

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“TOURING NEW YORK CITY’S SEMINARS”

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Liz Caplan
Private Vocal Coach



Rob Bennett for The Wall Street Journal

Vocal coach Liz Caplan at a recent session with 'Godspell' cast members Hunter Parrish and Telly Leung.

On a typical day Ms. Caplan may train Nikki M. James, a 2011 Tony Award Winner for "Book of Mormon"; Hunter Parrish, now starring in "Godspell"; or even [Stephen Colbert](#). Ms. Caplan tailors each lesson to fit an individual's needs or to remedy the vocal perils flagged by musical supervisors and producers. Using combinations of yoga and Alexander technique, plus a series of short vocal exercises, Ms. Caplan assesses the problem(s). On average, she said, an issue takes about 10 weeks to resolve—six to get an awareness of the problem, and four improve technique and establish muscle memory.

Instructor's advice: "Each individual should have their very own signature sound. Although imitation is perhaps the sincerest form of flattery, it's not recommended to start trying to imitate somebody else's vocal tones or cadence when they're not yours."