

## **ABOUT US**

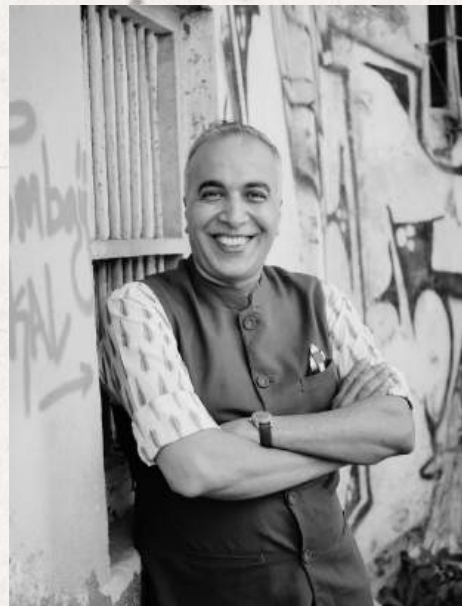
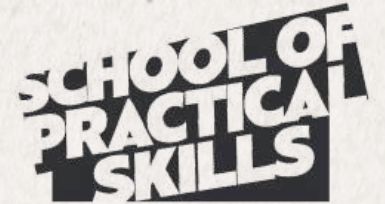
The School of Practical Skills (SoPS) is a modern day academy for CXOs who wish to master the art of Performative Speaking. We train you in the art of speaking at various public forums including keynote speeches, sales pitches and presentations, media interviews, fireside chats and panels.

At School of Practical Skills we use a unique teaching method to help you identify your personal brand, your speaking style and your secret sauce. Once we help you identify those things, we'll put you through a series of fun exercises that will help you uncover the effective communicator that's hiding inside you.



# Founder - Suresh Venkat

Anchor, Editorial Consultant, & Media Trainer



**Suresh brings with him over 25 years of media experience across television, radio, digital and live events.**

### ***His Portfolio of Services include:***

- Anchoring/ Moderation of live and televised shows, interviews, debates, panel discussions and awards shows.
- Speech and Communication training for business executives.



### ***Domain Knowledge***

Suresh has anchored shows, interviews and discussions on a variety of business related subjects. These include Enterprise & Personal Technology, Business & Economics, Social Enterprise & CSR, Design & Innovation, Sustainability & Green Business, Digital & E-commerce, Healthcare and Media & Advertising.

### ***Links to Recent Shows/ Media Properties***

[www.readytomelt.com](http://www.readytomelt.com) and ET Startup School on [www.etplay.com](http://www.etplay.com).

### ***Partial list of Leaders Interviewed***

- Rekha Menon, Chairperson, Accenture India
- Rishad Premji, Chairman, Wipro
- Jim Whitehurst, former CEO, Red Hat
- Kaku Nakhate, Country Head India, BoA
- Nandan Nilekani, Non-exec Chairman, Infosys
- Karthik Reddy, Blume Ventures
- Piyush Pandey, Vice-Chairman, O&M Asia-Pac
- Kapil Dev, Cricketer
- Amitabh Bachchan, Actor
- Dr. Devi Shetty, Cardiac Surgeon
- Nithin Kamath, CEO, Zerodha

### ***Previous Experience***

Suresh has worked in various capacities at CNBC TV18, Radio City 91.1FM and Star TV. He is widely renowned both for his unique insights into business and his disciplined-yet-irreverent style as an anchor. Suresh is a graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

### ***Partial List of Clients***

- WIPRO
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- LinkedIn
- JM Financial Ltd.
- Axis Capital
- Bloomingdale PR
- Yashraj Films Pvt. Ltd.
- Economic Times

### ***Pedagogy***

- Visiting faculty of Media Studies at Sophia College Mumbai
- Customized media and communication training programs for senior corporate executives

### ***Acting Credits***

Suresh is also a part time actor. He is currently part of the ensemble cast of the stage productions of Twelve Angry Jurors and A Few Good Men.

# MEET THE TRAINING TEAM



*Chief Trainer*  
**Suresh Venkat**

is a communications trainer, presenter, actor and anchor. He is an experienced journalist with over 25 years of experience in news and entertainment across television, digital and radio. He has also trained many C-Suite executives at leading organizations including the Kotak Mahindra Group, LinkedIn India, Axis Capital, JM Financial and Wipro Technologies. Suresh is a graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He is currently the host of [www.readytomelt.com](http://www.readytomelt.com) and ET Startup School on [www.etplay.com](http://www.etplay.com).

Suresh can be found on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).



*Trainer*  
**Tarana Raja**

is a communications trainer & performer on Radio, Film, Television & Stage. She has worked in media for over 25 years & is an accomplished presenter as well as an actor. Tarana is one half of the famous 'Jaggu & Tarana' radio host duo. As an actor, she's been an integral part of hugely popular shows like Bade Achhe Late hain, and Kasautii Zindagi Kay. Her TV appearances include chat shows on Zoom, Zee Music, CNBC Awaaz and Doordarshan. Tarana is currently in a Zee5 Webseries called Frontpage & a theatre production called Pink is the New Black.

Tarana can be found on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).



*Trainer*  
**Ashish 'Jaggu' Jagtiani**

is a business journalist, podcaster, columnist and playwright. He is one half of the famous 'Jaggu & Tarana' radio host duo on Radio One 94.3 FM. With over 25 years of media experience, Jaggu has been a radio anchor for both business and entertainment shows, a financial journalist with Bloomberg UTV, a podcaster with Bookmyshow.com and a columnist with Vogue, Hindustan Times, Mid-Day and others. His subjects have been as varied as the Investing for beginners, the FOMO syndrome and a self-explanatory weight loss column called Diary of a Fat Man.

# MEET THE TRAINING TEAM

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*Trainer*

## Faezeh Jalali

Faezeh is the Founder and Artistic Director of the theatre collaborative, FATS TheArts, Mumbai. She is an award-winning theatre actor, director, and writer, as well as a teacher, kalaripayattu practitioner and choreographer. She has written and directed several well acclaimed plays, like, Shikhandi-The Story of the Inbetweens, 07/07/07, Bone of Contention, Strictly Unconventional and Afterlies, among others. Faezeh has 15+ years of teaching experience with both children and adults. She also conducts theatre workshops for all ages. She has a BA, an MFA and a Diploma in Kalaripayattu. She's very cool. Ask anyone. (And in case you're wondering, her name is pronounced "Foy-zay")

Faezeh can be found on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#).



*Trainer*

## Pablo Chaterji

has been, among other things, a film-maker, photographer and an automotive and lifestyle journalist. With over 20 years of combined experience in these fields, he is currently the editor of Motoring World, one of India's first automotive publications. Having dealt closely with senior executives in the automotive and lifestyle industries for years, Pablo has a unique insight into the techniques of media interactions and public speaking, as well as the art and craft of writing effective press releases. He's also an amateur blues guitarist, cook and mixologist.

Pablo can be found on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#).



## **OUR TRAINING METHOD**

At SoPS we use a training methodology that is an ideal mix of theoretical lessons and practical exercises. We use real life examples, current events and topical issues to help our participants articulate their thoughts through various kinds of performative speech exercises.

The pedagogical philosophy of The School of Practical Skills is - Learn it today, Use it Tomorrow. We help you create and sustain immediate and long term improvements in your performative speech abilities and your media interactions.

Training language - English. We can also incorporate Hindi into our training structure, where required.



## **FEEDBACK AND TESTIMONIALS**

# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

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*Showed me the mirror to my communication style which needed a good clean up. Especially loved the simulation exercises where we had to become different personalities. This training should be given to all leaders and not just for those who are external/media facing.*

**Sr. C-Suite Leader, LinkedIn India**

*Very useful. I got to know where I am lagging and the exact points that I need to improve on. Such an in-depth training, very useful indeed. I definitely feel more confident after the training. Amazing training, great trainer!*

**Sr. Editor, Economic Times B2B**

*I enjoyed the training - it had a good balance between generic theoretical advice and specific actionable feedback. It offered a framework for self-reflection (about my own style, strengths, weakness with respect to public speaking /persona). I found it very useful.*

**Sr. C-Suite Leader, LinkedIn India**

*Thank you, Suresh, for spending time with us. Really helpful and insightful.*

**Sr. Equity Analyst, Axis Capital**

*I have had 23 years of formal education and you have been one of the best teachers I have had. Your emphasis on small details is infectious.*

**Sr. Equity Analyst, Kotak Securities Ltd.**

*Mr. Venkat knows what was needed from us and the difficulties that we face during interviews. Keeping that in mind, the entire training was customized and was quite helpful. He, (Mr. Venkat) made it so simple and he helped us how to say 'No' to the media, if the questions/queries were not relevant.*

**Sr. Equity Analyst, Kotak Securities Ltd.**

*Thank you so much for your valuable support and guidance. Your encouragement and constant motivation pushed me to highs I never thought possible. Your techniques, ideas and strategies are top-notch, my confidence level has improved a lot.*

**Sr. Equity Analyst, Kotak Securities Ltd.**

# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

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*I learned essential techniques to enhance my screen presence, voice quality and articulation. It enhanced my understanding of the basic building blocks of interesting interviewing and diverse styles. The training module was well-crafted and executed. The sequencing of exercises, practice sessions and theory were supremely designed.*

**Sr. Editor, Economic Times B2B**

*Suresh's proficiency truly stands out in crafting a thorough, personalized program. Covering aspects from discovering your stage persona to mastering storytelling, voice modulation, and delivery, this comprehensive course is a catalyst for professional transformation.*

**Design Leader and Founder, DesignUp Conference**

*This training was absolutely necessary for me. The notes and the feedback were very contextual to my situation. So, I found it very useful. He (Suresh Venkat) is well read and up to date on current affairs. He has a very good understanding of banking and the associated regulations. I was very impressed that we could have contextual conversations.*

**Business Head, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.**

*Your expertise and the speech exercises were transformative, helping me deliver one of the highlights of my career.*

*Your input on crafting a simple yet powerful narrative truly resonated with the audience. It captured their attention and even led to an unexpected opportunity.*

**Sales Leader, LinkedIn India**

*A constant reminder on what to do and what not to do helped. It helps you to reflect and go back in case required. Being prepared, stressing key points, not be just a narrator, bringing humour, all this was covered. Suresh made it a point not only to make it fun but stressed on the point that our speech should also have some humour and smile.*

**Business Head, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.**



# TESTIMONIALS



*Consulting Editor & Content Strategist; Executive Director – Content, Axis Capital*

## **Merle Almeida**

For more than a decade, Suresh Venkat has been a valuable ally in my practice as a content strategist and producer. Over the past year, he and his team have successfully trained teams with which I work on how to hold their own in hosting, presenting, pitching, moderating events and managing discussions – on stage and in virtual events. I like the way Suresh customizes each training module to a participant's personal challenges and aspirations within the framework of broader goals – a granularity in approach that differentiates this programme from others.



*VP Group Corporate Communications, Kotak Mahindra Bank*

## **Biswajit Dash**

The Media trainings conducted by Suresh Venkat have immensely helped the senior leadership as well as spokespersons across business verticals at Kotak Mahindra Bank. The sessions are in-depth interactions and are customized by Suresh to address specific needs of the spokesperson alongside guiding them on articulation, messaging, facing tough questions, and more.



*Head - Corporate Access & Corporate Communications, Axis Capital*

## **Gisele Castelino**

I've engaged with Suresh and the School of Practical Skills both as a participant and a process custodian for our Research Analyst's Corporate Conference training workshop. One aspect that truly impressed me was their tailor-made approach to the training. They covered a wide range of topics, from body language and vocal tone to spatial projection with command and confidence. The mock interview sessions were invaluable, providing a safe space to practice and receive constructive feedback.



*Deputy Vice President, HDFC Bank*

## **Sakshi Denis**

Suresh is a seasoned media trainer. We worked together in my former organisation where he trained several of our key leaders. His training modules are simple, straightforward and comprehensive. The best thing about his training pattern is that he makes the leader comfortable and devises a customised module, as per their requirements. Active exercises and practice patterns of his module equip the leader with practical wisdom to face the media.



## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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