

Workshop: Amazing Armando

The “Armando” (originally “The Armando Diaz Theatrical Experience Movement & Hootenanny”) is a show format out of Chicago, in which a monologist tells personal stories that provide the inspiration for the scenes that follow.

Description

This workshop explores the Armando format, to create beautifully inspired and connected scenes from an engaging, personal monologue.

What You Will Learn

Being inspired

One thing improvisers can struggle with in the Armando is “idea paralysis”. We’ll look at a variety of ways to get the most out of the monologue to generate rich and diverse scenes, without getting caught up in ideas.

Playing with style

The nature of Armando scenes means that we have scope to play a much broader range of styles, settings and ideas that we might explore in a full, single-world long-form show. We’ll look at leveraging this to expand our stylistic range.

Callbacks and connections

The audience loves seeing us bring back characters and ideas, and it’s a lot of fun for the performers too! We’ll look at how and when to make callbacks and how we can connect ideas to bring a sense of thematic structure to our show.

Delivering monologues

Traditionally, in the Armando, the monologue is delivered by a special guest who does not participate in the scenes, but it can also be a lot of fun to share the story-telling around. We’ll take a look at how to deliver an engaging monologue and how we can be of service in inspiring the performers.

Going beyond Armando

Armando is a beautifully simple structure that can provide a template for all sorts of shows. If time permits we'll look at ways of extending the skills learned here into other show forms.

Experience Level

All levels. This workshop can be tailored to suit any level and will be adjusted so that even the most experienced improvisers will learn some new techniques and to allow beginners to get involved in the fun world of the Armando.

Participants

Number of participants: 6 to 16

Workshop Length

2 hours+

The joy of the Armando is that it is an exploration. As such there's plenty of scope for us to attack this form. At a minimum 2 hours provides a good foundation. Additional time can be well spent learning additional techniques and refining existing ones.

Workshop Requirements

Can be taught in a multi-purpose space or a theatre.

Performance

This workshop can be used as preparation for a performance of the "Armando" or a related form, but will require more than the minimum (3 hours) in order to prepare a cast for a show structure. If you want to include a performance, please be sure to mention this early in discussions.