

Accents Around the World #Hashtag Comedy Columbus

INSTRUCTOR: Colton Weiss

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DATE/TIME: Nov 4 - Dec 9 (Wednesdays) 6-8pm

LOCATION: Zoom Video

WEBSITE: Slack.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a 6-week course where participants 1) investigate what makes their voice sound unique and 2) explore major dialects spoken from around the world.

GOALS:

By the end of this class, participants will...

- Learn the basics of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- Understand how to translate this system to learn new dialects quickly
- Learn the foundations to multiple dialects
- Receive detailed professional note packets on each dialect
- Explore exercises for developing characters through voice and speech
- Get ample chances to act using these new dialects for coaching feedback.

Tentative Schedule Outline:

Nov 4

- Exploring Breaking down your speech
- Exploring the IPA the 4 P's of accent work

HW: Record and upload a short sample of yourself with a written description of your voice

Nov 11th

- Australian
- Analyzing samples

HW: Find, analyze, and share a sample you like. Upload a practice sample of you.

Nov 18th

- Russian
- The humor of accents

HW: Find, analyze, and share a sample you like. Upload a practice sample of you.

Nov 25th

- German
- Impressions vs. Accents

HW: Find, analyze, and share a sample you like. Upload a practice sample of you.

Dec 2nd

- French
- Recap, clarify any accent?

HW: Prep a monologue/scene idea to explore for final class.

Dec 9th

- Recap, clarify any accent?
- Performance coaching and feedback

Attendance

Since this course will only meet ‘in person’ 4 times for a total of roughly 8 hours during the entire month, attendance and participation is vital to maximize your benefit! If you are running late or will be absent for an unforeseen reason, email me (see above) or send a message on Slack. I will check my messages before starting class. If you are absent for a majority of classes during the month, this may impact your access to shared class material.

Between Classes

Given the limited number of meetings we will have, it is highly recommended students explore concepts outside of class on a regular basis. Ideally, students should devote at least 15-30 minutes a day reviewing concepts, exercises and documenting any new discoveries they encounter. Along with personal exploration, I will assign **homework** each week for participants to investigate and share with the group.

Professionalism

Expectations are based on each individual’s commitment to the following:

- ***Personal & Vocal growth*** - Your voice is a vital tool for how you tell stories, and you have decided to invest time/energy into expanding your creative range. Get curious and make the most of your time.
- ***Willingness to take risks and explore new skills*** - We all make funny sounds, and we are in this class together! Support and encourage each other as we navigate this new environment together.
- ***Online learning*** - This may be a new way of learning for some people. While we work, please be mindful of others. Mute yourself if you are not actively working to minimize background noise. We may still stand and move on screen at times, so (PLEASE) wear shirts and shorts/pants.

Readings (Recommended)

Content for the course is based on the listed texts. If students want to know more about this work, please review this material outside of class, and ask the instructor for more details.

- *Speaking with Skill*, Dudley Knight (2012)
- *Standard Speech: The Ongoing Debate*, Dudley Knight (1997)
- *Standards*, Dudley Knight (2000)