



So You Want to be a Voice Actor

Transcript:

00;00;06;27 - 00;00;32;11

Kristen

Welcome to the newest installment of our career series for Teens. So you want to be a voice actor? Today we are here with Ocean County Library's very own **Ruben** Castillo, who will help us learn about voice acting and what it takes to be a professional voice actor. And I thought that it would be really helpful if you could give us a little information about what actually is it to be a voice actor and what's a day in the life of a voice actor?

00;00;32;28 - 00;01;10;22

Ruben

Well, I'm very honored to be here. Being a voice actor is a very tough position or a tough job, if you will, because you have to have a lot of tenacity and a lot have a good mindset, because sometimes your day will be just auditioning all day long for spots. You may have to try and rerecord some parts of your demo or look at some copy and go through and woodshedding going through and making sure your copy is marked up correctly so that you're taking your pauses, your breaks.

00;01;11;07 - 00;01;40;27

Ruben

It's about staying healthy and keeping a good mindset in a way that you may not get called for a few days. You may not get called for a few weeks from a voice gig. It's not the glory of everyone thinking, Oh, I'm going to go and do animation or go and do video games. Sometimes you may be just doing a small job where you're the voice of a BlackBerry like I was one time, which was very interesting.

00;01;40;27 - 00;01;52;15

Ruben

It was just my voice, not a character voice. It wasn't anything put on. It was they just wanted a a nerdy sounding voice and they thought my own natural voice was nerdy, sounding enough.

00;01;53;00 - 00;01;54;20

Kristen

I hope that's a compliment.

00;01;54;29 - 00;02;26;08

Ruben

Yes. You know, and that's something that anybody who's interested in getting into the voiceover community, they have to be comfortable in their own skin and comfortable with taking criticism as well, too, because sometimes they may find that your voice is not unique enough, but remember that you are unique, or maybe that your voice impersonation you think you may do the best impersonation of SpongeBob out there, but chances are you probably sound nothing like SpongeBob.

00;02;26;14 - 00;02;37;16

Ruben

And that's why you want to listen to yourself and compare yourself up against what the original SpongeBob, who was Tom Kenny, actually played the character SpongeBob.

00;02;39;01 - 00;02;50;29

Kristen

Like, how do you know what something sounds like, what a character sounds like? Is that something that you create or is that something that the person hiring you tells you what they want?

00;02;51;07 - 00;03;11;27

Ruben

So I'll give you a good example. Many years ago, I recorded a small, interactive storybook series called Mighty Jedi was the name of the company, and they had a series of like four or five books, and they wanted me to record all the voices for these characters. And so they would send me over a picture of who this character was.

00;03;11;27 - 00;03;28;23

Ruben

So, for instance, the character is Mr. Cupcake. And they said, we want him to sound kind of like SpongeBob, but not SpongeBob. So I have to come up in my head based on what it looks like. Now, usually when you go into an audition, they will send you the picture and you have to come up with three different voices.

00;03;29;00 - 00;03;48;27

Ruben

This is as a union voiceover actor, but since I was not, I'm nonunion, you know, I could take my time and just figure out the character. But I had it instantly. I saw what he looked like. He looked like my friend Roy, who had passed away a few years ago. But Roy was like from Florida, from Parnell, Florida.

00;03;48;27 - 00;04;03;06

Ruben

And he had this big old smile. And yeah, there's this great attitude. I just talk like this the whole time. And so I'm like, Okay, well, it looks like Roy and I'm just, you know, what to do. I'm just going to bring my voice up here.

00;04;03;13 - 00;04;05;03

Ruben

And shout like that the whole time.

00;04;05;25 - 00;04;33;26

Ruben

And that's when I created Mr. Cupcake. And he and he talked like this, and he talked about great gelato and all those things that he liked. So, yeah, it's just about for me, it's about finding maybe a unique person and pairing it up with maybe the character. Sometimes, you know, it may work out. And sure enough, every character that I gave them worked out because it was unique.

00;04;33;26 - 00;05;01;04

Ruben

It wasn't an impersonation because all those voices have been done already. I had audited a class with Bob Bergen, who is the voice of Porky Pig, and he's the one who took over after Mel Blanc passed away, actually, excuse me, Mel Blanc's son took over for a little while, and it wasn't really that good. And so here comes Bob Bergen, who was the next one in line.

00;05;01;04 - 00;05;29;13

Ruben

And Bob is amazing, I sent him a demo of my voiceovers and he said, okay, you can do impersonations, that's great, he says, but they've all been done before. He says, be you, be unique. Find unique characters out there. And it's just a matter of like, he said, if you're unique and you're brilliant, you will work. And I took his advice and started creating some original characters.

00;05;29;25 - 00;05;38;28

Ruben

But sometimes the casting directors have a certain person in mind or an idea in mind of what they want that sound like. And you may not sound like that.

00;05;39;08 - 00;05;53;21

Kristen

Right. Are there any tools that you particularly need to be a voice actor, or do you use any software? Or are there any vocal exercises that you do that someone that wants to get into this profession might benefit from knowing?

00;05;54;04 - 00;06;22;15

Ruben

The first thing before any of that is a piece of advice I'm going to give to anybody who's looking to get into this. You want to go into theater, you want to go into community theater, take theater classes,

acting classes, because you are not just standing in front of a microphone and just talking, you are moving, you're throwing yourself into walls like what I was doing in my own voice booth.

00;06;22;15 - 00;06;43;25

Ruben

That was because I was pretending I was getting killed for certain characters, for video games. It's not the old days where someone had the golden voice. Don LaFontaine, who was the voiceover guy, did this. You know, you're not standing there. You are moving you're, you're, but you're keeping it all within here. You have to learn how to emote.

00;06;44;04 - 00;07;07;00

Ruben

And so first things first, go and take some acting classes or get involved in community theater and learn how to create characters and learn how to act. That's the first thing you want to do. The second thing you want to do is you want to get yourself a decent computer that has a good processor, even a good laptop, and you want to get yourself software which is free.

00;07;07;00 - 00;07;32;25

Ruben

You can download it's called Audacity. Audacity is great for editing. It's kind of like a cheap version of GarageBand in some ways, and it's very user friendly, easy to figure out. So that's what I use at times. Some people use Adobe, it's been a while, but this will be one. There's always the GarageBand I was using early on.

00;07;32;25 - 00;07;58;06

Ruben

Pro Tools, they would be using, but you don't have to go get the expensive stuff, get the free version of Audacity works really well. You can get yourself a decent microphone. Your computer microphone's not going to kick it, your your phone microphone, sometimes people do their auditions on a phone. There's a story about Maurice LaMarche, Maurice LaMarche is the voice of the brain from breaking the brain and so,

00;07;58;06 - 00;08;26;16

Ruben

He forgot that he had to do an audition. He jumped out of the shower, went into his closet, got his iPhone, and recorded the audition in the closet with a towel wrapped around him. So, you know, so your phone will come in handy depending on the person. But you want to get yourself a decent microphone. There are ones out there on Amazon that are decent.

00;08;26;16 - 00;08;48;01

Ruben

They use them for podcasts, but want to get yourself something a little bit more than, there's one, actually, that's really good. It's called the Yeti Blue, I believe it is called. And it's \$100 and that \$100

microphone is worth the investment. Some of the top guys are using that one you don't have to get yourself \$1,000 microphone, but if you want to.

00;08;48;09 - 00;09;16;29

Ruben

If you're taking it seriously, you will. Good headphones and someplace that's quiet. That's what I can always recommend. Like right now I'm in our meeting room here and we have a dehumidifier in here and I could hear the noise there. I can pick up on little sounds from your computers. Your computer has a fan on there. You want to make sure that that sound is kind of deadened so that you want to have some kind of soundproofing in there.

00;09;17;07 - 00;09;36;10

Ruben

What I did, I went to Walmart and I bought some egg crate for the bedding and I put that around my office my walk in closet. And it deadened the sound in there as much as it was cheap, you know, you don't have to go out and buy the fantastic soundproofing that they have out there when you're first starting out.

00;09;37;11 - 00;09;59;15

Ruben

Some people there's a one thing that they're starting to use in the industry, it's called the eyeball, the Kaotica eyeball. And it's, I have I found a knockoff version of it years ago, but you essentially put your microphone into this foam rubber ball. It looks like an eyeball. And it didn't sound from coming in back of the microphone.

00;09;59;15 - 00;10;20;17

Ruben

The thing is, you have to remember, there's also sound coming from behind you. So you have to find a way to block out that sound that's coming in there. You also need a demo and yes, you can create one on your own. But if you are really serious about getting into the business, you're going to want to have your demo done by a professional.

00;10;21;01 - 00;10;44;26

Ruben

They have some good studios up in New York. Of course, Los Angeles is the place for the voiceover community. It's Los Angeles, Vancouver, Chicago, New York. But in New York, there's a place called Edge Studios, they're very good. And out in LA, I know there's one called Cha, his name is chuck durant who is like an amazing producer with the demos.

00;10;44;26 - 00;10;55;10

Ruben

He's amazing. And also, like I said before, having a good attitude and being hungry. That's what you have to have in this business.

00;10;55;10 - 00;11;05;07

Kristen

So how did you get into the profession? Like what called to you in it? And then what were the actual steps that you took to get work as a voice actor?

00;11;05;20 - 00;11;32;15

Ruben

I have always done impressions since I was little. Since I was like four years old, I was impersonating Kermit the Frog and back in the day when we had Ronald Reagan, I used to watch him and I would hear a voice and I learned how to do it. And my other job as part of being a voice, something with voice or hearing is I'm an Elvis tribute artist.

00;11;32;19 - 00;11;57;04

Ruben

So I knew how to impersonate Elvis at a very young age. And so I was very good at picking up on voices I learned by ear. And so what happened is in 2000, um, in 2005, I was like, you know, let me start getting started. I had done radio for college, but I'm like, you know, there's got to be something out there to get started.

00;11;57;04 - 00;12;20;23

Ruben

And I found a couple of what they call pay to play sites. One was called Voice One, Two, Three, and the other one's called Voices Dot Com. And so what I did is I got a computer created up a demo using voice impersonations. So I made two of them at first. And what the thing you want to do is you want to find good copy of commercials or things like that.

00;12;20;27 - 00;13;02;10

Ruben

So I found something free that I wouldn't get sued by, and it was Shakespeare. And what I did is I did Daffy Duck's voice, Bugs Bunny's voice, SpongeBob, you name it, I did all their impersonations using Shakespeare. Same thing with my human impersonations. Sylvester Stallone, Al Pacino, Arnold Schwarzenegger, they're all doing it to Shakespeare using Macbeth. So I created those up and then I started getting so I got onto the site and made a profile and I started getting some calls from them, you know, some emails.

00;13;03;05 - 00;13;33;08

Ruben

And because I'm bilingual, they've contacted me from Cartoon Network at one point for doing the bilingual. But they said my Spanish wasn't native enough for what they were looking for in Latin America. So I was like, okay. And mind you, I was in in a bedroom and I had like sheets around me. And really my first gigs were as impersonating Obama, President Obama back in 2008 when he was running for office.

00;13;33;08 - 00;14;10;18

Ruben

And my first job was for a company called Sign Africa. And it was really Obama pitching this convention called Sign Africa. And it was a radio ad and it was great and it was really his I'm naturally would be like almost like a baritone tenor, a higher pitched voice. So I was good at doing his speech voice. So when he would talk in speeches, like out in Chicago and all over the country, I was great at doing that voice, but I couldn't do his other voice, his his the um's and the OK's.

00;14;11;02 - 00;14;34;09

Ruben

He's a lot bigger. He's a lot deeper than I am. So in that regard. So yeah, that was my, my start. And I started doing these small radio ads, this Obama and then next thing you know, it started blowing up. And then from there I started working with companies like Mighty Yeti and then with a company called Big Moon Entertainment, which is now Saber Entertainment.

00;14;34;22 - 00;14;56;28

Ruben

They make all these video games. And I had done I've done five video games for them. The latest one was called The Car 18, which is PS4 and Xbox. And it's my voice as the co-driver, the navigator of the courses for this rally race game. And when I auditioned for that, I thought I would have to put on a voice.

00;14;56;28 - 00;15;16;11

Ruben

But once again they said, no, we want to hear you. And I'm like, okay. And yeah, and it worked out. So yeah, it's been my journey. I've taken classes, like I said, with Bob Burgin, that was a lot of fun. And that's why I always recommend to even if you're going to order a class, because sometimes they are very expensive.

00;15;16;11 - 00;15;24;20

Ruben

It could be \$800, \$500 cheaper, but it's good experience to get that, so.

00;15;24;20 - 00;15;37;00

Kristen

Does your voice get more tired when you're doing a different voice than your own, or does it feel like talking in a regular way?

00;15;37;27 - 00;16;06;13

Ruben

So I'll give you an example with the car series. So I had to record that over, that was about two months out of recording, 4 hours every day. Now, as far as the union, if I were a union voiceover actor, you would be recording essentially 4 to 6 hours and then like from 8:00 in the morning and then you're done at 2:00 and then the next shift comes at 3:00.

00;16;06;13 - 00;16;25;19

Ruben

And then record, but it's only it's 4 hours. You can't go any more than that. And that's true of your voice. If you go any more than 4 hours with your voice, it's going to get tired. So here I am shouting out these directions and telling the person to go this way and that way, and it gets repetitive and you get tired.

00;16;25;19 - 00;16;49;01

Ruben

And yeah, I would be using like throat coat tea and things to help me, you know, and sometimes you need a break, but when you're doing a character voice and you're doing fun things, sometimes it's little easier. Another hard thing was doing things with incidentals where you're getting hit, you're getting smacked in the face, you're like, you're dying and you have to do this.

00;16;49;01 - 00;17;13;04

Ruben

I was in I did a video game called Demons Age, and I was playing ghouls, goblins and all these, like, mythic kind of characters. And I had to record getting stabbed, getting shot, getting all these different. It was it was horrible on my voice. It was like grating. But, you know, I did it for a couple of hours every day and sometimes, you might not get the luxury of that.

00;17;13;20 - 00;17;42;04

Ruben

But, yeah, a couple of hours every day and I was just like it was tough on the voice and that's when you need your rest. And so you have to, you know, if you're going to record the next day, you just want to make sure that you are well rested and well hydrated. And also listening back to what you have played because you want it to be that same exact sound, because you the next day, you may be a little deeper, you know, from all the shouting and screaming.

00;17;42;04 - 00;18;00;04

Kristen

So you talked a little bit about that you are also an Elvis impersonator. And I imagine that's something else you could do with that, people who are voice actors might translate their skills to what other career path might someone who's interested in voice acting also translate those skills to?

00;18;00;06 - 00;18;19;03

Ruben

Well, you can always go into the have one thing. If you have a very good voice, you can go into politics, but you can also go into radio. Radio as a radio DeeJay. If you're working customer service, especially now with remote work, you know, they're always looking for pleasant voices. I want a pleasant voice to listen to when I'm on.

00;18;19;23 - 00;18;46;00

Ruben

Or for instance, if you could and this happened to a friend of mine. She has a wonderful speaking voice. They actually used her voice and she was the voice of the company. When you get their phone there, their answering service, what they call IRT, you could be a trainer for various companies. The key about voice acting is you are acting, you are speaking.

00;18;46;10 - 00;19;13;29

Ruben

And actors have a lot of skills, you know, so, you know, truly, if you're doing that, you can go into television, you could be on air personality and it's not all glory. Sometimes you're going to be the voice of a BlackBerry phone and for a training, the training was for Lexus. And sometimes it could be very dry. You could be doing audiobooks, audiobooks, if you if you think about with the library, your average audiobook could be 13 plus hours long.

00;19;14;24 - 00;19;51;10

Ruben

You have to remember that will translate into possibly 30 hours of recording because they're editing to get down to a 13 hour. So you're sitting in a chair reading a book 30 hours and you have to maintain that. And so being a, you know, an audiobook narrator is wonderful. You could also, if you're looking to go into a place like working with the blind and visually impaired, you can always go to the talking book center, you know, and reading for the blind, that's always that's a wonderful endeavor.

00;19;51;25 - 00;19;56;16

Ruben

You can work as a librarian working in the children's section and reading to kids.

00;19;56;16 - 00;19;57;09

Kristen

Kristen] Yeah,

00;19;57;09 - 00;20;16;01

Ruben

Becoming a teacher. That's a great thing to do. And you can also become a coach like what I do. I do voiceover coaching with students and adults. Yeah, it's a film you could work on film, creating video games or being part of the video game community.

00;20;16;15 - 00;20;41;23

Ruben

You just want to be professional about it. And I heard some very bad voiceovers in my day from either audiobook narration that was done on another site that was like a free site. And when I listen to a good audiobook, there has to be good acting, it has to be a good storyteller and sometimes I listen to an audiobook and it's been, you know, it's unlistenable.

00;20;42;08 - 00;20;55;20

Kristen

Well, the audio can make or break the book for some people, and there are a lot of us that do go back and search audio books by their narrator because it makes a huge difference.

00;20;55;20 - 00;21;12;06

Ruben

Another job you could also think about is being a presenter at a trade show corporate presenters. They're always looking for that. Emcees, you know I also work down at Atlantic City as an emcee on weekends. So there's so many things you do web learning, training on the web, fantastic as well.

00;21;13;21 - 00;21;32;24

Kristen

So voices are really important like you've listed a lot of things that I was like, you know, that's true customer service, they want a voice that is soothing and that's going to get me to do whatever it is that they're trying to get me to do, to either help me through tech help or to get me to buy something. The voice is going to matter.

00;21;33;04 - 00;21;55;09

Ruben

Right, I'm always listening for, I learned to pick up on, who has a strong voice, who has a soft voice. I learned to pick out who would work well in these certain positions. When I was in my former jobs, I was like, okay, I used to be a job poster a long time ago. And I would figure out like, okay, this person works well in this industry.

00;21;55;16 - 00;22;17;27

Ruben

You have a pleasant place. You know, you're not a great talker. I remember this one woman who wanted to be a essentially a receptionist for the company, and I'm sorry to say, but it was hard for me to listen to her voice. And I'm like, I'm sure that a person who called up the company would have a very hard time understanding her and listening to her.

00;22;18;27 - 00;22;29;02

Ruben

So you're kind of as a as a friend of mine named Robert Washington told me, you have to know your audience and know you know, hey, this is not the right spot for me.

00;22;29;26 - 00;22;37;16

Kristen

Do you have advice for people starting in the career on how to make the most of it? How can they find mentors in those kinds of things?

00;22;38;08 - 00;23;08;22

Ruben

Well, I'm a mentor, so that's the one thing you know, the thing is we're talking about the Ocean County area or even in New Jersey. You want to look towards are more urban areas that are going to have

coaches and mentors in in those communities. You know, obviously, we have New York and Philadelphia that are nearby, but chances are around the county not so many.

00;23;09;05 - 00;23;32;17

Ruben

Yeah, I'm putting myself out there as as a voice over coach, which I've done before. And the coaching has been a lot of fun because what a good coach will do is not only that they will guide you into getting a character out, but getting you out of your comfort zone. And that's one of the keys behind voice acting is you have to learn how to step out of yourself and become a character.

00;23;32;25 - 00;23;55;16

Ruben

Even if it's your own voice, you are still a character and you have to learn how to do that. And like I said in the beginning, best thing you could do go into community theater, even if it's being behind the scenes and narrating something for them behind the scenes. But they'll teach you some acting exercises if they're a credible group out there.

00;23;56;09 - 00;24;09;29

Kristen

Do you also have vocal training for singing? Because I assume you're also singing as Elvis. Do you have training that you did for that? Or maybe a choir that you were a part of or something? Well, yeah.

00;24;10;08 - 00;24;31;05

Ruben

Yeah. So, I mean, I used to be a part of the chorus back in high school and I was part of musical theater back in high school. I've done 78 musical theater productions since 1992, 1988. So it's been a lot and mostly community theater and some regional theater. So that's where I got my training. All my training was there.

00;24;31;17 - 00;24;52;08

Ruben

I've never taken a voice lesson with a voice teacher and I don't know where it comes from that sometimes you just have those skills. There's some things that I cannot teach you and that you were already born with. But you know, I can at least teach some acting there. Yeah. As far as Elvis, it was a natural thing.

00;24;52;16 - 00;25;01;04

Ruben

That was one of my earliest impressions too, and, and I just never knew that as I got older that this was going to become one of my professions.

00;25;01;29 - 00;25;03;19

Kristen

It was just something you were meant to do. Yeah.

00;25;03;19 - 00;25;04;15

Ruben

Yeah

00;25;05;12 - 00;25;31;10

Ruben

I could only grow sideburns up until about six years ago. I can only grow sideburns. Now, I can finally grow a beard. But yeah, my hair is. I always looked like Elvis. Yeah. Now here's something, how Elvis hurt me. I had a head shot, and I use that for my voice over profile. And so people automatically thought that this guy's going into Elvis.

00;25;31;18 - 00;25;56;03

Ruben

So one piece of advice I could give to you if you're creating a voiceover profile, say, on voice one, two, three or voices dot com, don't use your face just yet. Or if you're going to use a headshot, make sure it's generic enough, not dressed as a character, just saying, you know, like a typical acting head shot, instead of just having a character like Elvis.

00;25;56;03 - 00;26;01;12

Ruben

Because it did hurt me for a while. Soon as I took it off, boom, I started getting hired for some jobs.

00;26;02;01 - 00;26;13;15

Kristen

So you talked about like the demos, like making sure that you have a good demo. What does the process of getting hired for something look like? Is it all remote or are people going into studios at this point?

00;26;13;25 - 00;26;34;29

Ruben

Well, they're starting to get back into the studios. A lot of it is remote because people have their laptops, they have better equipment at home. Some people have what they call a patch. They're patched directly into the studios, into their systems. You know, a lot of people are doing it over Zoom or Skype now and making sure that they have the proper equipment.

00;26;34;29 - 00;27;02;06

Ruben

But, you know, gone are the days where, for instance, like The Simpsons and you'll see videos of the actors with each other in the studio. And that was the way it used to be. I have a picture at home, it's actually on my vision board of Mel Blanc and the other actors who were in The Flintstones, and they are standing around each other with one microphone and they're all talking into that microphone, you know, giving, like, directions.

00;27;02;20 - 00;27;23;08

Ruben

So gone are those days. So you can do it at home, and the problem with, unfortunately, sometimes doing it at home, especially if you're going to get with these pay to play companies and you get hired. So say you get hired by, which this happened to me, with these video game companies, I don't have any direction. I have to self-direct.

00;27;23;27 - 00;28;15;29

Ruben

Luckily that they did have a guy who was doing the sound for them. They said, okay, we want it to sound a certain way, but otherwise I have to do direction myself. So I have to figure out, is this person sad, are they angry? What is their motivation here? And, you know, as far as getting demo works, yeah, you can do it all from home or going into actually a good studio in the area and I just found out about this just the other day that Chuck Duran recorded somebody and they were in some Midwestern state and he was out in Los Angeles and they did an excellent demo just from that studio there. So it is possible some studios may want you to go to an actual recording studio, not be at home, because they can pick up on those small sounds like a fan from a computer.

00;28;16;18 - 00;28;19;16

Kristen

Do you send your demo out to people?

00;28;20;04 - 00;28;41;03

Ruben

Yes. Yeah. Or on the pay to play sites, like sites like Voice One, two, three, it's already on there. You can create as many demos I recommend, and especially if you are getting very serious about this and trying to get an agent having at least two demos or first demo you want is to have a commercial demo, and that's of you doing all commercials.

00;28;41;03 - 00;29;03;09

Ruben

Okay, but really no character voices. The other one I could suggest doing, and if you're interested in getting into the character animation kind of stuff, is a character animation demo. What the good producer will do is, okay, you supply the voice, they supply the effects, they supply the background music. So it'll make you sound like you are in a videogame.

00;29;04;11 - 00;29;31;02

Ruben

They'll make you sound like you are in a cartoon. Or actually in that commercial I created a commercial demo for myself and I had a whole library of sound effects and I was able to make it sound like I was somebody's toilet. I was like, Hi, I'm your toilet. And it made it sound like this hollow sound. I made my voice sound like it was from, like, the 1960s, like car ads and like, hi, welcome to so-and-so.

00;29;31;08 - 00;29;50;01

Ruben

But I had the right filter on there. So if you're computer savvy and have some technical ability and can figure out and if you have a good ear, you can create your own demo at home like I did. but chances are, but if you want the real good stuff, you're going to want to go get a demo done by a professional,

00;29;50;01 - 00;29;50;09

Kristen

Right.

00;29;51;02 - 00;29;59;23

Kristen

Are there any things that you would like to make sure that are emphasized for those that are looking into the career, career or thinking of it as an option?

00;30;00;06 - 00;30;24;20

Ruben

I actually have it written down, but it's part of my philosophy about what I call the B's of voice acting. The first thing you want to do is be prepared. Always be prepared, whether it is having your scripts, having the sides that you may need to, having making sure that your, your mike is ready to go. Your computer's ready to go, that you're ready to go.

00;30;25;01 - 00;30;45;29

Ruben

And also by wearing the right clothing, the best clothes to wear as far as being a voiceover actor is wearing a t-shirt because you don't want to rustle around, You don't want to make, some people back in the day, they used to wear shirt and tie. Not anymore. We don't want to hear any sounds. The other thing you want to be the second be is being professional.

00;30;46;10 - 00;31;30;27

Ruben

That means being on time, being healthy, being cooperative and with your voice directors, that you make it on the other side and being on time with sending stuff out, you know, an audition, you know, you don't want to be late or if you do get hired for a voice gig that you want to make sure that your turnaround time, you say that you're going to get it done in one day, you're going to make sure you're done in one day. If that means that you're working all night on this, you're going to do that. The other thing you want to do is the third part is being open. You want to be open to suggestions, being open to criticism, being open to rejection. You are going to get rejected in this business.

00;31;30;28 - 00;31;51;01

Ruben

It is acting. You may think you are perfect, but chances are there are a million other people who sound the same and maybe have had a better read. So that always, always be open and open minded. The other thing is, if you are looking to get into the animation and video game and character world, you want to be unique.

00:31;51;23 - 00:32;16;01

Ruben

Don't rely on just thinking that you sound like a certain character. Chances are you don't unless you are really listening to yourself through a monitor and like, Oh, this is what I really sound like. Same thing with presenting yourself out there with. One of the unique things about me is I am an Elvis impersonator, so people like that.

00:32;16;17 - 00:32;41;04

Ruben

But who knew that an Elvis impersonator could also impersonate Obama? You know, and I look kind of like Elvis, and I'm kind of flashy sometimes, you want to be unique. And the last thing I'm gonna sell you is to be you. Don't be afraid to be you. Because sometimes your natural voice is what they're looking for, you know? And I always go in with a smile, always be cheerful and stay healthy.

00:32;41;04 - 00:32;44;13

Ruben

That's the one thing I'm always going say, got to keep that voice healthy.

00:32;44;13 - 00:32;55;28

Kristen

Wow. That's some great advice for those that are interested in voice acting. And I think it'll be really helpful for people who are considering this as a potential path.

00:32;56;08 - 00:33;16;05

Ruben

Yeah, I'm grateful to be here and offer some advice. I know that the library here, I work for the Plumsted Library, we are looking to do a voiceover workshop, I believe sometime this fall, if not this fall, looking probably sometime in the spring. So if you're interested, well, we'll have it out there on our website.

00:33;16;29 - 00:33;21;28

Kristen

And people can look to our website for the ability to register for that once it is scheduled.

00:33;22;04 - 00:33;28;21

Ruben

That's correct. We may, it, we may be virtual or it may be in person, but usually in person is the best way to do this.

00:33;29;09 - 00:33;34;26

Kristen

Yeah. Well, thank you so much for joining me. And you have a great rest of the day.

00;33;35;01 - 00;33;35;22

Ruben

Thanks, you too.

00;33;36;04 - 00;33;49;27

Kristen

This has been So You Want To Be a Voice Actor, from the Teen Career series. Thank you so much to Reuben for all his wisdom, keep checking out the Ocean County Library's YouTube and Spotify for more career exploration.