

SARAH WEATHERWAX
DESIGNATED LINKLATER VOICE TEACHER

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Member: ACTRA, CAEA, VASTA, NVA

Voice & Communication Skills, NuPath Inc. 2024: Taught a one-day Voice & Communication Skills Workshop to 50 staff at this highly successful not-for-profit in Massachusetts. NuPath helps people who can not care for themselves with various day services, and/or fully-staffed housing. Taught basic voice warm-ups and communication concepts (body language, quality of eye contact, tone of voice, etc.) to improve confidence and clarity when staff are fundraising, speaking in public or leading meetings. Created power-point presentation to support the workshop.

One Voice Conference, 2024: Presented morning voice warm-ups and a one hour 'Tune Up Your Talent' session at this mid-sized, long running, industry respected VO conference in Dallas. Also ran a paid, three hour session for a small group of VOS, 'Vocal Strength & Flexibility to Develop your Characters & Careers.' Focus was on developing stamina & direct-ability through breath and range work, thereby improving narration skills, vocal character & accent work.

VO Atlanta, 2021, 2023: Panelist & Teacher at the world's largest, longest-running Voice Over conference. Taught a 3 hour class in 2021 & 2023, teaching exercises to develop freedom & flexibility for career diversification & duration. Spoke on panel, 'Vocal Support & Health,' 2021. During 2023 panel 'Look at These Characters' demonstrated ways into character work by way of pitch, pace, rhythm & quirk, gave accent demonstration, answered questions about careers in voice & acting. Led group voice warm-ups in the morning, 2021 & 2023.

Meisner Academie, Den Bosch, Netherlands, 2020-present: Member of the faculty for this highly esteemed Meisner Acting school in The Netherlands. Teach regular Voice & Text classes online to this group of actor-clients, as well as coach them on scenes and work with them individually. Also taught two three-day Voice & Text intensives in person in The Netherlands in August, 2024. Each 3-day class sold out, with 10 participants in each class.

Online Voice Classes, 2020-present: Offer monthly Pay-What-You-Can online voice classes from Sept. to June. Also run an in-depth 10 week (30 class hours) Voice & Text class every year in the fall and spring that has proved highly successful. Work with career actors from all over the states, Canada and Europe.

Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, 2021: Led a one-day interactive voice class to a group of 20 legal professionals, lawyers and judges from Ontario & BC. Taught them a good daily warm-up to improve their vocal freedom, expressiveness and clarity so they can become more effective, persuasive communicators. Also explored the connection between body language, gesture & voice and showed them various ways to prep and manage nerves right before speaking engagements.

Youth With a Mission, 2016-2021: Taught a three day workshop annually to young actors in training as part of a three month On Camera Acting program in Dunham, Quebec. Students come from various countries for the course, connected by way of an international university program. First two days are an introduction to Linklater Voice Work and the third day focuses on text. Each student in the group receives individual coaching on an audition piece from a contemporary film of their choosing.

Drop In Voice Class for Actors & Singers, 2014-2020: Led an on-going monthly drop-in class for performers until March, 2020. Each 2 hour class offered a very complete voice/body warm up with a different focus. Class themes included: jaw, tongue, soft palate work; hips, ribs and shoulders; creating space for breath; range and articulation, etc.

Straeon Acting Studios, Toronto, Montreal & Boston, 2010-present: Taught weekend voice intensives to groups of 10-14 actors at this highly esteemed studio for film & television acting. After an overview of Linklater voice work, students learn the direct effect of a freer voice on acting by way of text coaching. Workshops stress connection between vocal freedom and expressive, transformative acting. In 2020, transitioned to working with this client base online.

Private voice and audition coaching, 2000 – present: Audition coaching with actors on contemporary or classical monologues preceded by vocal warm up. Coach actor/singers on acting through the song. Work with actors long-term on vocal freedom & better acting. Dialect coaching with actors. Clients also include teachers, administrators, lawyers, etc.

Brock University, 2019: Taught a twice weekly 'Intro to Voice & Speech' class in the Dramatic Arts Dept. during the winter/spring term. These 2nd, 3rd and 4th year drama majors were taught body & voice warm-ups, applied their heightened vocal awareness to readings of contemporary poetry and Shakespeare sonnets. Students read excerpts of books by Kristin Linklater and Patsy Rodenburg. Taught anatomy and care of the voice. Students explored poetic text physically, vocally,

visually. Students passed in written documentation of on-going voice warm-up practice, discoveries & challenges and comprehension of the ideas that inform Freeing the Natural Voice. Completed all necessary grading and reports.

Communication Skills Class for Critical Care Doctors, 2018: Taught a communication and self-care class to residents and international fellows at Toronto General Hospital. Taught very basic spinal alignment, breath and voice exercises. Addressed topics such as: clarity of thought in the midst of big emotion; calmly receiving misdirected anger; communicating compassion, confidence, sincerity; listening openly. Created workshop proposal, course outline and numerous 'scenarios'. Employed a professional actor-assistant for final class.

The Shoe Project, Vocal Coach & Director, 2018 & 2021: Worked with 11 women, all new Canadians, on reading their autobiographical stories of migration to Canada written under the tutelage of established novelist Katherine Govier. Directed the show, bringing all stories (representative of many languages and countries) together into a cohesive evening of theatre using gesture and a vocal style of reading from inside the moment of remembering and writing.

Theatre In A Jar, Toronto, 2017: Taught Master Class to a small group of professional actors in a studio setting at Real Space. Students were led in a voice warm-up, then each received individual text coaching. Theatre In A Jar works to re-acquaint working actors with various training disciplines: Voice, Improv, Acting, Movement. Taught the Spring & Fall sessions.

Shakespeare & Company, Lenox, Mass., 2016, 2024: Taught Voice & Text at this internationally renowned theatre company's Summer Training Institute in 2016, a month long intensive training program for actors. Taught entire progression of Linklater Voice exercises to forty-one students, with final week focusing on connection to text. Co-taught 'Basics' Acting Class, led 'Dropping In' & 'Standing Up' sessions (training unique to this company), assisted in 'Actor Audience' (a full day exploration of the personal, revelatory nature of theatre), and in 'Elizabethan World Picture Day.' Coached and shaped numerous Shakespeare scenes. Taught a six week online 'Voice Into Text' class for S & Co. in 2024.

Toronto Academy of Acting for Film & Television, 2012-13: Taught a three week course, working with students each morning before their acting class. Created course outline. Actors were led through a basic progression of Linklater voice exercises. Students learned anatomy & care of the voice, received individual monologue coaching. Grades and feedback given at course end.

Master Classes for Actors & Singers, 2009, 2012: Taught one day workshops at the S.P.A.C.E., starting with teaching basic voice exercises. Then led students in a cohesive warm up and coached all performers on their pieces, which included monologues, an excerpt from a comedic one-person show and an aria sung by an opera singer.

Workman Arts, 2006, Winter & Fall: Taught beginner's voice class to members of Workman Arts at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health in Toronto, Jan. to Feb. 06. Focused on classic Linklater voice/body warm-ups. Oct. to Dec. 06, taught a class to develop image/theme based vocal performance pieces for the spring production directed by Ed Roy.

Acting & Voice I, Humber College, 2004: Taught voice to 1 post grad and 3 under grad classes at Humber College Comedy Department. Students learned basic progression of voice exercises & application to performance. Saw open mike nights and student sketch shows, gave individual feedback based on their performances. Followed a course outline and gave grades at semester's end.

On Set Acting & Voice Coach, deafplanet.com Seasons I and II, 2003-04: Coached the cast of a marbledmedia production for broadcast on TVO and Access Alberta. These young adult actors were both Hearing and Deaf. As well as working as Cast Acting Coach, assisted one actor in finding numerous, varied voices. Character was an ASL translator and each Deaf character she spoke for had to have a unique voice reflected by their physicality.

Voice Teacher Training: Attended five-week Voice Teacher Certification Course with Kristin Linklater in June 2003 along with 15 other invited teachers from 4 countries. Course included: Being taught entire progression of exercises by Ms. Linklater; In-depth personal critique by Kristin Linklater after teaching voice to a group of volunteer students; Being critiqued by Ms. Linklater after leading fellow voice teachers in a 45 min. voice & body warm-up; Private & group Alexander Technique Lessons with Nadia Kevan from Germany. Also, observed Kristin Linklater teach entire progression of voice exercises and Voice & Shakespeare to M.F.A. Acting students at Columbia University during fall semester, 2001; Private lessons and voice teacher training workshops in NYC with Andrea Haring; Private voice lessons & basic piano with Chris Von Baeyer in Toronto; Group classes with David Smukler; Group and private Alexander Technique lessons with Kelly McEvenue; Voice workshop with Patsy Rodenburg; Extending Voice & Gesture Workshop with Betty Moulton and Clare Preuss; Animation voice workshop with Jessie Thomson; Singing with Alexandra Garrison and Elaine Dunbar; Apprentice voice teaching at Shakespeare and Company in Massachusetts; On going self-education about human anatomy and natural movement.

Recent Additional Voice Teacher Training: July, 2020, participated in a one-week online Speech and Phonetics Workshop with Louis Colaianne; May, 2019, attended a one week Continued Professional Development course for Founding Member

Teachers at the Kristin Linklater Voice Centre in Orkney, Scotland with 13 established Designated Linklater Voice Teachers from 4 countries. Kristin reviewed various teaching skills with us; introduced us to new, advanced exercises for freeing the voice; worked with each of us on our own voices and sonnets.

Also: BFA Acting, Honors Graduate, Emerson College, Boston, Mass. **See Acting Resume.**

**** Sarah Weatherwax would like to thank the Canadian Council For The Arts for their generous rewarding of a Professional Development Grant to attend the Voice Teacher Certification Workshop with Kristin Linklater in 2003 ****