

LECTURES... WORKSHOPS... SEMINARS...

All lectures, workshops, and seminars are held at Voicetrax's studios in Sausalito or online depending on the current State and/or Federal Health & Safety Mandates. 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 situation. 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 in your bi-annual registration packet or on our website at www.voicetraxsf.com. See page 8 for legal disclaimer.

The following courses have been ADDED or REVISED since the annual 2021 Voicetrax catalogue was first published. Use this mid-year catalogue in conjunction with the annual 2021 catalogue when reviewing class descriptions.

For Advanced Students & Working Professionals



ACTING UP

Director: Dan Gilvezan

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: None

Acting, in its most basic form, is about what your character wants and how they go about getting it. These objectives and choices are what give a performance depth, variety and emotional connection. Actors that aren't agile at using their imagination operate in a very limited space with their choices, and as a result their auditions stay in that same narrow band. In this one-day intensive, fast-paced lab, Dan will employ a variety of different techniques and exercises including the aspects of The Method system, improv and role playing to expand the sphere of your choices and help you break free of your status quo. You'll be challenged to make quick choices to avoid overthinking and trust your instincts. At the end of the day you'll be thinking about familiar tools in a brand-new way. Learn from a nearly 40-year veteran that has kept himself relevant and booking through the decades due to his superior acting skills.

ADR WITH NED LOTT: THROWN FOR A LOOP

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 7-hour one-day lab

Class Notes: None

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

WORLD PREMIERE!

AUDIO ER



Director: Jim Edgar

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: This course will include a pre-class assignment as well as weekly homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities. Prerequisites: Intro to Home Recording class or prior approval from Voicetrax.

We've all been there... your audition or job is lying there on the table, flat-lining! It needs help STAT! But what tool to use? Equalization? Normalization? Compression? Do you fix the problem but lose the patient? The fact is that as an auditioning, working voice actor these days, the quality of audio has become nearly as important as the performance. Great sound quality means increased opportunities for income since what you record at home is actually ending up on the television or radio more often. Building a reputation as a voice actor that can do it all - act and engineer - will bring you even more opportunities. This workshop is designed to make you into an audio surgeon, so when a producer or director listens to your audio, the only thing they should be aware of is your brilliant performance.

BRINGING OUT YOUR BESS

Director: Kay Bess

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

Come study with a consummate professional that is well into her third decade of voice-over success in the competitive Los Angeles voice-over market. Kay is a true chameleon, crossing all genres of voice-over including the generally male-dominated (*but we're gaining on ya!*) genre of promos. Kay brings her go-getter philosophy to this class while covering several genres including commercials, narration, promos and video games. Kay will even weave in some of her Meisner technique knowledge throughout the weekend to help you get out of your head and behave instinctively to the surrounding environment to bring a truthful luster and personal authenticity to your performances.

DIALECT INTERVENTION II

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Kimberly Mohne Hill

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Dialect Intervention Level 1 or prior approval from Voicetrax.

As the global reach of voice-over continues to broaden, so too does your need to have a variety of accents ready to go at a moment's notice. To this end, we've invited your friendly interventionist back to further expand your dialect skill set. After a quick brush-up on the trusted techniques Kim espouses to get the most accurate dialect performances, she'll dive right into TWO new accents: Russian and Scottish, as voted on via a student survey. And remember, the more accents you have in your tool belt, the more producers can rely on your versatility and the more exciting opportunities you can realize.

DISCOVERING YOUR INNER ARTIST: YOU X 2!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Chopper Bernet

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: This course includes a pre-class homework assignment. Prerequisite: Discovering Your Inner Artist Level 1 or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Voice-over is nothing more than acting for the ear. Well if that's true (*and it is*), then shouldn't we spend a good deal of our time working on honing the skill of acting so as to be the best "ear actor" we can be? Voicetrax Alum, Chopper Bernet, will be the Sacajawea to your Lewis & Clark and guide you on this scene study journey about acting that is simple, personal and honest. Learn to stay present in a scene and be ready to go in any direction other than what's most predictable. Chopper will encourage you to live in the moment and jump off the proverbial cliff. As a result, you'll come full circle to see how the process has strengthened your voice both literally and professionally.

EAST MEETS WEST: COMMERCIAL EDITION & NARRATION EDITION

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Thom Pinto

Length: TWO 10-hour weekend seminars

Class Notes: These two courses include homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities. Limit one class per student.

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

GLUED TO THE TUBE: ANIMATION

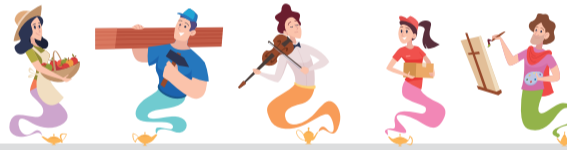
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: LA Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

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

The numbers bear out: Auditioning for a show when you don't know the vibe of the show or the style of the channel it's airing on has you working at a huge disadvantage. And yet, many working professional voice actors still don't take the time to explore the animation part of our industry. *Seriously? Who else gets to watch cartoons as career research?* And doesn't it stand to reason that if you want to book an animation job you have to watch animation? Well, this exciting seminar is where the rubber definitely meets the road. Before class our super-savvy animation agent will assign you a specific animation channel to focus on including Cartoon Network, PBS Kids and Disney. After watching cartoons on that network, you'll transcribe two scenes from two different shows and record them for Agent X's feedback in class. You'll be forced to traverse a tricky exercise: How do you keep true to the style and vibe of the show and overall network, without mimicking the on-screen performance, yet still bring your unique self to the party? Nowhere else will you have an opportunity to work on more current and relevant copy with the best in the business.



INVITATIONAL CHARACTERS UNBOTTLED

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

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

INVITATIONAL REMOTELY SPEAKING: THE BERMUDA TRY-ANGLE

NEW AGENTS!

Directors: Agents from New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco – oh my!

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: By Invitation Only.

New York... Los Angeles... San Francisco... Never before has this incredibly popular class had such a holy geographical trinity of talent agents ready to give you direct, non-nonsense feedback to your performances. We're pulling out all the stops so you can virtually criss cross the county to hear what the best in the business think of your acting chops. And before you automatically assume (*and we all know what that makes out of "u" and "me"*) that you know who these agents are, You Don't! The fresh blood steering this ship will illuminate different approaches or angles for you to try (*see what we did there, huh, huhhhhh? Boy, are we clever*) in the scripts provided to you to record in your home studio for in-class feedback.

LESS IS MORE, BUT NOTHING IS NOTHING

Director: SF Agent

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

You know that saying, "less is more"? Well, this is an entire seminar focusing on that exact premise. With the preponderance of real and conversational requests from producers and casting directors, the phrase "not over the top" is showing up all the time in copy specs. What does that mean? How far is too far? Most importantly, how do you stop from going too far in the opposite direction and delivering a boring, flat performance? Join this revered San Francisco agent whose been at the top of this industry for decades (*and continues to be*) to get an insider's view on this very popular current trend and learn the balance between going for it and leaving your audience wanting more.

OFF THE PAGE II: 3D ACTING

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Tasia Valenza

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

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

The talented Tasia picks up where level one ended and has crafted a curriculum to really challenge you to bring forth natural feeling performances whether the script is written that way or not, something that is still all the rage with producers and clients. This next level workshop will push you forward by asking you to not only direct your fellow students (*we know, we know... it's nerve wracking, but man oh man is it valuable*), but how you direct yourself left to your own devices in home-recording exercises played in class. With her trademark ability to bring your own life experiences and who you are naturally into your performance, Tasia will take your skills from flat and uninspired to three dimensional and bookable.

SAM'S SECRET WEAPON

Director: duh, Samantha Paris...
or maybe it isn't... 🤪

Length: that's not a secret, it's a 9-hour
three-week workshop

Class Notes: If we told you, you might figure out the secret. Ok, ok,
you do need to have home recording capabilities and of course there'll be
a pre-class homework assignment, but that's all we're sayin'!

Sooooo... yeeeahhh... Well... it's a secret, so not much to say here. Ahemmm... then there's all that "we could tell you, but we'd have to kill you" mumbo jumbo. Too easy. Suffice to say, with Samantha Paris at the helm of a super-secret class, THREE things are empirically true: 1) This class will be based on what Samantha feels the lucky 12 individuals want and need, 2) It'll be a thrilling, twisty type of class with a ton of career-progressing stuff to work on, and 3) she'll have a damn hard time keeping it a secret. (insert wink-face, tongue-out emoji here).

SOMETHING TO ABOUT

Director: Ned Lott

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: A professional sounding singing voice is not required.
Seriously! ;) This course includes a pre-class homework assignment.

Over the last several years – especially since the blockbuster film Frozen was released – the demand for characters that sing in feature films, television series and apps has greatly increased, and that will be the focus of this super unique class. Now before you say "Nope. Not me. I can't sing!", please remember that not every nutty, silly animated character sounds like Mariah Carey, Barbra Streisand or The Candlestick from Beauty And The Beast, so you don't have to either! And if singing is totally comfortable for you, then it's time to bring that "shower superstar" into the light. You will come to class with a song prepared that Ned will work on with you and then record it to a background track. You'll also get a chance to perform speaking lines of that character. Get out of your comfort zone, let loose, remember why you started in voice-over in the first place and have some fun. And we haven't even mentioned how singing your copy can bring about a freer you – oh wait... we just mentioned it... Whether singing scares you or you're eager and ready to get your singing groove on, we know you'll leave this class with an expanded fearlessness to audition singing characters.

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Director: Brian Sommer

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

The phenomenon of home auditioning has taken our industry by storm. Amongst the pros (*and there are lots of them!*) and cons, some bad habits have been created. With the freedom to do 50 million takes (*ok, maybe only 49 million*) and edit the life out of your performance, the lost art of live performing starts to diminish. Yet if you book the job and get to the session, the curtain goes up and you have to perform. To close this widening gap between home and live performing, this seminar will ask you to jump in with both feet as Brian takes you through a variety of scripts including commercial, character and narration. Not only will you get just a minute or so to prepare your read, but you will only get a couple takes to lay down your best stuff. A TRUE One-Take Masters class... This workout is designed to hone your versatility and quick preparation skills (*and kick all that over-thinking to the curb*) and ultimately make you a more dexterous live performer. So, get in, be AMAZING, get out. Rev up your home auditions and session work with this intensive seminar. Sorry, cool cars not included. Neither is Vin Diesel. ☹️ Sigh...

THE TAMING OF THE MIC LEVEL 2: THE REBOOT

WORLD PREMIERE!

Director: Chuck Kourouklis

Length: 12-hour four-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: Taming Of The Mic Level One or prior
approval from Voicetrax. This course includes a pre-class and weekly
homework assignments. Students must have home recording capabilities.

One of the main things that makes this class soooo freaking amazing is that it's being held on Zoom, and not because the CDC is telling us we have to. It's being held on Zoom so that Microphone Master Chuck Kourouklis can broaden your mic technique in your own recording space! And what better way? The Reboot will focus on actual audition copy which demand script analysis and self-directions skills, plus bringing in all the best microphone etiquette which is incredibly effective in producing a dynamic audition that will cut through and positively get the attention of a producer and separate you from the pack. This class is a must for every Voicetrax student auditioning at home (*so pretty much nearly two-thirds of you*): For the seasoned pro who has gotten perhaps a wee bit lazy about mic technique and maybe is wondering why their bookings have dropped off a bit (*who... me?!?*), to The Taming Of Mic level one students who haven't totally forgotten how microphone technique is a vital skill and incredibly effective and are yearning for more practice. Get ready to master the mic!

THE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD

Director: Jeannie Elias

Length: 9-hour three-week workshop

Class Notes: Prerequisite: No Such Thing As A Monologue
Level 1 or prior approval from Voicetrax.

Ok '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.

THREE SCRIPT MONTE: LOS ANGELES and SAN FRANCISCO *Two different versions!*

Directors: Samantha Paris,
Sirenetta Leoni, LA Booth Director
AND SF Agent

Length: TWO 12-hour four-week workshops

Class Notes: These two courses include 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 "dealers", the lovely Samantha Paris and Sirenetta Leoni, 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 (or a top LA Booth Director – depending on which class you take) 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. The engineer will send the recordings of the selected script to Agent E (or Booth Director T) for straight-forward, get-to-the-point, professional-standard feedback. Learn exactly where you stack up compared with working voice actors, or if you are a working voice actor get that precious agency 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.

TRIPLE THREAT: NARRATION NATION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Directors: Vicki Baum,
Dave Fennoy, Peter Dunne

Length: 10-hour weekend seminar

Class Notes: None

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

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!

