



Community Education Spring 2024

Improv for Anybody

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Course Description: In this 4-week improv class, students will learn and build upon the tenets and rules of improv—enthusiastic agreement (yes, and), active listening, breaking down our filters, and embracing our own comedic voice.

Through theater games, improvised exercises, storytelling, and basic scenework, students will work toward freeing themselves physically, vocally, emotionally, and mentally.

Whether you're looking for a fun way to improve your communication skills, want to have a little fun, or are hoping to develop as a performer, this class will equally honor all of these goals (and might even push you to expand those goals).

But mostly it's fun and silly. Bring yourself and an open mind and we'll help it soar together.

Learning Outcomes: *As a result of taking this course, students will:*

- Have Fun
- Listen Hard
- Have Honest Reactions
- Get Comfortable with Being "in the Spotlight"
- Embrace Their Point of View

Course Schedule:

The nature of improv requires a level of flexibility based on a number of factors—number of students, interests of the class, strengths, challenges, etc—so schedules are likely to change week-to-week or even during a class. This is a loose guideline of what each week will cover.

Week 1: May 2—Yes, and!

- Listening, opening up, honest reactions, and what the #@\$% is improv anyway?

Week 2: May 9—Baseline Reality

- Who are we, where are we, and what are we doing when we do improv scenes?

Week 3: May 16—Emotion and POV

- How to use how our characters (and ourselves) feel to help guide our decisions.

Week 4: May 23—Justification and Gift Giving

- Let's gift our classmates with fun attributes and make sense of our silliest (or most serious) choices.

Day-of-Class

- Bring the best self you have on the day of the workshop. Life doesn't slow down just because you decided to take an improv class, so whatever you got, we'll take it and work with it.
- Please leave cell phones or electronic devices in your bag or coat, silenced. This is to encourage your focus, mindfulness, and respect to the ensemble.
- Please wear clothing and shoes in which you can move freely and comfortably. Your clothing and shoes should not inhibit you in any way.
- Feel free to bring snacks or beverages, listen to your body. Just try to keep them from distracting the class.
- We will have a break roughly halfway through the workshop, but bathroom breaks don't need my permission—we're all adults.

Selected Bibliography/Resources:

Below you will find recommended references and online links to give you more information about the topics of this course. If you have a special interest on a topic we discuss, please ask me for further references.

This is a list of some of the terms that may come up in the workshop. Students are welcome to take notes, but I will send a workshop recap afterwards.

- Yes, And
- Trust
- Baseline Reality (Who, Where, and Why/What)
- Suggestions
- Listening and Support
- Justification
- Space Work/Environment
- Gift Giving/Endowing
- Edits
- Scene Work
- Point of View
- Game of the Scene

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/