

Voice Over Career Questions and Considerations

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Step 1: Training! You need it!

GVAAC Coaches (I've moderated workouts and webinars with these folks for years, and have coached with many of them one-on-one!)

<https://www.globalvoiceacademy.com/personalized-coaching/>

[GVAAC Membership Program](#) (affordable, comprehensive VO training)

Cristina Milizia (Animation / Video Game / Toys)

David Rosenthal (Commercial / Narration / Animation)

Sara Jane Sherman (Animation)

Aaron Drown (Animation)

Kristin Pavia (Animation/Character)

Steven Reisberg (Commercial / Narration / Animation)

Brian Sommer (Animation / Video Game)

MJ Lallo (Animation / Video Game)

Joyce Castellanos (Documentary Narration / Promo)

Katie Leigh (Animation / Video Game)

Eliza Simpson (Dialect Coaching / Speech Therapy)

Doug Honorof (Dialect Coaching / Accent Reduction)

Carol Monda (Commercial / Narration / Audiobook)

Courtney Lin (Animation/Anime/Toys/Video Games)

Jennifer Sun Bell (Animation/Anime/Toys/Video Games)

Jeremy Hall (Video Games)

Libby Clearfield (Commercial/Narration/Character)

Tim Powers (Improv)

More Coaches I've worked with: (Before Joining GVAA in 2016)

Hunter Phoenix / Voiceover Gym (Animation/ Commercial)

Eliza Jane Schneider (Animation / Video Game /Dialect Coaching)

Terry Daniel (Commercial/ Narration) universalvoicetalent.com

Seattle Voice Institute (Various Genres) <https://seattlevoiceinstitute.com/>

Elaine Clarke (Commercial / Animation)

<http://www.voiceonline.com/instructors/elaineclark.html>

Joe Loesch (Animation / Video Game / Audiobook) <http://www.joeloesch.com/>

Pat Fraley (Various VO Genres) <https://patfraley.com/pf/>

Sean Allen Pratt (Non-Fiction Audiobook) <https://www.seanprattpresents.com/>

AJ McKay (Promo) <https://www.ajmckaycreative.com/>

J. Michael Collins (Commercial / Narration) <https://www.jmcvoiceover.com/>

Crispin Freeman (Animation / Anime) <http://www.voiceactingmastery.com/>

Everett Oliver (Commercial / Animation) <https://www.myboothdirector.com/>

Scott Brick (Audiobook) <https://www.brickbybrickaudiobooks.com/collections/all>

Mary Lynn Wissner (Commercial / Narration / Animation)

<http://voicesvoicecasting.com/wordshops-events/>

Dave Walsh (Various VO Genres) <https://www.walshvoiceovercoaching.com/>

Rodney Saulsberry (Various VO Genres) <http://www.rodneysaulsberry.com/>

Erik Sheppard (Agent, Occasionally Coaches) <https://sheppard.agency/>

Jeffrey Umberger (Agent, Occasionally Coaches)

<http://www.umbergeragency.com/resources.html>

Scott Parkin (Commercial) <http://graystudiosla.com/team/scott-parkin/>

Andrea Toyias (Video Games)

Deb Munro (Commercial / Narration / Animation) debsvoice.com (Warning: This site may be hacked, says Google)

Elley-Ray Hennesy (Animation / Various VO Genres)

Julie Williams (Commercial / Narration / Audiobook)

<http://www.juliewilliamscoaches.com/>

Anne Ganguzza (Corporate Narration / eLearning / Telephony)

<https://www.anneganguzza.com/> (Also does workouts with industry expert guests through "VO Peeps," vopeeps.com)

Sunday Muse (Animation / Commercial) <https://greatbigvoices.com/>

Adventures in Voice Acting (Animation / Anime / ADR)

<https://www.adventuresinvoiceacting.com/>

Questions You Should Ask: (applies to biz goals as well as coaching!)

- What's my budget?
- What genre(s) do I want to pursue? Does the coach specialize in those genres?
- What are my Voiceover goals? (Be as specific as possible!)
- Are they respected in the industry?
- Are they a successful (i.e. currently working) Voice Talent?
- Are their students successful?
- Do I want to work with an individual coach, a small team, or a voice acting school or program?
- Does the coach offer other services or added value? (Demo production, marketing plan creation, career support, etc.)

Other Considerations

- Not all coaches are actors. Some are agents / casting directors, etc.
- Reach out to previous students for testimonials. (Or ask the coach if they can refer you to past students)
- Check out past student websites / demos. Do they sound good? Is their acting competitive? Is it mixed well?

Try Before you buy!

- Audit a class, if possible
- Join a less expensive webinar or workshop to get a sense of a coach's style.
- Pay for a couple sessions to see if you gel with a coach's style and personality.

Most coaches charge an average of \$150 -300 / hour

Startup Costs: How Much You Should Expect to Invest

\$1500-\$3000 Coaching (Depends on how many sessions you need to be competitive)

More advanced/specialized training may require a higher investment. Courses and intensive workshops regularly cost \$500-\$600 each.

\$1500-\$2700 Demo Production (Depends on genre, and number of demos)

\$500-\$1000 “Inexpensive” Home Studio Setup

\$150-\$1000 Microphone

\$99-\$1000 Interface

\$50-\$150 Studio Accessories (Cables, Mic Stand, Pop Filter, Copy Stand)

Free - \$\$\$ Audio Software (Also Known as a “Digital Audio Workstation / DAW”)

Step Two: Home Studio (You need one!)

Your acoustic environment (i.e. Studio space) is the number one factor in determining your sound quality. Treat it first, THEN fill it with shiny gear!

Isolation: Find the quietest space in your home. Remove all unwanted noises and sounds. (A/C, refrigerator, children, pets, etc.)

Treatment: Cover all hard/reflective surfaces with soft/absorbent materials (these can be specifically designed acoustic panels or sheets, or anything you have available like blankets, clothing, sleeping bags, etc.)

For Treatment, I love Vocalboothtogo.com and Audimute.com

For Iso-Booths, Check out Double-Walled Options from Whisper Room, Vocalbooth.com, Gretchken.com, Scott's VO Booths, and StudioBricks (Prices Range from \$4000 - \$10000)

Mics for VO: (Prices Range from \$150-\$3200)

AT2035, AT875R, AT897, Neat King Bee, Rode NT1 (signature series or 5th gen,* not NT1-A!) Lewitt LCT 440-Pure, Roswell Audio Mini k87, Se 2200, Sennheiser MK4, Rode NTG-5, AT 4047, Mojave MA-201, Austrian Audio OC18 or OC818, Neumann TLM 102, Neumann TLM 103, Gefell m930 or UMT70s, Sennheiser 416, Neumann TLM 49, Neumann TLM 193, Neumann u87

*WHY NOT THE NT-1A? The NT-1 is a more recent version of the NT-1A, and has a superior sound with a flatter frequency response and a lower noise floor. (This means

the mic will sound better on more voices, and won't generate any noticeable electrical noise.)

If you already have this mic, it's not the end of the world, but I would avoid purchasing it if you're looking for your first condenser microphone.

Interfaces: (Prices Range from \$99-\$949)

Steinberg UR12 and UR22, Yamaha AG03, Focusrite Scarlett 3rd gen and Clarett Series, Rode ai-1, SSL 2/2+, Lewitt Connect 6, Motu m2, Audient evo 4, id4, id14, and id22, Apollo Arrow, Apollo Twin Solo or Duo, RME Babyface Pro/ Pro FS

DAW's (Audio Editing Software; Prices range from free to perpetual monthly licenses)

Free DAW's

Audacity <https://www.audacityteam.org/>

Ocen Audio <https://www.ocenaudio.com/en/whatis>

Inexpensive DAW's

REAPER (\$60 Personal, \$225 Commercial, Cross-Platform)

Presonus Studio One Artist (\$80, Cross-Platform)

Monthly Subscriptions

Pro Tools (\$29/month, Cross-Platform)

Adobe Audition (\$29/month, Cross-Platform)

Twisted Wave (\$9/Month, \$99 year)

Want a Home Studio NOW?

<http://www.georgethe.tech/home-vo-studio-now>

Want to learn how to process audio yourself?

<https://www.jordanaudio.ninja/voiceover-home-studio-course>

Other Credited Voice Over Audio Experts

Dan Friedman <https://sound4vo.com/voice-over-training/>

Dan Lenard <https://www.homevoiceoverstudio.com/>

Jim Edgar <https://bit.ly/3bmHjCn>

Jordan Reynolds <https://www.jordanaudio.ninja/>

Tim Tippets <https://votechguru.com/>

Uncle Roy Yokelson

<https://globalvoiceacademy.com/about-us/our-team/uncle-roy-yokelson/>

\$950 - \$1250 Professional Website (Custom websites start at \$1500)

Voiceactorwebsites.com

\$2500-\$7000 Total Initial Investment

That's a lotta money! Here are some free and inexpensive resources to help you save up and invest in yourself!

Websites / Blogs

Dee Bradly Baker – Iwanttobeavoiceactor.com

Voice Acting Boards -

<https://voiceacting.boards.net/thread/5286/get-started-voice-acting>

Paul Schmidt - How to get started in Voiceovers -

<https://youtu.be/op22hCQPPeU?si=Mrl-NlyKDG7WmAuB>

Nethervoice – <https://bit.ly/33tQ4VW>

Courvo Blog – courvo.com/blog

Doug Turkel- <http://www.dougturkel.com/blog/>

Joe J Thomas - <http://www.joesdump.com/>

Voiceover Xtra - <https://www.voiceoverxtra.com/#>

Voiceover Bulletin Board – VO-BB.com

Get Started in VO - <https://www.getstartedinvo.com/>

Narrators Road Map - <https://www.narratorsroadmap.com/>

How Do Narrators Pronounce Stuff?

<https://hersmoothvoice.com/how-do-narrators-know-how-to-pronounce-stuff>

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Books

Voiceover Voice Actor, Tara Platt and Yuri Lowenthal

Sound Advice: Voiceover from an Audio Engineer's Perspective, by Dan Friedman

VO Studio Companion: The Home Voiceover Recording Instruction Manual,
by Emmett Andrews

Voiceover Recording at Home and On the Road, by Harlan Hogan

Making Money in Your PJ's, by Paul Strikwerda

More than Just A Voice, by Dave Courvoisier

Voiceover Garden, by Jonathan Tilley

V-OH! By Marc Cashman

Rodney Saulsberry's Tongue Twisters and Vocal Warm-Ups: With Other Vocal-Care
Tips

To be or Wanna Be, by Sean Allen Pratt

Recorded Materials and Programs

GVAA Recorded Classes and Webinars

<https://www.globalvoiceacademy.com/webinars/>

Pat Fraley Home Courses

<https://patfraley.com/pf/>

Resources

Voiceover Entrance Exam -

<http://www.audioconnell.com/workshop/the-voiceover-entrance-exam-free-voice-over-e-book/>

Podcasts

VO Meter Podcast (That's me!) <https://www.vometer.com/>

Talkin' Toons with Rob Paulsen

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/talkin-toons-with-rob-paulsen/id438294853?mt=2>

Voiceover School with Jamie Muffett <http://www.voschoolpodcast.com/>

Voice Acting Mastery with Crispin Freeman <http://www.voiceactingmastery.com/>

VO Boss Podcast with Anne Ganguzza <https://voboss.com/>

Web Series

GVAA's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCv1fZGst9XAc01dQ4LaVA>

[B](#)

Booth Junkie: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHHf1h8k7MA6-AG8FXjnQSw>

VO Buzz Weekly <https://www.vobuzzweekly.com/>

VOBS (Voice Over Body Shop) <https://www.vobs.tv/>

JAT's (James Arnold Taylor's) YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/JamesArnoldTaylor>

Sean's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/sdaeley17/feed>

Movies

"I know that Voice!" (Documentary produced by John Dimaggio)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.e8b1d670-ff67-3d27-69de-e4ad5994e8ff?autoplay=0&ref_=atv_cf_strg_wb

"Talking to Myself"(Voice Actor James Arnold Taylor's Incredible One-Man Show)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFPo-rJ5hWI>

"Adventures in Voice Acting" (Documentary by BangZoom! Entertainment featuring Steve Blum, Kari Walhgren and a number of other Animation and Anime Talent)

<https://www.amazon.com/Adventures-Voice-Acting-Steve-Blum/dp/B001E30J9Y>