



13639 Freeport Rd., San Diego, CA 92129 - 858-484.0220

Advanced 8-Class San Diego Copy & Interpretation Workshop Curriculum

We look forward to working with you for the next eight weeks to improve your voiceover performing skills and prepare you for your first, or next, demo.

This is a fast-paced performance coaching workshop. We expect that you already have the basics under your belt, so we will focus our directing on specific instructions rather than on teaching technique. In order for us to get everyone on mic twice, we will start promptly at 6:30pm and end at 9:30pm. If you arrive late, just come on in – the door will be unlocked. Please enter quietly as we'll be working in the downstairs classroom area.

During the next several weeks we'll be working with a variety of scripts in several genres that we don't cover during our Performance Fundamentals course. We'll be asking that you stretch your boundaries and experiment with different types of copy in order to discover the delivery style or styles best for you. Ultimately, we will be moving toward creating copy that you can include on your demo – or that will take your performing skills to new heights.

Because recording from your home studio is a critical aspect of working as a voice talent, in order for you to get maximum benefit from this workshop, you may be asked to record an audio file from time to time and bring it with you on a Flash Drive for review during the weekly classes. **NOTE: Although we strongly recommend that you have the ability to record at home, it is not a requirement for this workshop.**

- The quality of your recordings will be evaluated as well as your performance
- Equipment needed to get the most from this course
 - Computer (laptop or desktop)
 - Basic recording software – ie: Audacity
 - Good-quality microphone (MXL-990)
 - USB interface or USB mixer (we do NOT recommend using a USB microphone)
 - Copy stand (recommended)
 - Mic stand with boom (recommended)

Time permitting, at the beginning of each class there may be a very short time for us to help with any questions you might have. We suggest you write down any issues or questions so you won't forget.

Please keep in mind that the purpose for this workshop is to help you hone your skills in the areas of voiceover for which you intend to market yourself. This is not a business workshop, so discussion of the business aspects of voiceover will be limited. We offer a 3-day Masters Course that gets into considerable detail on many issues of the business of voiceover.



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Weekly Homework Assignments

This is an advanced class! As such, we expect that you have mastered, at least, some basic performing skills. We will be working with you in a much different way than we did during our Performance Fundamentals workshop. If you have not studied with us before, you may find our way of working with you to be quite different from another coach you may have worked with. We will not be teaching nearly as much in this workshop, but will instead be providing a considerable amount of intensive direction intended to stretch your performing boundaries. There will even be times when you may be put in the director's chair.

Depending on the evening and the group, we may also include some interesting exercises, play some examples or even watch a video. Much of the content of this workshop is up to you. If you find something interesting that you would like to share, please bring it with you to class.

Each participant comes in to this workshop at a different level of experience and competency. It is also possible that the first week for one participant might be the seventh week for another. For this reason, the weekly assignments are loosely structured and intended to push you to experiment and test your performing abilities, starting from wherever you are.

Before coming to your first class, please set up a DropBox account as follows:

- Please go to <http://bit.ly/DropBox-VAA>
 - Download the free DropBox app and set up your free DropBox account
 - Make sure you locate your new DropBox folder on your desktop, in your task bar, or someplace where you can access it easily.
 - We will send you an invitation to share our VAA Advanced 8 DropBox folder. On accepting our invitation, our shared folder will appear in your DropBox folder. Be sure to read the DropBox instructions file in the folder before doing anything else.
- From time to time, you may be asked to record a script and copy an MP3 file of that recording to your DropBox folder.
 - Use Copy/Paste to place files into or remove from your DropBox shared folder.
 - Whatever you do in the shared folder on your computer will be reflected in all of your classmates shared folders. So, if you drag a file out of the DropBox folder, or use Cut/Paste to move it to another folder on your computer, the file will vanish from all shared folders.
 - Our VAA-Advanced DropBox folder will only be used for receiving your files. Please know that every participant in this workshop will have access to the files you put in the shared folder.
- Please use the following conventions when recording your files:
 - Label your file: FirstnameLastname_TITLE_DATE.mp3. (For Sept. 15th, 2010, the date would look like this: 091510.)
 - Slate as follows: Name – Date – Title



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Each week you should set aside some time for the following:

- Find 3-5 magazine ads that are text-based and fit your delivery style.
 - Find ads that could potentially be on your demo.
 - Re-write the ads to include IEEO (we'll discuss this in class).
 - Select one, record it and copy the MP3 file to the VAA shared DropBox folder.
 - Bring at least 4 copies of the script you recorded and any other scripts you want to work on.
- Listen to radio and TV commercials and locate projects that fit your interest.
- Visit <http://voicebank.net> and listen to the voiceover demos posted there.
- Visit www.edgestudio.com if you need to find a script. We do NOT recommend using these scripts in a demo, but you will find some interesting copy to work with.

Each week you should bring the following to class:

- Bring a USB Flash Drive (1GB recommended) to class to record your on-mic work. **No Flash Drive – No Recording – No Exceptions!** On-mic work is recorded in .wav format and will **not** be added to the shared DropBox folder.
- Bring water.
- Bring your scripts.
- Bring a pencil.
- Bring any questions you might have.
- Bring any examples of excellent voiceover work or any other relevant items.
- Bring a pad of paper for notes. If you have a personal recording device, you may use that to record from your seat with the understanding that your recording is for personal use only.
- Be ready to work!

Because this is an on-going workshop, the participants may change from time to time, but should be fairly consistent from week to week. Due to the nature of this workshop, if you miss a class, we have no way for you to make it up. If you are ill, we ask that you do not attend. Your commitment is for 8 consecutive weeks and can start any time during a currently running workshop, provided space is available. You may continue your study with us for as long as you wish, but you must re-register for each 8-weeks of participation.

It is our goal with this Advanced Copy & Interpretation workshop to help you hone and polish your voiceover performing skills. This workshop is all about you, and the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it... and the faster you will excel as a professional voice actor.

We look forward to working with you during the next 8 weeks.