

Voice for the Actor

Teacher: Renato Estacio, EdD, MBA, MMus

Classroom: Musical Theater Southwest

Contact Email: renatoestacio@yahoo.com

IG: @renatonardoestaciobassbaritone

<https://share.articulate.com/hdqcwAEBQLaAwZ82RZn3f>

Password: Voice

Goals for Student Learning:

Teaching should help students of all backgrounds become life-long learners and mentors to future generations, living by tenets of truth, gratitude, fairness, community, and honesty. The goal is to help improve lives in the community through knowledge, skills, ethical behavior, and access to appropriate resources. Teaching is a way to transfer life lessons and life needs to improve social and community welfare.

Introduction:

Vocal production about clarity, control, and character. We will apply technique and concepts to a monologue / song as we progress. Please come with a monologue and/or song for Lesson 2. Convert your song to an MP3 if it is not already one and send to my email if you are singing. If you are acting only, please bring two copies of your monologue (24 point font, double spaced).

Lesson 1: Vocal Health, Breath, and Power

- **Warm-up** – preparing the voice before rehearsal
- **Hydration** – water keeps the voice healthy
- **Strain** – pushing the voice too hard
- **Posture** – body alignment that helps the voice
- **Vocal rest** – time off to protect the voice
- **Breath** – air that fuels the voice
- **Breath support** – controlled breathing for long lines
- **Projection** – sending the voice clearly to the audience
- **Energy** – physical and vocal engagement
- **Cool-down** – relaxing the voice after

Lesson 2: Volume, Pitch, Clarity, and Articulation

- **Volume** – how loud or soft the voice is
- **Projection vs. yelling** – strong, clear voice without shouting

- **Pitch** – how high or low the voice sounds
 - **Pitch variation** – changing pitch to avoid monotone
 - **Monotone** – flat voice with no variation
 - **Articulation** – clear shaping of sounds
 - **Diction** – clean pronunciation of words
 - **Enunciation** – speaking every sound clearly
 - **Consonants** – crisp speech sounds
 - **Vowels** – open, energized sounds
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Lesson 3: Expression and Meaning

- **Intention** – what the character wants
 - **Subtext** – what's really meant beneath the words
 - **Emphasis** – stressing important words
 - **Inflection** – rise and fall of the voice
 - **Tone** – emotional quality of the voice
 - **Timbre** - the color
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Lesson 4: Pace & Rhythm

- **Pace** – speed of speech
 - **Pause** – intentional silence
 - **Timing** – when words land for meaning or comedy
 - **Rhythm** – natural flow of speech
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Lesson 5: Character Voice

- **Character voice** – vocal choices that fit the role
 - **Accent** – regional or cultural speech pattern
 - **Vocal quality** – breathy, nasal, sharp, smooth, etc.
 - **Age / status voice** – vocal clues about who the character is
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Lesson 6: Showcasing your Talent

- Performance of a piece with feedback