

Improvisation

No script? No problem! Improvisation is an invaluable skill. Thinking on your feet, saying "yes," and active listening with your acting partner are all skills that you will "play" hard at honing over this unit. Through myriad improv games, we will strengthen our ability to accept offers, add on new information, and tell a coherent story--- while making it up on the spot! We will concentrate on building a platform (character, relationship, environment, conflict) and listening to our scene partners as our specific skills to practice each session. We will culminate the unit by inviting other Galloway teachers as a small audience--taking their suggestions for characters or environments---and going with the flow.

General Theater Skills:

Throughout the whole term, we will continue to strengthen the practice of being a theatrical ensemble. By working together, students will develop a common language and trust in the group. Each student will be responsible for contributing his or her own creative ideas to the group, and also responsible for supporting the group as a whole. Students will strengthen their voices-- both projection and articulation, and will increase their awareness of their physicality and their stage presence.

Essential Questions

What are the elements of improvisation?

What makes improv different from scripted theater?

How will you establish character, relationship, environment, and story with no rehearsal or planning?

How will you practice your listening and observation skills in class and outside of school?

What are all the ways you can say "yes" to your acting partner onstage in a scene?

How can we make strong choices onstage that are creative and clear?

How do different professional organizations/theaters use improvisation differently?

How is improvisation useful in life outside of the theater? (Applications in "real world")

Enduring Understandings

- Theater is using your Body, Voice, Imagination
- Be yourself. Be an Ensemble.
- Loud and Clear.
- Working together as an ensemble; support and trust of classmates.
- Practice being in front of a crowd.
- Walking into a room with confidence.
- Make strong choices.

Learning Objectives/Skills--GENERAL

- Trust
- Listening
- Concentration/Focus
- Originality
- Being aware of each other in the space
- Creating safe space

Learning Objectives/Skills--IMPROVISATION

1. Play
2. Let yourself fail
3. Listen
4. Play the Game
5. Say Yes
6. Yes And
7. Relax and have fun
8. Make your Partner Look Good
9. Make a strong offer to establish Platform (character/relationship, environment, story)

Assessment

60% Participation in Class

30% Demonstration of Understanding of Improv Elements and Scene Platform in class exercises

10% Research Project/ Presentations/ Student-Led Games

Research Project:

Every student will be paired with another to do a short research project on an improvisational theater/format. What does Improv training look like? Investigate different ways ImprovTheater has morphed in the theater world. Investigate different ways the skills we use in improvisation are applicable in other areas/disciplines. Lead one game that is unique to that theater or person.

- Whose Line Is It Anyway?
- Dad's Garage (Atlanta)
- UCB (New York)
- Groundlings (L.A.)