

Taking the Mic: A Linklater Inspired Approach to Voiceover

Madeleine Martin
School of Theatre, Florida State University
Contact: mm24co@fsu.edu

Life in the Booth

Voiceover actors provide depth and emotion to films, videogames and audiobooks. Actors search for sustainable approaches to expression. An exploration of Linklater’s methods in the sound booth may contribute to a vocal approach that deepens the emotional impact of recorded performance.

Unlocking Vocal Potential

Theatre-based vocal training in the recording studio opens new possibilities for expression, while also protecting the performer’s voice. According to the whole-body approach in voice work, actors explore their most resonant and clear voice through physical awareness, diaphragmatic breathing, and imaginative sensory exercises.

Persisting Challenges

Not every technique translates smoothly from stage to studio. Linklater requires physical engagement that is not always possible in a sound booth.

Psychophysical Barriers

Voice work often pushes the body and voice to their limits. Without structured support, long sessions can feel more like endurance tests than artistry. One vocal artist, while recording an audiobook for nine hours, exceeded her physical capacity. A Linklater psychophysical connection, where both mind and body are engaged with a fictional character, allows one to explore one’s inner landscape in a deeper, more embodied way.

The Voice of the Authentic Self

This exploration of the Linklater approach to sound recording could give actors new freedom and longevity in their craft—strengthening the connection between physical practice and recorded performance. Linklater’s practices integrating the breath and body with the voice also place the actor, more viscerally, in the imaginative world of the character. This mirroring process allows the actor to reflect on his or her inner voice and emotions.

Taking the Mic

With FYAP support, I’ve gathered insights from actors and teachers while testing practices in my own performances. Next, I will share these ideas more widely and refine them through collaboration with other performers.



Jojo from Jojo’s Circus



Fionna from Adventure Time: Fionna and Cake