(laughs)* I do try to control myself.

VT: You are obviously very passionate about the craft of acting. What continues to fascinate you about it?

KMH: It's the idea of empathy in action. I may never travel to deepest Africa. I may never get to Australia. I will never know what it's like to be an immigrant working in the American South. But if I see the show, play a character or direct a play that has those voices and lives present in it, I get to be just a little bit closer to that human experience that I'm never going to get to experience in the flesh. It's the best way to bring the world closer to me on a personal level.

VT: What do you hope your students walk out of your classes feeling and thinking?

KMH: I would like for them to feel confident, challenged – because if it's too easy why are you there, and inspired to continue to do more. I would like them to think that there is a process to everything including dialects which I know intimidates some people, but it shouldn't. That if you undertake something with a conscious approach you can master just about anything. And finally, I want my students to think about the value of what we do as artists, and the importance of giving voice to the human condition.

See what we mean? She was meant to teach at Voicetrax! Find your voice with Kimberly Mohne Hill in both of her classes *Let's Make A Scene* (pg.17) and *Dialect Intervention* (pg.15)



VoiceTrax students show their tremendous appreciation on the last day of the Sam's Free For All class, a three-week workshop offered for free to students financially affected by the pandemic.



A BRAVE NEW WORLD

As our world changed, Voicetrax adjusted and adapted seamlessly, pivoting to an online program in a matter of days. And it's no surprise that our dedicated Guest Directors and determined students followed suit. We're proud to offer our world-class training online complete with recording and playback of class performances and the use of breakout rooms for private rehearsal. All that's missing are the high-fives and hugs, but as you can see our students are still having a fantastic time while they learn as they pursue their dreams!



Voicetrax students, and the author herself (can you spot her?), are enthralled as they read Samantha's memoir *Finding The Bunny* during a book promo photo shoot.

Beginners get in on the Zoom action and are all smiles during an Introduction To Narration class, one of the first classes Voicetrax offered online earlier this year.



Voicetrax student Lauren Kelly shows Guest Director Peter Coyote her creativity with the "mask" he asked her to organically discover which with his expert guidance, she developed into a full-fledged character.



Thom Pinto and his Three In A Row class crew learning and having fun.





Voicetrax

GUEST DIRECTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beginning in 2002, Samantha successfully ran Voicetrax Desert Cities in Rancho Mirage, California, where she trained aspiring and working voice actors. For personal reasons – and with enormous difficulty given her love for and dedication to her desert-based students – she eventually decided to close the school in 2005, thus ending her monthly commute between the Bay Area and the Coachella Valley. However, in 2020 the pandemic caused her to return to the desert full-time to shelter-in-place, which gave Samantha a second opportunity to bring voice acting training back to the Greater Palm Springs area in full force. She has since resumed working with former students and new ones, which is even more accessible now thanks to video conferencing and technological advances in the voice-over field in general.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lori Alan

From the obstetrician's first slap on her blushing newborn bottom, **LORI ALAN** has been talking non-stop, showing the kind of star quality to book her television debut in a Shakey's Pizza commercial at all of five years old! Maybe that wasn't the best way to find out about her wheat allergy, but it sent her off to the races and she hasn't looked back. It probably didn't hurt that her parents are also such VO/Actor folk that if Lori had come home and said, "Mom & Dad, I wanna be a doctor or a lawyer", they would've said, "That's crazy and irresponsible! You need tap dance, clown skills and juggling as backups!" After graduating with honors from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and cutting her teeth on the comedy circuit as a longtime member of New York's Gotham City Improv/Groundlings East, Lori went on to a busy on-camera career and award-winning voice work: "Pearl Krabs" on *Spongebob*, "Diane Simmons" on *Family Guy*, and a raft of roles in Pixar features including "Bonnie's mom" in *Toy Story 3* and *Toy Story 4*, "Mother's Sadness" in *Inside Out* and on and on! A first-place winner in two categories of the First Annual Voice Arts Awards, actor/writer/producer/coach/demo producer Lori Alan knows The Craft, and students have a blast learning it from her!

Vicki Baum

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

Chopper Bernet

He wasn't known as "Chopper" from his first moment of existence; it took his first breast feeding for Mom to have THAT revelation – not surprising, perhaps, when you consider all **CHOPPER BERNET** has sunk his teeth into since then! Take the snowstorm that stranded him and his family at a ski chalet in Ohio; with a bluegrass band playing on as they waited the storm out, Chopper at all of 7 years old jumped on a table in the middle of the chalet and danced a jig of his own frantic creation. An impromptu audience laughed and cheered, and the next great chewy moment was planted in his mind: *what is it* that makes a moment true, pure and real? Chopper's been chasing the answer to that question ever since, for himself and for his students. A Voicetrax Alumnus himself, he has one goal in films, in theater and in voice-over: find the truth in the moment and live it fully and completely. Might that be why Chopper's not only been a go-to on-camera actor (see *Terminator III*), but also the promo voice artist for NBC and MSNBC? We think so! And the one thing he has learned over the years is that maybe the answer to What's Real isn't really the most important part of the journey. Maybe the *journey* is the most important part of the journey. No wonder, then, that so many students have enjoyed the insights they've discovered with Chopper!

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!

Townsend Coleman

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

Frank Coppola

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

presentation skills coach, and why we're happy to have him aboard to drill down into the acting preparation necessary for competitive performance on commercial script and dramatic monologue alike.

Peter Coyote

He was Agent Keyes in *ET: The Extraterrestrial!* AGENT KEYES! Besides Dee Wallace, **PETER COYOTE** was the only grown-up in that entire movie you weren't itching to KILL! Not such a bad guy in *Erin Brokovitch* or NCIS or a hundred other features, either – what more do you want? Well there's actually a LOT more when it comes to voice-over! How about being the national voice for dozens of television commercial campaigns like General Motors or Brita Water Filters? How about *sight-reading* hour upon hour of narration for Ken Burns going back decades now – *The Vietnam War*, *The Dust Bowl*, *Prohibition*, *The National Parks*, and an Emmy-winning turn on *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, to say nothing of a previous Emmy for narrating *The Pacific Century* and countless other projects. But even without all his accomplishments as an actor, writer, and practicing Zen Buddhist, Peter might still have a coaching technique that you'd need to experience to believe: harnessing the uncanny creativity that springs to life from gazing at your reflection from *behind a mask*, a technique that produces results so profound, Peter's third book is all about it! It's no surprise how such an exercise liberates you as a narrator, because it liberates you as an actor first – and we're proud and privileged to offer that experience here!

Peter Dunne

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

Jim Edgar

Mics and sound cards and baffling, oh my! It all sounds dense and dry and honestly not very sexy, UNTIL... the day you need it! And when you find out on that day that it takes a half hour just to open your software and another 15 minutes to set up your file, and you pull out clumps of hair just getting the whole mess to RECORD, and then you have to export your file – export?? W t F IS all this? It's not like you want the stupid thing to ship to the Galapagos Islands, you'd just be happy to have the damn file appear SOMEWHERE in the four corners of your screen! And when you finally DO find it and play it back, there's your voice. Sounding as if it's echoing from a toilet bowl. In another ZIP code. Enter **JIM EDGAR**. PLEASE! A Voicetrax Alum, Jim is our oracle of all things in audio recording for voice-over. No matter what equipment you've got, no matter what your environment is, Jim will help you figure out how to troubleshoot and wring the best sound you can out of it all – and THEN, he'll walk you step by step through the fundamentals of recording yourself for auditions, maybe even for finished products your clients can use down the line. Jim's curriculum would be paramount if he weren't so clear, succinct, and patient; but to our great fortune and yours, he's ALL of that, which is why Jim is one of the most sought-after instructors we've got!

Jeannie Elias

Being a good actor is one thing. But being SO good people just can't imagine you in the body you occupy is something *else* entirely. Maybe this is why **JEANNIE ELIAS**, lithe and petite, has found herself in a rash of fat suits over her career – post-pregnant on *Seinfeld*, heavy-set writer on an NBC pilot, and the decidedly over-Reubenesque daughter of Christina Pickles and girlfriend to Steven Furst, over three seasons of *St. Elsewhere* (a character who nearly died aspirating chocolate from a caulking gun – don't ask). And this doesn't even broach her animation, theater, and voice-over coaching, nor does it begin to skim her prodigious animation acting credits: *Jackie Chan*, *The Oblongs*, *As Told By Ginger* and scads more; there was even a moment when a 4-year-old child, overhearing her talk about being on *Dennis The Menace*, actually recognized Jeannie as “Margaret” and ran over for a hug! Commercials, Animation, Scene Study, it just doesn't matter; Jeannie's not merely a Jane-of-all-trades, she's *master* of all of them, making her one of the most popular Guest Directors here.

Dave Fennoy

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

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!

Dan Gilvezan

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

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!

Chuck Kourouklis

Now who manages to feel like a misfit for having a big, deep voice? It was the first question **CHUCK KOUROUKLIS** asked Voicetrax Founder Samantha Paris when he began as a Voicetrax student 17 years ago: is there a place in voice-over for people with deep voices anymore? It sure didn't seem to be what we were hearing on radio ads at the time. Years of stage acting, years of broadcasting – some as the overnight lead-in to Jimmy Kimmel's morning radio show – and yes, that big, beautiful voice. Chuck has managed to NOT rest on the laurels of his natural talents because he understands that *voice-over is all about acting and not about your voice*, no matter how distinctive it is. Chuck has mastered navigating the ever-changing demands of voice-over from big announcer types to the throaty “Darius” in *League of Legends* to the adenoidal “Mr. Toad” in *Telltale's The Wolf Among Us*, to the light-sounding guy next door for the multitude of commercials he's done. Then like a master puppeteer wielding control of his voice-over strings, he sprinkles back in a little bit of that natural born gravitas for all types of narration, especially medical. This Jack-of-all voice-over trades is a stalwart professor for all Voicetrax students, as his booming voice belies his patient and nurturing teaching style.

Sirenetta Leoni

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

Ned Lott

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

Anna Mathias

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

Aaron Miner

Behold Voicetrax's own Blackbelt in Karate! He also dabbles in Jujitsu. What does this tell you about **AARON MINER**, aside from the fact that it's probably *not* the best idea to piss him off? There's nothing quite like martial arts to instill focus, discipline, dedication and confidence in the practitioner – all of which have become immensely helpful habits for Aaron, who's certainly put his time in and paid his dues as he studied at Voicetrax. Even when it looked like there was no end in sight, he NEVER LET UP in pursuit of his goal and dream. As with martial arts, Aaron came to understand the struggle in voice acting – getting back on your feet after failure, using defeat to make yourself stronger and better and lay a strong foundation for the ultimate success he now enjoys! Which is exactly why Samantha saw him as ideal Voicetrax Instructor material: *your experience as a student* is something Aaron understands, because his own experience is still so vivid in his mind. From a Gingerbread Man for NorCal Honda to industrial narration for Visa and Enbrel, video games including Concrete Genie and Dr. Crumb's School for Disobedient Pets through an entire cadre of Crate Creatures for Creativity. For showing you the sheer joy of this craft, Aaron's one of the best we've got.

Kimberly Mohne Hill

What do coal-mining painters from Newcastle in England, call-center employees in Chennai, India and free-women of color in 1840's New Orleans have in common? Nothing, except very exotic and challenging dialects! Oh, well, yeah, they also have **KIMBERLY MOHNE HILL** taking apart their accents and teaching them to the actors playing those roles. With over 25 years of experience coaching and teaching actors in the Bay Area and beyond, Kimberly has worked at every major Bay Area regional theater and almost all of the smaller companies, too. She has done countless hours of private coaching and teaches full-time as an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance at Santa Clara University. Kimberly received her MFA in Acting from the prestigious American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, CA where she subsequently apprenticed with master dialectician, Deborah Sussel. The dialects she has coached in the past include: British, Cockney/MLE, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Irish, Northern Irish, German, Belgian, Scandinavian, French, Italian, Russian, East Asian/Indian, Spanish, Latin, New York, Boston, Georgia, New Orleans, Chicago, Texas, and Pacific Northwest, among others. Maybe one of these will be taught in YOUR workshop!

Julia Norton

Voicetrax Alum **JULIA NORTON**, a wayfaring singer, actor and teacher has over 25 years experience showing people how to have a free and healthy voice! *Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do!* Her vocally-relaxed clientele ranges from singers in the West End, to beginners, improvisers, clowns, actors, CEO's, therapists and kids. She studied jazz musicianship in London, qualified as a Voice Movement Therapy practitioner in 2000 and then moved to the Bay Area, dividing her time between teaching, singing and voice acting. She won a Voice Arts award for her role in Disney's Star Wars game Jedi Challenges, a Parents' Choice award for her CD Lullaby Island and a Marin Arts council grant for her original compositions. She's developed a popular podcast 'Dark and Twisty Tales', available on iTunes. And the vocal relaxation techniques Julia specializes in are crucial when you're facing hours of strenuous voice-over in a session – which is why she is totally thrilled to be offering this class at the school that taught her everything she knows about voice-over!

Rob Paulsen

Maybe you've never heard of **ROB PAULSEN**. But you've heard him. A lot. Maybe you don't know Rob, but you know *Pinky and the Brain*, *Animaniacs*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius*, and most of the other animated projects that Rob has been part of as a voice actor for nearly three decades. With over 2,000 (yes, *that's right*) half-hour programs and dozens of films, video games, and other animated media to his credit, Rob has been one of the hardest working, most in-demand, and most beloved voice artists in the industry, earning (so far) a Daytime Emmy and Peabody and three times winning the Annie Award. He's also won the biggest fight of his life: defeating throat cancer after a grueling year of aggressive treatment. With a revived passion for his craft, he's finding some new challenges and some old familiar faces there to guide him into the next phase of his career. In addition to continuing his popular podcast *Talkin' Toons* and having set new dates for *Animaniacs In Concert!* (performed with live music in symphony halls and theatres), the other franchise with which Rob has been associated for two generations – *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* – has returned with Rob for the first time assuming the role of director, getting to work on the other side of the glass. Rob has a passion for this art that's unique among deeply passionate artists! You personally experience it in every class he teaches, and it's an honor to have him aboard.

Thom Pinto

He's not nearly so short, and he's even less green, but if there's any director who qualifies as Voicetrax Yoda, it's our Inaugural "TOP Teacher" vote-winning **THOM PINTO**! For decades, students have come to Thom for his uniquely granular and incisive coaching, not to mention his occasional tough-loving body-slam; getting "Pinto-ed" has long been a Voicetrax rite of passage. Thom came up through the Golden Age of voice-over "Thunder-Throats" sounding more like a regular guy, which is what made him so determined to succeed through sheer force of acting performance. Advertising trends, visual editing and its influence, the TV promotional flavor of the month for *EVERY individual network*, mind – there's not an aspect of voice acting anyone can name that Thom has not pored over and rigorously analyzed to find that special auditioning edge. Thom demonstrates the mastery of versatility and range you can attain by *being a constant student of voice acting*, and that's what's propelled him to genre-defying heights – authoritative voice for CBS evening news to whimsical poet for Clorox to down-to-earth narrator for Discovery – he's like that instantly-recognized character actor you can't quite name, who might as well be a leading man for his omnipresence. And as the author of the "Colors Of Your Voice" and "Think Visually, Act Vocally" curricula, he's bestowed his singular wisdom at Voicetrax for more than 25 years.

Sara Jane Sherman

We're not going to call her hyper-energetic and super-enthusiastic about actors and voice-acting; let's just say that when the Energizer Bunny saw **SARA JANE SHERMAN** at work, he tossed his drumsticks over his fuzzy little shoulders in abject defeat and retired to Tallahassee. Sara Jane is pretty unique among casting specialists in that she truly understands how you work as an actor and speaks to you in actor language! But even if she didn't, her obvious joy in the creative process would still beam through, giving her the perfect temperament for 12 years at Disney Television Animation. There she cast and worked on projects like *Big Hero 6: The Series*, *Phineas and Ferb*, *Gravity Falls*, and *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse* among many other titles. Casting led to directing, and directing has led Sara Jane to teaching! Not only does that make her a perfect fit around here at Voicetrax, it makes her absolutely ideal for having world-class fun and learning a lot about what Disney-level Casting and Dialogue Directors are looking for.



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!

Tasia Valenza

What's in a name? Well if you should happen to associate Mickey Mouse and an army of self-sweeping brooms with **TASIA VALENZA**, that might be by design; "Tasia" actually comes from Disney's *Fantasia*! You might expect a child star to spring fully formed with such a name, and you wouldn't be entirely wrong; Tasia found herself working at an ice cream store one day and booked for a major motion picture the next, all at a mere 15 years of age! Pile on a role with *All My Children* and the near-immediate money and fame that came with it, and there's no surprise it can all get a bit much at that age. So after taking some time to take some stock, it was time for a career reboot: "Hi, my name is Tasia Valenza and I'd like you to represent me doing voice-over. 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 voice-over, it became clear Tasia's heart (and voice!) belonged just to voice-over. Tasia's since cut across nearly any genre you can name – commercials, video games, promos, trailers, narration, radio imaging – recently winning a Telly Award and an Emmy! And she loves teaching such a wonderful craft at Voicetrax, too.

Roger Vosburg

After taking every Voicetrax class that wasn't nailed down, **ROGER VOSBURG** scored a spot for E-Trade on his second non-union audition – and after a successful session, it dawned on Roger that "maybe I can actually do this!" You'd think a flurry of jobs ranging from web-based characters to audio tours to traditional commercial spots might reinforce that notion, what with actually getting paid to do impressions of flying saucers and chickens (how good could this possibly get?) But still there was the gnawing doubt, "can I really do the big-time stuff?" THEN came an invitation to LA for a week of auditioning, and the big fish in the little pond was swimming with the whales now! So there he was on the first day among voice actors he knew about and admired, dreading a full-on P-P-P-Porky Pig stutter attack; but when he got the first scripts, he took a deep breath, applied all that Voicetrax training and hard work he had put in, and OWNED the booth, booking two spots during that glorious week! Since then Roger has done radio and TV spots, narration, interactive games, audio tours and numerous IVR phone prompt applications, realizing at long last, "yes I CAN do this!" – and what should the *next* question be? "Can I *teach* this?" of course! You can count on our IVR guru to provide gentle yet firm guidance coupled with a fair dose of humor.

Talent Agents, Booth Directors & Agency Owners/Partners

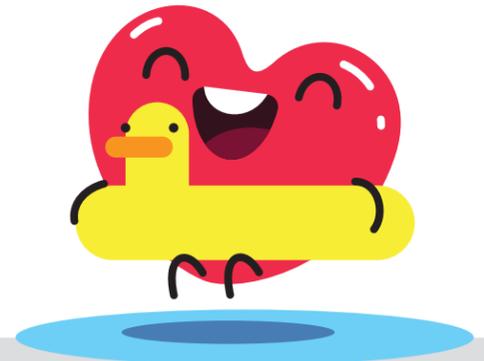
Hailing from San Francisco, Los Angeles & New York, absolutely the *finest around* – we'd seriously need another 18 pages of catalogue to list out just a fraction of the credits attributed to these talent agencies due to their impressive celebrity and non-celebrity client list. While SAG/AFTRA union 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 30 years we have been dedicated to not just training actors but mentoring human beings to reach their personal and professional goals. Minus the hugs & high-fives, our students have found the learning experience online to be just as instructive, effective, engaging and valuable (some even say more so, check out the testimonial page on our website) as our in-person classes, as we utilize all the tools at our disposal including performance recording and playback and breakout rooms for rehearsing.

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.

*When the current State and/or Federal Health & Safety Mandates allow.



For Beginners

BEGINNING SEMINAR

Directors: Vicki Baum,
Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

The Beginning Seminar was AMAZING! As a bashful newcomer, this class blew the doors right off any fears I had about pursuing my passion of becoming a voice actor. By the end of the weekend I felt supercharged. I didn't want to stop! Most importantly, I loved working with Vicki & Aaron. Both of them were so supportive, encouraging and honest with feedback. I truly feel like they care about helping beginners improve and chase their dreams. I already feel like Voicetrax is family and love them all dearly. I can't wait to keep stuffing my brain with their knowledge and skills. I now have a bright light illuminating my path to realizing my dream. ~Mikey Thomas

I enjoyed the whole online experience. The digital platform was easy to use and had no difficulties connecting even though it was the first time I did any type of web meeting. I'm so grateful this online class was offered. I've been wanting to sign up for quite some time and this seemed like the right push for me to step into the realm of voice acting. The teaching came to me, which made things super helpful and comfortable. The feedback from the teachers were very constructive and supportive. I learned so much by watching the other students and hearing the feedback. The direction was very straightforward and easy to understand, and I appreciate that I'm learning from experienced and talented people that are currently working in the industry. I can see you all have a joy for this and that's invaluable. ~Desiree Griffin

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. Chuck and Brian will share their insights, tricks and techniques that have led to their remarkable success in the character genre. Gain an enhanced understanding of the character creation process and realize just how freeing and exhilarating it is as an adult to simply let go and play. After this weekend, you will possess an increased confidence in your ability to invent colorful and memorable, yet realistic characters. With Chuck and Brian's expertise and encouragement, get ready to unleash the characters that live within you that you never knew existed.

FINDING YOUR VOICE

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 3.5-hour overview
Class Notes: None

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

The Finding Your Voice class was more like a "finding out all your dreams can come true" class for me. This introductory lecture opened so many doors for me and completely changed the trajectory of my life's journey. When I was a kid, I dreamt of being a voice actor. Once Samantha showed me that it was a possibility, I submerged myself into the wonderful world of Voicetrax and have never been happier. ~Lucas deAyora

This school changed my life! The academy has an unparalleled roster of teachers covering every aspect of the voice-over world. Be it commercial, characters, narration, audio books, promos, or anything in-between Voicetrax has an instructor who can teach you what you need to know to succeed. But what really sets this school apart is the sense of family and community you have there. Samantha Paris and her staff do such a phenomenal job of creating a warm, comforting environment that makes classes fun, exciting, and some place you just can't wait to get back to. And when the pandemic hit and in person classes went on hold, they didn't skip a beat at transitioning to an online learning format, great for a guy based in Southern California who wants to be a part of it! I owe all my past, present, and future voiceover success to Voicetrax.

~Wes Davis

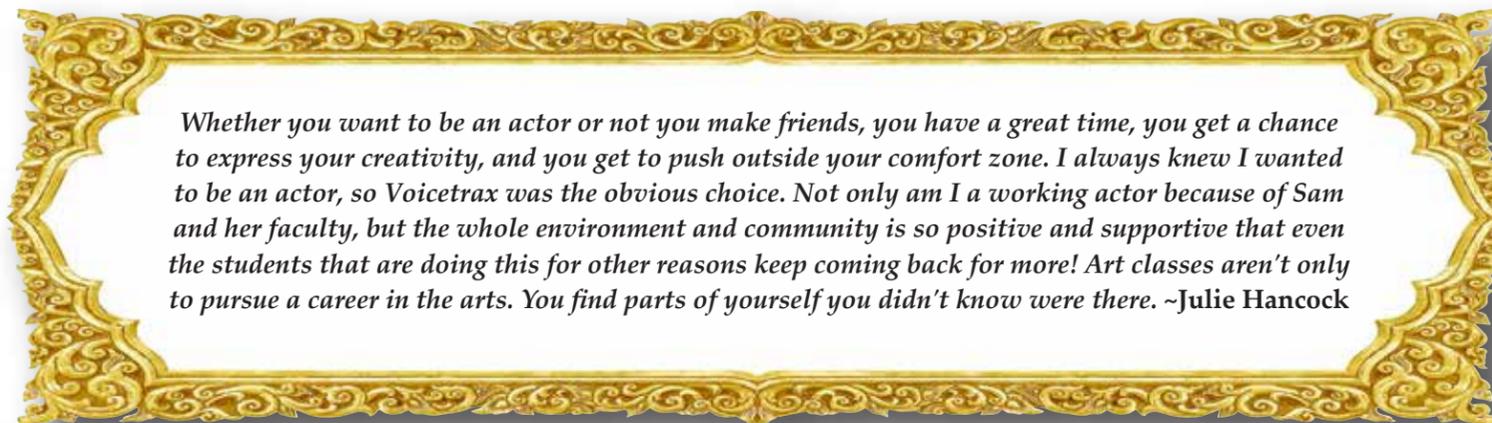
INTRODUCTION TO NARRATION

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop,
10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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



SIMPLY ACTING

Director: Frank Coppola

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

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

TO PARIS AND BACK

Director: Samantha Paris,
Vicki Baum

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

To Paris & Back was the perfect tour into the world of voice-over. You get a taste of everything: script analysis, acting, mic technique, working scenes with a partner. Samantha provides insanely skilled direction and you feel how much she genuinely loves helping each student develop their skills. Her passion makes the class so much fun and helps you get comfortable - it's a safe space to explore! Had enough travel puns yet? Seriously, I recommend this class wholeheartedly! ~Laura Quiambao

For Intermediate Students



COLORS OF YOUR VOICE

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop,
10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

DIALOGUES GONE WILD

Director: Devin Glischinski

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

It really doesn't take voice-over students very long to figure out how much fun it is to have an acting partner, how much more alive and real your personal performance can be when you have another actor to work off of. And if that's true (*and it is*), then this workshop is destined to be wall-to-wall genuine joy. Devin's dynamic lesson plan that includes commercial and character scripts will become incrementally more challenging as the weeks progress going from partner improvs and full dialogue scripts to wild-lining, the art of performing one side of a dialogue when the other half is not on the script. During the last week your imagination will be paramount as you perform your wild-lined script with confidence knowing you now have the ability to "hear" the other role even when you're on your own. And by strengthening your dialogue skills you ultimately strengthen your monologue skills, since *surprise...* every monologue is an internal dialogue in disguise.

With Devin's guidance I learned how to shape a character, develop the dynamics by reacting to my dialogue partner, and ultimately, I was able to hear my partner even when they weren't there. The class was just the right balance of fun and being pushed to my limits. Devin kept it fresh and personal even over Zoom, encouraging us to truly go wild; and in the worst case, "suck with flare!" ~Mahdi Azmandian

FOUNDER'S SEMINAR

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

WHAT A CHARACTER

Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Explore the cornucopia of characters that perhaps you *don't even realize* are lurking inside you. What might your dastardly villain sound like selling earthquake insurance? What would that same individual sound like on a first date? Find out as you perform an ambiguous script and examine how a character would act in different situations and surroundings. You'll gain practical experience as you are challenged to dig deeper into the psyche of your character making it more authentic, well-rounded and easier to sustain, a must-have skill when it comes to video games, animation and narration.

For Everyone



NEW SPECTACULAR GUEST!

INSIDE THE VOICE ACTOR'S STUDIO

Moderator: Vicki Baum

Length: 3-hour lecture

Class Notes: None

Special Guest: Rob Paulsen

Our very special guest is the internationally iconic and ruthlessly talented Rob Paulsen. As one of the most accomplished and beloved actors in animation history, Rob has voiced characters STILL adored around the globe including Yakko from *Animaniacs*, Pinky from *Pinky and the Brain*, as well as Raphael from the original *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and Donatello from the Turtles reboot. We'll explore Rob's story both personally and professionally as we weave through his career culminating in his diagnosis of throat cancer, putting his career in jeopardy and how that journey opened his eyes and his heart to what's most important in life. This will undoubtedly be the most unique and thought-provoking episode of this series EVER. You seriously don't want to miss it!

INTRO TO HOME RECORDING

Director: Jim Edgar,
Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

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

In a voice-over industry full of remote live direction and where auditions are predominantly done at home, the opportunity to break into the business is as ripe as ever. And while being a well-trained, skilled actor will always be paramount, so now is having a professional-grade home studio. But don't fret, that does not mean spending thousands of dollars or being a genius engineer, but you do need to be educated. Join Jim as he takes you through the basic fundamentals of home recording including recording hardware and software, editing conventions, exporting sound files along with suggestions for a basic set-up if you don't already have one. By the end of this factually jam-packed workshop, you will know how to record, edit and submit an mp3 of sufficient quality so you can start getting in on all those super cool, advanced Voicetrax classes that require home recording capabilities. And JUST when you think the story is over, it's time to put what you've learned with Jim to good use, as Chuck will finish the last two weeks of the class listening to scripts you've recorded at home. He'll not only give you succinct feedback on your acting performance but will also comment on your new and improved "Edgar-ized" sound quality.

The Intro to Home Recording class is a game-changer! While I had previously dabbled in voice-over, my experiences were always in a studio or directly into a computer microphone. Armed with the information from this class, I can now record and edit my own files. I am no longer waiting for the perfect moment to begin, but actually charting my own course. I am forever indebted to Jim for his wisdom, his teaching ability, his constructive feedback and his unfailing good humor and patience. ~Nancy Midlin

Pay It Forward Parlour

Director: YOU and your fellow students (and perhaps a Guest Director or two)

Length: 3-hour lab, monthly

Class Notes: None

There's seriously never been something so "for everyone" in the 33-year history of Voicetrax. We really mean it: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced/Working Professional students, even Alumni! E.V.E.R.Y.O.N.E. is invited. This special lab was born from our desire to give back to our Voicetrax family and provides the virtual "bricks-and-mortar" for a monthly workout group. For one night each month we are opening one of our Zoom channels – free of charge – for you to remotely drop in and work on whatever kind of script you choose including dialogues as we utilize breakout rooms for partners to practice in private. You'll get the opportunity to receive performance feedback from your fellow students as well as providing constructive critiques of your own, which we all know very specifically helps with the ever-important self-direction skills necessary for success. Learn and have fun in a casual environment. And did we mention there could just *maaaaybe* be a surprise pop-in by an elite Voicetrax Guest Director? Guess you'll just have to show up to find out!

These workout sessions are great. I learn so much from all the other coaching ideas for the group. Being asked to give feedback on other actor's performances is so good because it makes us think critically about each read and helps us develop the skills we need to self-direct when we are submitting auditions. I plan to attend as many as I can. Thank you so much for offering this invaluable instruction for free! Who does that? Voicetrax does! ~Michael MacQuarrie

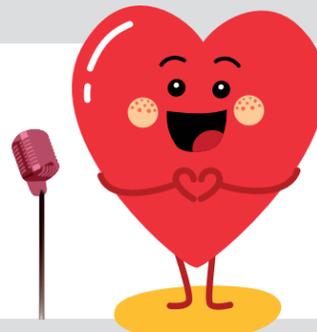
VOCAL WELLNESS: FROM HOARSE TO STABLE

Director: Julia Norton

Length: 3-hour lab

Class Notes: None

Brilliant! You booked that cool video game and feel like a champ! But you quickly realize that a four-hour recording session as a dragon with anger issues is going to be a workout for your voice. How do you get through hours of killing and dying and live to tell the tale? With decades of experience helping people have a free and healthy voice, Julia will incorporate breathing and relaxation exercises, placement and resonance, warm-up and cool-down approaches amongst a multitude of techniques that will help you to keep your voice healthy and happy for video game sessions with the vocally challenging motion "efforts", lengthy narration jobs where you need to sound as fresh in hour three as you do at the start of the session and increase your vocal range for character voices. You'll discover what to do when you get sick and what to avoid drinking or eating before a session. All of this adds up to a fun and information packed lab.



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 describe and tell an imaginative story.

BEST DAMN DEMO PERIOD!

Director: Sirenetta Leoni, LA Agent, Samantha Paris

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

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

During this information-packed (*and when we say packed, we mean stuffed to the rafters and beyond*) workshop you'll develop a clear understanding of the demo production process from start to finish including copy selection, recording, editing, post-production, design, branding, marketing strategy, costs and online demos vs. agency demos. Samantha, Sirenetta and an experienced Los Angeles talent agent will help you to discover what your strengths are and how to highlight them in a way that will grab the attention of agents and producers, as well as common mistakes to avoid. By the last week of class, students will have produced, performed, self-directed and packaged their own mock demo.

BLOGCAST NEWS

Director: Roni Gallimore

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course will include homework assignments.

News Flash! We are searching for storytellers to bring the Voicetrax blog to life! With over 30-million bloggers in the United States alone (and growing daily), blogs are now a powerhouse platform for marketing, customer support, tutorials, activism and community sharing. Humans are relying more and more on audio blogs to get their content. This is where you come in. Utilizing actual blog entries from the Voicetrax website, Roni will guide you through the script analysis, emotional context and character development it takes to be an epic storyteller. How do you engage the listener? What's the right personality for the blog? Are you conveying the heart of the matter clearly? This class will help you answer these questions and open a virtual door to a new arena. And at the end of the day, the top performers in class, chosen by the Voicetrax Think Tank - *man those guys get around* - will be selected to be featured performers on the Voicetrax website blog to entertain current and future voice-over superstars who visit our blog for years to come. And with so many industry professionals visiting our site (*cough-producers-cough*), you just never know who might be listening!

Taking Blogcast News with Roni The Storyteller completely changed the way I bring myself to a read behind the mic. Roni always encourages me and says, "I just want to hear more Abbey", which helps enhance my ability to tell a story from a truer and more vulnerable place. I also loved reading the blog posts about our fellow students' bookings and successes! It's like this hard work DOES pay off, and I'm literally speaking the proof of it right now realizing one day that will be me! ~Abbey Lee

BOOKING GIG\$ 123

Director: Vicki Baum

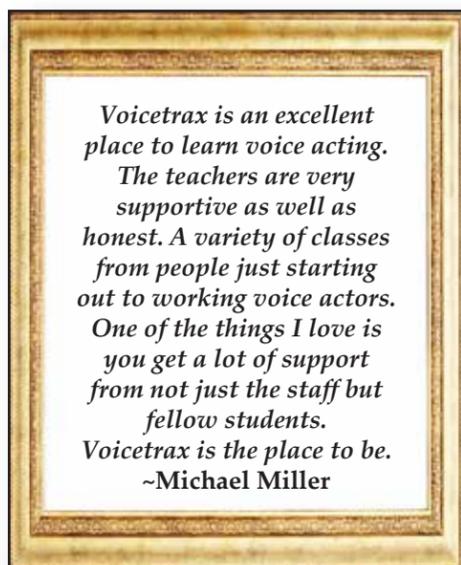
Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Tired of spending time auditioning online with few positive results? *News Flash: It may not be your performances that are holding you back. Gasp!* Yes, you absolutely need to apply your training and submit a creative, organic performance, but when it comes to online casting sites there is so much more to it. It can be intimidating when you hear that only 3% of the thousands of registered "actors" on Voice123 actually book a job. But have no fear! The good news is a majority of the Voicetrax student body who've trained to a competitive level are within that 3%! And one of the major reasons for that is this comprehensive, A-Z class that reveals not only how Vicki books in the top 10% nationwide on Voice123, but how she consistently books through various other audition resources as a result of her networking and hustle. She'll cover her entire online auditioning strategy including which auditions to choose, how to build your profile and professionally communicate with potential clients as well as how she keeps track of her finances, bills clients... basically how she acts as CEO running her voice-over business.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Voicetrax is an excellent place to learn voice acting. The teachers are very supportive as well as honest. A variety of classes from people just starting out to working voice actors. One of the things I love is you get a lot of support from not just the staff but fellow students. Voicetrax is the place to be.
~Michael Miller

DIRECT THYSELF

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

FINDING TRUTH IN THE BOOTH

Director: 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 LA Agent as he makes use of scripts that lend themselves to this pursuit of realism and other scripts that want us to be natural and yet use the words *introducing* and *coming soon*, thus providing a much greater challenge. Agent X will even bring in some of the winning auditions, so you can see how you stack up to your LA competition. 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.

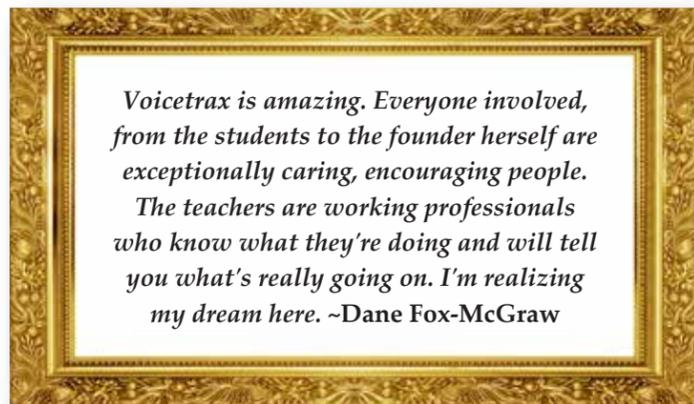
GET ANIMATED!

Director: Townsend Coleman

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Worried that characters are not for you or you'll never be any good at them? One of the most beloved animation voice actors in the country (*see Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and The Tick*) brings his extensive experience to this seminar to prove you wrong... in the most loving manner, of course! With Townie leading the charge, you can and will become a character whiz. You'll explore all the vital skills and techniques and foster the required mental approach that aspiring animation and video game actors need to be successful including developing a specific back story, using prototypes to create an original character and of course, breaking down the copy. You'll develop and expand your own cast of characters and gain some well-earned swagger in your ability to perform and sustain a fully flushed and truly believable character.



GET IN THE ACTING GAME

Director: Dave Fennoy

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

GOT GAME II: CRITICAL DAMAGE

Director: Chuck Kourouklis,
Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Got Game Level One or prior approval from Voicetrax. This course includes homework assignments.

The warlords are coming for you, so be brave, grab your sword and level up to explore all the hidden caves and open battlefields the video game industry has to offer. Your campaign leaders, Brian and Chuck, are turning up the heat in this level two workshop. They'll take you through your paces including challenging you to direct your fellow students as well as acting as the casting producers breaking down class performances and choosing who would be cast. Not to mention the all-important, yet rarely practiced "efforts": the ability to die, yell and know the difference between falling off a 30-foot cliff and a 300-foot cliff, all the while not blowing your vocal cords out. Ramp up for a four-week adventure full of variety!

KNOW YOUR ZERO

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Have you ever looked at a long list of specs on the script and been confused as to what to focus on? Naaaahhh... that NEVER happens... Or have you been auditioning online and you're not sure how to choose amongst the dozens of scripts you receive each day that represent your best odds on booking the job? Truly knowing yourself, what you naturally bring to the table both vocally and personality-wise is a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to choosing what to add into the recipe to create an outstanding, yet uniquely YOU performance. You'll work on quintessentially you scripts, as Vicki and the rest of the class will assist each student in ascertaining what makes you, well... YOU. If history tells us anything, we're betting you just might be surprised at what you learn about yourself, as well as astounded and enlightened by how others perceive you on the very personal and exhilarating journey you'll take in this workshop.

No matter where you are in your voice-over journey, this is a class worth taking - multiple times! Why? Because what we think is our "zero" can morph over time or get forgotten in the clutter of auditions that ask us to be everything. This class is not about what we THINK our vocal and personality traits are, it is about how others perceive those traits, which is really the truth about what we are projecting. Once you know your zero, not only can you save time and energy selecting auditions that are in your wheelhouse, you have a foundation from which to build - even exploring the surprising brilliance of your "anti-zero". Thank you to Vicki and my classmates for helping me rediscover my zero. ~Lynda Kluck

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

PRESS ONE FOR IVR

Director: Roger Vosburg

Length: 6-hour two-week workshop

Class Notes: None

Please hold... Your class description is very important to us... We will be with you in just a moment... In this workshop, Roger will help you develop the skills and techniques necessary to work on voice activated response systems (automated phone prompts also known as Interactive Voice Response), including appropriate style, clarity, maintaining consistency and energy, cold reading and techniques such as "concatenation". And why should you be interested in IVR? Well, not only are the initial sessions usually very long (long = well paid), but when a bank needs to add a few prompts to their phone tree, who are they gonna call? (*pleeeeee don't say Ghostbusters, that joke is sooo 1984, you know who'll they'll call... YOU! again and again and again*) You'll finish this workshop with a greater understanding of what it takes to be the "voice of a company".

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SCRIPT ANALYSIS

Director: Samantha Paris, Chuck Kourouklis, Sirenetta Leoni

Length: 18-hour six-week workshop

Class Notes: This course includes weekly homework assignments.

Simply put... if you don't get the script, you don't get the gig! This tantalizing triad of teachers will help you unravel the mysteries of script interpretation as you analyze a variety of TV and radio commercials, animation, video game and narration scripts while discovering how to dissect copy intelligently to give you a leg up on the competition. You'll learn to look for hidden clues (aka "bunnies") and not just the ones buried in the body of the copy, but the ones you can glean from the sound effects, visuals, directions, music, length, even the agency name. Strengthen and broaden one of *the most important* foundational skills necessary for voice-over success in this class fortified with an additional two weeks in response to overwhelming student demand. We can take direction, too!

SHE SAID/SHE SAID: HOW'D I BOOK THAT?

Director: Roni Gallimore, Vicki Baum

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Feedback times TWO! On separate weeks you will receive feedback from your Guest Directors on the exact same performances, giving you the opportunity to contrast and compare the thoughts from two professionals. What did they agree on that was great about your performance that you should keep front and center in future attempts, and what do you need to work on to bring consequent reads to a competitive level? Additionally, all the scripts you'll be performing (with minimal direction since that's what it's like in your closet at home), will just happen to be projects booked by your Guest Directors. You'll get to hear their WINNING auditions as well a commentary on their approach to the audition. What was special? What risks did they take? How did your audition stack up? All these burning questions will be answered as they divulge their tricks of the home-auditioning trade. A unique and wonderful window into the thought process of successful, working voice actors. Your online and agency auditions will undoubtedly be all the better for receiving all this insider information!

I love the She Said/She Said class! I appreciate that the format mimics exactly what we experience in real auditions in a supportive classroom environment. I get the chance to practice scripts, hear the acting choices my fellow classmates made, and then the actual read that booked the job. Plus getting double feedback from both Roni and Vicki helps clarify different perspectives/direction on the same audition. It's a real world lesson in the audition process, giving and receiving feedback, and making strong choices. I love it! ~Lucy Parkinson

SPEAKING MY LANGUAGE



Director: Aaron Miner, LA Agent

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: Although this course will be taught in English, all participants must be FLUENT in Spanish.

There is a ridiculous amount of work opportunities for actors who speak Spanish, so much so that all the big talent agencies have a separate division dedicated to it and they are *clamoring* for Spanish-speaking actors. But lest you think this is a class merely focusing on getting through voice-over copy in Spanish, take heed: script analysis, acting choices and self-direction will definitely still be in play. With Aaron, you'll work on conversational, natural performances as you record in class. Then our secret LA Agent, who runs the foreign department for one of the biggest agencies on the country, will swoop in on the last week and play the part of well... *an agent*... to give you constructive critiques and maybe even a chance to perform again incorporating his assessments. The multitude of different accents within the Hispanic speaking world will be explored, determining which are the most often asked for and how regional slang plays a part, as well as overcoming pacing concerns with the often-overwritten copy while avoiding the clichéd Telemundo style read. *Si puedes leer y entiendes esto, entonces estas calificado a tomar esta clase!*

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE WEIRD

Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Students must have home recording capabilities.

In this workshop you'll traverse down the track through the multi-faceted land of characters from good to bad and all the way to the wacky world of weird. Stretch yourself from week to week as each class focuses on a different category. Team up with Brian, your character conductor, as you make stops at Goodville (princes, maidens, superheroes), Bad Canyon (mad scientists, thieves, assassins) and Weirdburg (zombies, aliens, robots) characters. The last week will cumulate in a free-for-all, as you bring all your diverse characters to life challenging your ability to pivot from one to the other to the other on on cue. And the frosting on this deee-licious character cake? Brian will pick the top performer from the final night and award them a FREE private lesson with him. How you like them apples?

THREE IN A ROW

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: Class can and SHOULD Be Repeated. 😊

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Vicki Baum

Length: 14-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: None

This workshop is prepared to take your narration skills up a notch or two while telling a great story. And since narration is one of the dominant genres in the voice-over industry with opportunities like never before, this class is a perfect vehicle to transform you into a narrator to be reckoned with. By further honing your visualization techniques, script analysis and acting choices, you'll learn to deliver the more authentic and conversational reads that are now in demand. You'll span several genres including audio tour, industrial tech, tutorial and medical narration that are so prevalent in today's narration market.

VO FIGHT CLUB

Director: Aaron Miner

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

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

ACTOR'S BAG OF TRICKS

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

For all voice actors, versatility makes you bookable which makes continually stretching yourself in all directions essential. On any given day you may be asked to audition for very diverse roles, from a video game villain to a smooth announcer to a comedic neighbor to an automated response system voice! Join one of SF's best-known and exquisitely experienced voice-over agents for this instructive workshop. He'll share his unique and proven method for developing your own one-person repertory company that you'll be able to use over and over again for auditions and recording sessions.

BE SCENE AND HEARD

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

WORLD PREMIERE!

In this world premiere 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.

CARTOON CURTAIN CALL

Director: Sara Jane Sherman

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

The dream for any working professional voice actor is getting to learn from a top-notch industry professional who has the ability to demystify the behind the scenes process. Well get ready people, because your dream is about to come true! Join Disney and Warner Bros. casting producer Sara Jane Sherman as she pulls back the curtain on the auditioning and casting process for the big-time animation industry with her trademark passion and enthusiasm. Sara Jane will provide her nimble feedback as she puts you through the gauntlet with cold reads, prepared reads, self-direction, directing others, differentiating between multiple characters and so on and so on. Maybe you'll even answer the question: *I'm submitting good reads... why aren't I booking?* Sara Jane will explain how she listens to auditions, what she's listening for and how the casting process truly works from her insider's viewpoint. Learn how to create a character audition that pops louder and bigger than the others from someone who is in the animation trenches day in and day out year after year.

CHARACTER CASTING CALVALCADE



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

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.

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

DIALECT INTERVENTION

Director: Kimberly Mohne Hill

Length: 14-hour weekend seminar

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

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

Do you want to create a character with a dialect so convincing that you'll fool your own mother Samantha Paris? Then take this class. Take. This. Class. I have a degree in a foreign language and even I learned additional ways to get the results I wanted. All thanks to Kimberly's insightful approach. You'll listen. You'll analyze. You'll practice. That's how we grow into the best and most versatile actors. I am ever so thankful that Voicetrax offered this course and that I accepted. Y'all come back now. Ya hear?!? ~Theresa Knott

DIRECT THYSELF: THE BLACK BELT EDITION

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 24-hour six-week workshop

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

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

DISCOVERING YOUR INNER ARTIST

Director: Chopper Bernet

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

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

INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH STORYTELLING

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Every story matters whether it's revealing a new wonder drug, introducing breakthrough software, sharing a company's philosophy to new employees, or navigating a tutorial about investments. As an experienced documentary narrator, Thom knows how to tell a great story. And although there are numerous technical plates to spin while navigating the industrial type narration prevalent in our world today, being able to engage your audience through dynamic storytelling remains at the heart of any competitive narration performance. Through imagery, music and immersing in the subject matter, Thom will teach you to treat even the dry, informational or technical non-broadcast narration with the same kind of TLC. And just for good measure Thom will be throwing in a round of sh*##y scripts because you're bound to come across those in your career, especially if you are auditioning on the myriad of online casting websites. Focus on making your perspective crystal clear, especially since audiences will only see and hear your message once. Experience a weekend of tough love – Thom Pinto style – for advanced narrators that will assist in bringing a memorable, winning quality to your auditions.

FORTIFIED w/ 🍌 scripts

INV. COMMERCIALS VS. CARTOONS VS. VIDEO GAMES

Director: Dan Gilvezan, LA Agent, Dave Fennoy

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: By Invitation Only. This class can and should be repeated.

The class name remains the same, but *everything* else has changed. With these three powerhouse instructors utilizing their decades of experience to stretch you, this seminar could be considered a world premiere! This fast-paced seminar offers you a side-by-side-by-side look at the differences and similarities between commercial, cartoon and video game characters – when to be broad, when to be subtle and real and everything in between. You'll discover the appropriate lively tone and energy for your Saturday morning characters and learn how to "dial it down" while sustaining the reality and intensity required for video game characters, not to mention developing the funny yet conversational and believable characters that commercial copy demands. Commercial veteran Dan Gilvezan, a premiere LA animation agent, and video game superstar Dave Fennoy are tops in their field and know their craft. These three copy connoisseurs will deepen your understanding of the nuances of these unique voice-over genres and challenge your versatility. so you should be ready for anything. Especially since whoever is the best all-around performer in all three genres will **win a free private lesson** with Samantha!

INV. FROM MEDITATION TO VOCAL ELATION: LA EDITION

Director: Peter Coyote, LA Agent

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: By Invitation Only.

What's better than Peter Coyote? How about Peter Coyote plus one of the top agents in the country? Lucky us, we have that combination in a special one-day lab that will help you approach your performances in a refreshed, unique, one-of-a-kind way. You'll start off with the one-and-only Zen master himself Peter Coyote, as he takes you through numerous meditative and thought-provoking exercises, clearing your mind of all the self-built road blocks you put in the way of a stellar performance. After a midday break, you will then put all that grounded, clear thinking to the test as you perform various copy in front of a top-notch Los Angeles agent and gain her detailed feedback. Discover how your new mindset affects your interpretations and performances in beautiful, positive ways.



INV. REMEMBER WHEN...

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Since the ability to self-direct is such a monumental part of experiencing success in voice-over, we always endeavor to come up with fun, new ways to explore this critical skill. This time around the self-direction carousel, we've come up with a real doozy of an idea! In a special twist, this class will be populated by half advanced students, half beginning students. *See where we're going with this?* Breaking free from the usual advanced directing advanced, the advanced students in this seminar will be tasked with directing the beginning students which presents its own set of unique and valuable challenges. Samantha has said it time and time again: she undeniably became the best voice actress she could be after she started teaching beginners. As for the beginning students, you'll not only get a ton of time in the booth (*don't worry advanced students, you're gonna get booth time, too!*), but you'll also be privy to the collaborative self-direction discussion usually reserved for more advanced classes, allowing you to move more expediently towards your own mastery by knowing where the professional, competitive standards truly are.

INV. REMOTELY SPEAKING

Director: Three, *count 'em,* THREE LA Agents

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: By Invitation Only. This course includes a pre-class and weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities. The class can and **should** be repeated. It's basically NEW!

Auditioning from home with no one to rely on but yourself is the established norm in the voice-over industry. There's nothing like submitting your audition into the digital ether and never having it heard from again (unless you check avail or book the job) to prey on your self-confidence. Armed with three Los Angeles agents ready to share their wisdom and experience, this workshop is chocked full of the feedback all voice actors so fiercely long for. These experienced pros will straight-forward yet supportively tell you what they think of your performances challenging your script analysis and self-direction skills (are those important?). They'll also give you a peek behind the curtain divulging what they are looking for when they are listening to auditions and what makes a performance grab their attention and stand out from the rest. Pure gold...

FORTIFIED ALL NEW TEACHERS

INV. *Secret Agent* CHARACTER PROTOCOL

Director: LA Agent

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: By Invitation Only. This lab is limited to 8 students.

Your mission should you choose to accept it is to infiltrate this one-day lab and retrieve all the critical voice-over knowledge being offered. New intel suggests that one of the most successful animation agents in the country will be homing in in her super cool agent gadget-like way on the Bay Area ready to engage a few select voice actors who are ready to step up to the plate and expand their character skills in a more intimate setting. With only 8 seats available in this special lab, you'll have to be quick on the draw to register. As always should you or any member of your class be caught phoning in your performances, the secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions. This class description will self-destruct in 5 seconds...

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

INV. UNMASKING YOUR INFINITE POTENTIAL

Director: Peter Coyote

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: By Invitation Only.

Join the one and only Peter Coyote as he masterfully guides you through exercise after exercise including wearing masks to shift your paradigm before spontaneously creating a character, that will open your mind and welcome in all the inexhaustible possibilities your existence offers. He'll also challenge you to identify the negative thoughts that your psyche categorizes as self-truths, that are merely self-imposed obstacles that are strangling your creativity and stopping you from living a rich, full life. In the afternoon, you'll take all that new-found, mind-blowing awareness and apply it to narration scripts. This Emmy-winning © narrator will give you the tools to discover the ability to focus that enlightened state and funnel it into extraordinary acting choices, bringing about a true transformational performance.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

LET'S MAKE A SCENE

Because brilliant acting has always and will always be at the center of every successful voice-over career and everything we teach at Voicetrax, this extravaganza will focus on play and/or movie monologues. Each of the three classes below will approach your preparation of a memorized monologue with a DIFFERENT acting technique.

LET'S MAKE A SCENE w/PETER COYOTE

Director: Peter Coyote

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

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

Join the one-and-only Emmy® award winning Peter Coyote as he furthers your acting evolution as you prepare to dig into and really strengthen your acting prowess as you hone a memorized monologue getting at the truth of the scene. Peter will bring the wisdom hard-earned from decades in the industry, with over 100 motion pictures and TV shows under his belt, to help you get lost within your character and truly emotionally connect with the words on the page. You'll learn at the feet of the master as he lets you in on the world his imagination and A-List experience inhabits for script interpretation on a whole other mind-blowing level.

LET'S MAKE A SCENE w/KIMBERLY MOHNE HILL

Director: Kimberly Mohne Hill

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

How you respond to the given circumstances in your life creates the kind of person you are. Transferring that realism to an acting performance is at the heart of the approach Kim will employ when working with you on your memorized monologue. A little bit Stanislavski, a little bit Uta Hagen, this seminar will delve into the world of substitution, transference, authenticity and asking yourself: What would I do if I was in this situation? By discovering how your given circumstances affect your personal life choices, you can transfer that process when you're provided a script with the given circumstances of your *fictional character*, and be able to make more realistic acting choices. You'll learn how empathizing with the character you portray becomes the key to opening the doors to a genuinely memorable performance.

LET'S MAKE A SCENE w/MELISSA GRAY

Director: Melissa Gray

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

Jump into the fray with Melissa to explore the acting essentials she values most through her decades of experience including working with your "wants", verbal action choices, selection of beats, variety of rhythms and nuancing, subtext and inner dialoguing. You'll integrate hypothetical dialogue into your scene work (*geez, is every monologue a dialogue in disguise? We're sure we've heard that somewhere before...*) to bring a sense of relationship and connection to your monologues. Continue to expand your listening skills so that you are organically and spontaneously reacting, creating a personal performance that will come from a true sense of what you need and feel in the moment.

THE COMPETITION:

The top four students from each scene study class will advance to a final competition class to be held in the fall semester of 2021. If you are among the twelve students chosen, you'll perform the memorized monologue honed in your scene study class (or if you're feeling adventurous another one of your choosing) in front of the judges: Samantha Paris and a top San Francisco agent, another opportunity to showcase your abilities in front of an agent and put yourself in the running for a chance at THREE fabulous prizes!

All finalists will get priority status for a private lesson with Samantha to further work your competition monologue at a discounted price before the finals weekend!

PRIZES:

1st PLACE: \$1,000 Scholarship **2ND PLACE:** One FREE four-week workshop or weekend seminar **3RD PLACE:** One FREE private lesson with Samantha Paris

LUNCH WITH PUNCH

Director: Samantha Paris,
Thom Pinto

Length: 24-hour 6-week workshop

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

Are you frustrated or exhausted by the home auditioning process that provides you little to no feedback unless you book the job? Are you in a rut, feeling rusty or has the pressure you've put on yourself strangled the creativity right out of your home auditions leading to discouraging results? In this smorgasbord of a workshop Samantha is locked and loaded to bring back the FUN and give you *exactly* what you need. How is that possible? Because each time we run this class, Samantha looks at the class roster and custom builds her lesson plan to specifically address what those 12 particular students need at the moment. While the lunch has to be virtual, the punch will be real and provided by Samantha and her fellow Guest Director Thom Pinto. *We promise no voice actors will be hurt in the making of this class... we hope.* Spend six afternoons getting your process and mindset "punched" up.

Lunch with Punch is one of my favorite classes at Voicetrax. I've taken it multiple times. I find it helpful because it hits upon so many different genres and techniques. It gives you lots of things to think about and work on. I love watching Samantha coach the best reads out of each and every student. I also enjoy the afternoon time slot. For me it's the perfect environment for growth. ~Susan Vlahos

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

MEN ONLY: WELCOME TO ANNOUNCERVILLE!

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Director: NY Agent, ummm...
duh. ☺

Length: 9-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

Our favorite NY Agent decided to get away (*not really*), take a holiday from her neighborhood (*not so much*) and is hopping on a flight (*virtually via online conferencing platform*) and coming west and she's bringing a whole lotta wisdom and East Coast confidence in her carry-on (*and by carry-on we mean her big, beautiful brain*). From script analysis to the psychology it takes to be a successful voice actor and everything in between, this New York dynamo will take you through a series of scripts that will test your abilities. She may even throw in a mental exercise or two to help you get out of your own way and maximize your audition opportunities. She'll keep the pace moving, so you may be schvitzing your tuchus off by the end of the weekend, but will it be totally worth it? Of course it will... Fuhgeddaboutit! Sorry, we had to...she doesn't really talk that way, not that there's anything wrong with that.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

NO SUCH THING AS A MONOLOGUE LEVEL 2

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

Ok, all you super advanced 'Traxers, Jeannie has designed a class just for you to push you out of your comfort zone and expand your imagination! Fine-tune your script analysis abilities to comprehensively interpret a script, make vocal, emotional and even physiological choices impacting the believability and relevance of the commercial monologue, as you create a performance that is authentic and appropriate to the product by understanding what you *think* before you speak. Explore Jeannie-approved performance tactics that will pinpoint the vibe the writer intended while discovering how your own curiosity and interest propels your commercial monologue. These techniques will organically support finding truthfulness, conversationality (*our favorite new word!*) and personality in your monologue and any other acting work, including theatre and on-camera as well as voice-over, and maybe even your personal and professional life! Stay fully present and in the NOW as you turn all your monologues into vibrant and imaginative dialogues.

WORLD PREMIERE!

THE COLOR OF ACTING

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Colors Of Your Voice or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Okay, so you've mastered the primary colors including blue, you're feeling good about green. And you're confident when it comes to their close cousins as your performances are being vaulted by violet. But how's your aqua? Or your beige? Join the creator of the Colors acting system, Thom Pinto, where you'll continue to examine the subtleties and nuances of using an expanded color palette when creating interesting and unique acting choices, including incorporating this technique to differentiate reads when tasked to do more than one interpretation. Experiment with longer monologues, funny partner reads, and some exercises designed specifically to help you be more visual with your performance.

THE *Mistress* OF ALL TRADES

Director: Lori Alan

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

She's baaaack! The term "get ready for anything" was never more appropriate than it will be for your time with voice-over superstar, Lori Alan. At this advanced level, students usually submit scripts before class to work on with the instructor, but ooooooh nooooo, Lori is having none of that. Her thought: *Let's see what magical things we discover when the students don't have the opportunity to prepare ahead of time and just have to let 'er rip.* This class will incorporate scripts from multiple genres and may even include an improv exercise or two to get you in the mood to dig in and let it fly. Tap into the creative workings of a brilliant artistic mind at the same time you push your versatility to the next level as you become your own Master or Mistress of All Trades.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE SELF-DIRECTION TRIFECTA

Director: Dave Fennoy

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

This international voice-over VIP and knowledgeable jack of all trades is bringing that well-earned versatility to this world premiere workshop. Focusing on your all-important self-direction skills, Dave will take you through a different genre each night including narration, video games and promos (*which by the way have opportunities for voice actors everywhere*). He'll inspect what you do automatically (*for better or worse*) as a self-director and proffer questions to your process, among them: what is the "director you" telling the "performer you" before you record? Does it change based on the genre of script? Are you truly tapping into your signature sounds for variety of scripts you audition? All this and more will be answered on the next episode of The Self-Direction Trifecta (*echo, echo, echo!*)

WORLD PREMIERE!

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PROMOS

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

THREE SCRIPT MONTE

Director: Samantha Paris, SF Agent

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

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

A shell game of another flavor, this class will ask you to keep your eye on "The Lady", namely an agent feedback-eligible script. To play, your "dealer", the lovely Samantha Paris, will offer three scripts each night, one of which is a recent audition script that will be eligible for feedback from a savvy SF Agent that works in the trenches every day listening to hundreds of auditions. The twist? You won't know which of the three scripts the feedback-eligible audition is. Will it be the scripts you record live in class or will it be the one you will record at home? Only the dealer knows for sure. Guess you'll have to bring your best stuff each night, script after script after script. Sam will send the recordings of the selected script to Agent E for straight-forward, get-to-the-point, professional-standard feedback. Learn exactly where you stack compared with working voice actors, or if you are a working voice actor get that precious agent feedback you long for. Get used to handling your nerves while you focus in on a brilliant performance when it's truly all on the line.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

Director: Samantha Paris

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

With so many dry, unimaginative solo and monologue auditions, it's quite easy to get stuck in a rut. Your creative edges start to fuzz without the opportunity to work beside another actor. In this "dialogues only" weekend, you'll free up all that imagination that might be atrophying after months in your closet auditioning alone. From a script analysis perspective, dissecting dialogues forces you to be more creative and see more in the copy which will in turn help you see more in your dry monologue copy. See how this fits together? And a little-known, secret benefit about practicing dialogues? Well, since every monologue is actually an inner dialogue, these scripts will help you work on your conversational read, which as we all know is the most over-used word, yet still most desired performance element in all of voice-over. And just to spice it up a little, your pre-class assignment of writing your own dialogue has a prize attached to it: a free private lesson with Samantha. Punch your ticket now for this non-stop Dialogue-a-palooza!

It's hard to do justice to the You Talkin' to Me? experience, but I'll give it my best shot. Through a combination of deep-dive script analysis, creative writing, directing and the incredible talent of my peers in the class, this class proved to be a serious workout. The focus on all of those different voice-over muscles at once was the perfect set-up to break through some mental barriers I had (and some I didn't know I had) and level up my acting game. I highly recommend it! ~Adam Wooley

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.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER:

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

