

Participant Consent Form

Title of Research Project:

Towards Sustainable Vocal Practices: Quantifying and Qualifying Experiences of Vocal Fatigue, Dysphonia, Pain, and Recovery in the Voice Acting Industry

Researcher Contact Information:

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Purpose of the Study:

This research aims to explore the prevalence, severity, and management strategies of vocal fatigue, dysphonia, pain, and recovery among voice actors. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges faced by voice actors and identify strategies to promote sustainable vocal health practices within the industry.

What Your Participation Involves:

- You will be invited to participate in a **focus group discussion**, where you will have the opportunity to share your experiences and strategies in detail. Topics may include how you became a voice artist, your training, warm-up techniques, and practices used before and during recording sessions. These discussions will help shape the questions used in the subsequent questionnaire.
- You will then be asked to complete a **questionnaire**, which will take approximately 10-15 minutes. The questions will cover your experiences with vocal fatigue, dysphonia, pain, and recovery, as well as your current practices and perceptions of support in the industry.
- A small number of participants may be selected for an additional **individual interview** and/or asked to complete a brief (1 week) **research diary** documenting their experiences with vocal health.
- Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal:

- Participation in this study is entirely voluntary.
- You may choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.
- If you choose to withdraw, your data will not be included in the study unless it has been anonymised and cannot be identified.

Confidentiality and Data Protection:

- All information you provide will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research.
- No identifying details will be included in the research report or publications.
- Data will be stored securely on a password-protected device and retained for 6 months, in accordance with ethical research guidelines.

Benefits and Risks:

- There are no known risks associated with participating in this study.
- While there are no direct benefits, your insights will help inform best practices and support for vocal health in the voice-acting industry.

Contact for Questions or Concerns:

If you have any questions about the research or your participation, please contact Laura Newton-Harris at 2319576@student.uwtsd.ac.uk

If you have concerns about how the study is being conducted, you may contact Louise Emanuel, Julie Crossman, or Debbie Winter at the Voice Study Centre (WAPPAR).

Consent Statement:

By signing below, you confirm that:

1. You have read and understood the information provided above.
2. You understand that your participation is voluntary and that you may withdraw at any time without explanation.
3. You consent to your responses being used anonymously for research purposes.
4. You agree to participate in this study, including the focus group and questionnaire and (if invited) to undertake an individual interview or a brief research diary.

Participant Name (Print): _____

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Researcher Name: Laura Newton-Harris

Researcher Signature: _____

Date: _____