

Workshop: Improv, Deconstructed

To really understand how something works, you have to pull it apart and then put it back together.

Description

This workshop takes what we know about improvisation and reduces it to its elements in their simplest form. Once we have taken it apart, we can then rebuild our improv machinery, with everything neatly aligned and none of the grit.

Beginning with extreme minimalism, we strip scenes to the bare bones. Even at this level, we get to be connected and responsive in a way that is surprisingly compelling and engaging. By layering on additional elements, one by one, we can build up to fully developed scenes with rich characterisation and compelling relationships. In the process we gain a greater appreciation of the parts that make up the whole.

What You Will Learn

Elements of improvisation

By going back to the absolute bare bones of what makes an improvisation scene we can investigate each in isolation, and then explore how things change as we layer new elements onto scenes.

Movement and use of space

You will learn exercises that will give you a greater appreciation of the space in which you exist when you perform. Many improvisers get caught up so much in dialogue and story that they can forget these fundamental and vitally important skills.

The power of words

We get to surrender the need for complex dialogue and heavy exposition and explore how powerful just one or two words can be.

Less is more

This minimalist approach will allow you to see how much can be achieved with very little effort.

The role of the audience

Performers can sometimes underestimate the importance of their audience. During this workshop we will see in real terms just how much work the audience is willing to do for us.

Experience Level

Any.

This workshop will benefit improvisers of any level. Experienced improvisers will gain valuable insight into their own processes. Newer improvisers will gain a valuable foundation that will make their future learning experiences clearer.

Participants

Number of participants: 6 to 16

Workshop Length

3 to 6 hours.

Workshop Requirements

Because we will be exploring some elements of movement, a reasonable sized working area is desirable.

Performance

The work done in this workshop is somewhat abstract. It can form the basis of a show, but this would be best suited to an audience of peers, or an established audience who are willing to accept “something a bit different”.