

# SAG-AFTRA Conservatory Calendar – Spring 2024

Please remember:

- SAG-AFTRA Conservatory workshops are free for members in good standing. In some instances, a \$5.00 reservation fee may be collected for special workshops.
- To attend a workshop, you must register in advance. No walk-ins allowed.
- To register, go to <https://www.sagaftra.org/washington-mid-atlantic/washington-mid-atlantic-conservatory> and click on “Class Registration” at the bottom of the page and log in.
- Space is limited and schedules are subject to change.
- All workshops offered by the Conservatory are for educational purposes and do not constitute SAG-AFTRA endorsement of any product, service, or provider.

**If you must cancel, please do so via the SAG-AFTRA website at least two business days before the workshop. This allows us to notify those on the waitlist that they may attend.**

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## APRIL

**CLASS:** *Ask Me Anything About Audiobooks*  
**PRESENTER:** Anne Flosnik  
**DATE** Saturday, April 13, 2024  
**TIME:** 11:00-1:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** ZOOM  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 11 attendees

In this workshop, Anne Flosnik answers your questions about working in the exciting audiobook industry. With 27 years in the business and over 600 audiobooks in most genres to her credit, Anne will share her tips and tricks, as well as her experiences working in many segments of the industry, including working with audiobook publishers, on platforms such as ACX, and working with authors directly as a Narrator/Producer.

Flosnick has won audiobook awards and distinctions for both fiction and non-fiction narrators. Her awards include five Audie Nominations, three AudioFile Earphones Awards, and an American Libraries Association (ALA) Award. Anne created the “Narrator Uplift” House on Clubhouse, a bimonthly recorded show with audiobook industry and audiobook-adjacent guests.

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**CLASS:** *Character Voice Creation*  
**PRESENTER:** Keith Flippen  
**DATE** Sunday, April 28, 2024  
**TIME:** 1:00-3:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** ZOOM  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 12 attendees

Character voice is typically associated with animation and video game work, but the manipulation of voice and speech is just as applicable to our work in VO, audiobooks, and on-camera. In this course, we'll look at many of the manipulatable facets of speech and apply them to some character copy examples. We'll talk about the difference between character and character voice, define the primary expectations of character voice, explore physicalization and facial manipulation as rough tools for character voice creation, and then work through changing several facets of speech through exercises. We'll end by applying what we've learned to a few character sketches from animation. Through it all we'll have a lot of fun!

Keith Flippen, a film/TV/VO actor for 30+ years, is the owner of The Actors' Place, Inc. in Fredericksburg, VA. He has taught camera and on-mic acting for 20 years through his studio as well as Speech, Voice, and Dialects for Old Dominion University from 2004-2021. In the last year, his audition coaching clients have booked projects for Netflix, Hulu, FX, a recurring guest star for the CW series *Walker*, and a recurring role in Fox's *The Big Leap*.

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## MAY

**CLASS:** *Is Your VO Demo Reel Helping or Hurting?*  
**PRESENTER:** Ken Slobodkin  
**DATE** Sunday, May 5, 2024  
**TIME:** 2:00-3:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Zoom  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 16 attendees

When trying to secure voice work, your demo can be your strongest marketing tool, or it may be why you keep getting passed over. A strong, fairly-recent demo can wedge your foot in the door and get you on the 'short list' for the job. By listening to and discussing examples, we will talk about common mistakes many actors make that could be jinxing your opportunities. We will work on how to find and spotlight your best tricks and how to strike a balance between consistency and versatility.

Ken Slobodkin is a Creative Services Director, Audacy Virginia and CEO, the Voice Actor's Place Demo Production. For more than 40 years, "Slobo" has muttered foolish nonsense into microphones as a radio sidekick, newscaster, morning show host, imaging voice and producer. He has crafted sound design for TV and film comedy for Premiere Radio Network, and produced at both the Studio Center and Earworks Audio. He has also been a talent coordinator with Voice Talent Warehouse in Las Vegas. Ken's all-time favorite role was as the voice of Rod Roddy for "*The Price is Right Live*" show. He recently became '*Star-Trek-struck*' recording lines with Kate Mulgrew for the latest *Trek* video game. Captain on the bridge! Boston-born (the accent still comes out every so often), Ken enjoys karaoke, audio plug-ins, and walking the Virginia Beach boardwalk with partner and fellow empty nester Marcia.

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**CLASS:** *Meisner Technique Class*  
**PRESENTER:** Robert Epstein  
**DATE** Monday, May 13, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00-9:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Silver Spring Civic Center, Silver Spring, MD  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 12 attendees

On-camera auditions are often difficult and intimidating. It is hard to do an inspiring read for a camera or disinterested reader. It's also difficult to get a good sense of the material and decide how to play a scene or character when you only have a few minutes to go over your sides. In this workshop, we will explore a technique for doing quick breakdowns of a scene and role with limited time, and a way of working off of the lines and suggestions in the script to bring the material to life, making your cold readings both fun and effective. In this workshop, Robert Epstein employs the principles of the Meisner Technique to create compelling performances in your cold reading auditions.

Robert Epstein, known as DC's resident Meisner expert, has taught The Complete Actor's Training, his long-term program for actors, for over 30 years. Robert has performed roles on cable and network TV, and has directed DC film & theatre projects including "Adams Morgan: The Movie," as well as leading many workshops for the SAG-AFTRA Conservatory and the Actor's Center.

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## JUNE

**CLASS:** *Political Voiceover Class*  
**PRESENTER:** Gabe Kornbluh and Charles Lipper  
**DATE** Thursday, June 13, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00-9:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Zoom  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 25 attendees

Join seasoned political VO performers and VO production experts Charles Lipper and Gabriel Kornbluh for a workshop on the ins and outs of political voiceover work. We'll explore current performance trends, production and business expectations, demos, networking and more as we cover how to be best prepared for work in a big 2024 election season.

Charles Lipper is a VO performer and audio engineer with a speciality in political ads. He has been a SAG-AFTRA member since 2010.

Gabriel Kornbluh started as a producer/editor at one of DC's largest political ad firms before becoming a SAG-AFTRA member in 2009, and is now a frequent political voiceover performer.

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## DATES TBD

**CLASS:** *Mental Health Meetup*  
**PRESENTER:** Gabe Kornbluh  
**DATE** TBD  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LOCATION:** Zoom  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 20 attendees

Join fellow members for a scheduled, safe, private environment in which to learn about and discuss the many issues related to the mental health and wellbeing of our members and their families. Participants will walk through the signs of mental illness and the resources available to SAG-AFTRA members. Further details to come.

**CLASS:** *Conversation with Matt Sefick*  
**PRESENTER:** Matt Sefick  
**DATE** TBD  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LOCATION:** TBD, in person  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 12 attendees

Join Casting Director Matt Sefick (*Queen of the South, Single Drunk Female, True Lies, Will Trent*) for a discussion of the casting process and an opportunity to ask questions. Further details to come.

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**CLASS:** *Self-Tapes: Avoiding the Traps*  
**PRESENTER:** Allie McCulloch  
**DATE** TBD  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LOCATION:** ZOOM  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** 12 attendees

In this current world of self-tapes, our “first impression” and unique instincts are something we CAN take control of. Self-taping can feel isolating, with little or no feedback. It’s more valuable than ever to learn how to actually enjoy and harness our artistic power and create meaningful work in the frame before we send it off into the void. It is so important to understand how to utilize this medium to present our very best work, be confident and proud of our choices, and avoid the common traps that hold us back from presenting our most authentic self in our tapes.

Allie McCulloch is a film and TV actor of over 20 years. She owns a professional acting studio called Actor’s Arsenal in Wilmington, NC ([www.actorsarsenal.com](http://www.actorsarsenal.com)), and also coaches numerous clients all over the country via zoom. She has coached clients into series regular roles, recurring guest star roles on high profile projects, as well as spending time mentoring and working with artists at all levels.

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**CLASS:** *Co-Star Auditions*  
**PRESENTER:** Jenny Ravitz  
**DATE** TBD  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LOCATION:** ZOOM  
**CLASS SIZE LIMIT:** TBD

Please join casting director Jenny Ravitz for a class all about co-star auditions that you won’t want to miss! This presentation will focus on the best ways to prep, what your function is in the storytelling, and how to analyze the script to answer questions about character. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

Jenny Ravitz is a New York-based casting director whose past work includes the hit NBC series *Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, and Chicago Med, FBI: International* (CBS), and the indie film *Pretty People*, which debuted at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. She is currently working independently and recently cast projects for Ars Nova, 5th Avenue Theatre, and Paper Mill Playhouse. She is an advocate for artists with chronic pain and illnesses and was named the 2021 Volunteer of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of New York.