

# Introduction to Improvisation

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Robbin Schincke has an MA in playwriting and has written, acted in, and directed professional, community, collegiate, and high school productions, most recently along the I70 Corridor. Robbin has also taught playwriting and acting courses and directed shows for two universities and Morgan Community College. She also enjoys serving her communities as the Regional Director of Community Outreach for Morgan Community College, Bennett and Limon, and representing MCC on the Bennett Arts Council.

## Course Description and Rationale

Improvisation: If you have had any acting experience now is the time to try to fine tune your ability to focus, listen, respond, and create. Imagine being able to create an entire scene without memorizing a script! Improvisation is a craft, an art form, which will require practice and experience. There will be course instruction, but the classroom becomes experimental, allowing students to try new ideas and forms of expression. Physical movement will become imperative to visually mold your character in the audience's mind. If time permits, we will work with masks and other forms of creative expression as well.

Success for the group is based upon all tuning in, listening to, and then participating and supporting each other. No stage hogs need attend. Classroom practices are established to help the student create story lines and develop skills that will improve the quality of their life through personal confidence and skill building. Challenge yourself, laugh at yourself, and enjoy creating characters that will enrich your life by expanding your mind and your talents.

## Learning Objectives

Ability to

1. strategically analyze information, verbally and nonverbally.
2. strengthen listening skills.
3. assess what information most accurately and reliably responds to the needs of the character, the action, and the audience.
4. interpret information/messages from different perspectives.
5. understand how play stimulates the mind and enhances personal knowledge of the self.
6. understand the elements necessary to shape a variety of characters within the individual.
7. work with others in groups.
8. take criticism in a positive, progressive manner.
9. experience and explore spontaneity.

## Required Resources or Tools

Students must wear comfortable, flexible clothes to class. We will be working with our minds and our bodies; therefore, the body must be unconstrained and free to form without worry of inappropriate exposure of body parts. We will be moving from the floor to the 'rafters.' Shoes must be comfortable, flexible, and protective. No flip flops or sandals or bare feet allowed.

## Participation

*Students must sign a talent release form for promotional purposes.*

How can one take an improvisation course and not participate, mentally and physically, at all times? Theatre is a collaborative art. Participation in this course is a physical and mental activity. Students must be able to handle criticism with a positive attitude and work to incorporate those critiques/suggestions into future performances.

## Character and Improv Skills

These can be developed by some of the following factors:

Embodiment of character.

Execute basic rules of Improv:

1. Do not say NO.
2. Listen to what others say and do not speak over them.
3. Project and develop vocal skills.
4. Do not block others when performing/be aware of physicalities/personal space.
5. Use physical levels and positions for staging discussed in class.
6. Use and develop different characters.
7. Do not hog the Improv or let others do all the work.
8. Respond to action on stage when not speaking.
9. Be original and try new things.