Workshop: Improvised Sci-Fi

Science Fiction offers up a boundless world of imagination - so it's a perfect fit for improvisation.

In the words of Arthur C. Clarke, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Let's create some magic!

Description

This workshop opens up the limitless world of science-fiction through improvisation. Life is cheap in science-fiction worlds, which immediately gives us high-stakes. It's also an amazing opportunity to examine both the ugliness and the beauty of being human.

What You Will Learn

Genre tropes

We'll play with some of the common tropes and themes of the genre to give your shows an authentic sci-fi feel.

Creating your "universe"

We'll look at how to give your "universe" its own distinct character-types, technologies and language.

Not getting lost

It's easy to get lost in space, and any genre piece can quickly get overloaded with all the paraphernalia of the piece. We'll use techniques that help us to focus in on and engage with the relationship side of things. Science fiction can have some really cool action sequences, but in truth, most people are watching because they care about the relationships - whether it be between Kirk and Spock or Mando and "the child".

Production

Throughout the workshop, we will introduce some of the production element that will really bring your show to life, including costume, lighting and computer-driven AV.

Jonathan Briden

Experience Level

Intermediate and above.

This workshop is generally best for intermediate and experienced improvisers, but die-hard sci-fi fans who are new to improv may also find it a fun and engaging experience.

Participants

Number of participants: 6 to 16

Workshop Length

3 hours to 2 full days or more.

Sci-fi is a huge topic, so there is a lot of potential material to cover. A 3-hour workshop is a fun introduction to the genre, but a longer workshop is better suited to allow more exploration.

Workshop Requirements

Can be taught in a multi-purpose space or a theatre. Access to a projector and screen, or even a TV with HDMI connection would be a plus!

Performance

This workshop can be used as preparation for a performance of "Peregrine V", 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.