

**Department:** Performing Arts  
**Course Name:** Performance Improvisation

**Not currently offered**

**Course Description:**

This course provides students the opportunity to develop and perform improvisational performance techniques in controlled classroom and live audience situations. It is designed to provide even the most introverted student an avenue to creatively engage their curiosity and imagination in collaborated exercises which fuel social awareness and self-esteem by synthesizing skills sets and adapting to audience suggestions. The class format also emphasizes teamwork as the class performs for the greater good. Through self-directed and reflective risk-taking, each student builds individual confidence, responsibility and awareness on stage and in their personal growth.

**Content:**

Rules of Improvisational Acting  
Application and Reinforcement of Rules.  
Comprehend and Synthesis of the Relationship between Audience and Performer.  
Analysis and Application of Proper Introductions and Explanations of Improvisational Techniques in Communicating with the Audience.  
Methodology in Developing and Evaluating the Portrayal of Characters and Impersonations.  
Responsible Application and reinforcement of Cultural Awareness and Sensibilities in Expression.  
Refining the Process of Vocal and Physical Manipulation Required in Character Creation.

**Skills:**

Develop and reinforce focus and listening skills.  
Develop a working confidence in basic stage movement and vocal techniques.  
Application and development in reacting to spontaneous situations by analysis, creative ownership and sustained reasoning.  
Comprehensive adaptation of improvisational introductions essential to audience communication.  
Application and synthesizing the required objectives of individual improvisational techniques.  
Developing a working sense of audience control and manipulation.  
Create and develop a stable of characters and impersonations used in performance.  
Develop and reinforce the nuances of comic timing in spontaneous situations.  
Individual and collaborative critical assessment of risk-taking challenge.

**Texts and materials:**

Viola Spolin, Improvisation for the Theater, (Northwestern Univ., 1983)  
Halpern, Close, Johnson, Truth in Comedy, (Meriwether, 1995)  
The instructor's 30 years of professional improvisational performing experience as managing director/instructor with The Comedy Troupe, In All Seriousness Incorporated, Erie, PA,(www.inallseriousness.com),The First Amendment Improvisation Company, New York, NY.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture  
Individual and collaborative demonstration  
Individual and collaborative rehearsal  
Observation and assessment  
Worksheets  
Related videos, wikis

**Methods of Evaluation:**

The ability to comprehend, retain and develop class exercises and techniques.

Mastery of introductions and format responsibilities.

Individual, self-directed and collaborative adaptability to format responsibilities.

Conduct and sensitivity to public awareness and global perspectives.

Expressive and meaningful development of characters and impersonations.

Performance quizzes and examinations.

