

## VOICE THERAPY VERSUS ACTING COACH

Acting coaches and voice therapy provided by qualified SLP's both have their place and purpose in working with actors. The SLP is qualified to complete a comprehensive voice assessment that can identify and diagnose any vocal abnormalities and pathologies. The SLP is also qualified to provide vocal rehabilitation through the use of customized vocal exercise regimens, vocal hygiene practices, and specific vocal techniques. The SLP is responsible for supporting the healing of any vocal injuries and the prevention of re-injury. Acting coaches, however, are essential in providing guidance for the actor in perfecting dialects, character analyses, vocal projection, and breathing and resonance techniques. They can also use therapeutic vocal exercises to rehabilitate the injured performer. Because both professionals are trained in unique aspects regarding the vocal mechanism and its working, the combination of both services should be seen as not only optimal but logical. This would provide the actor with a continuum of vocal care and training needed for success.

### Resources:

Benninger, M., & Murray, T. (2006). *The performer's voice*. San Diego: Plural Publishing.

Boone, D., McFarlane, S., & Von Berg, S. (2005). *The Voice and Voice Therapy*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

The Voice and Swallowing Institute. (1996-2011). Voice Therapy. *The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary*. Retrieved October 29, 2011, from <http://www.nyee.edu/cfv-therapy.html>