

# IMPROV

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**HAVE FUN** but never at anyone else's expense. If your first FOCUS is on having fun, you will forget to be nervous. Focus on the moment. Don't worry about "messaging up". There is no way you could do wrong in Improv. Make big choices and never fear failure. When in doubt, **SMILE**. If you are having fun, your audience will have fun.

**"YES! AND..."** The number one rule of Improv is always say and/or think "YES!" to every suggestion given by your scene partner. It is our job to make our team look great. When we **block** our scene partner by saying "NO!" to their choice, the scenes – along with trust and comfort - fall apart. We **accept** our team's offers. "AND..." means we add on to what our partners give us. We add details that support what has previously been established.

**WHO** Every scene begins with choices about WHO we are (characters) and how we know each other (relationship). The RELATIONSHIP is most important to establish a common focus between players and the audience.

**WHERE** Equally important is establishing location. The exposition of every play, novel or short story develops characters and setting. As writers of our Improv scenes we work together to accomplish the same task. The setting includes everything in the world your characters see, hear, smell, feel or taste. Use PANTOMIME (physical performance) to make imaginary world come alive. The stage is a 3D canvas for us to create new worlds. This world is new to us and the audience, but our characters have lived their forever.

**WHAT** The action of a scene, we create an entire plot of a story as a team. Create a physical activity for every scene. Create obstacles and conflict for your characters, then work together to solve the problem. Start in the middle. Our scenes are short but our characters' story long before we created them. Your character know more than you do about their world and past. Together, with your scene partner, discover that story and write it together.

**LISTEN & RESPOND** The most important job of any artist is to listen. We become hyper-focused to our surroundings. Listen with your eyes and ears. We don't just hear the words and sounds, we absorb our characters' worlds. We then respond to everything in that world, virtually ignoring anything outside the world (audience, backstage, what we had for lunch, where we are going after class/show, etc). Stay **IN THE MOMENT**. Improv then becomes an easy organic procedure. Stop thinking ahead. Simply LISTEN and RESPOND.

**BIG CHOICES - BIG VOICES** Be bold. Be fearless. Face the audience and project your physical and vocal energy throughout the room. Speak clearly. Make big bold choices about WHO & WHERE & WHAT. Improv becomes a series of choices that support all previous choices. Our team and audience both have to hear our choices. Oh, yeah and remember my number one rule, "HAVE FUN!"



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