Improv Guide

Starter List of Popular Improv Games

3-headed Opera Singer  Freeze/Anti-Freeze/Hybrid  Party Quirks
Bruno                Funeral                  Props
Channel Game         Genre Game               Shoulda Said
Da Doo Run Run       Hand Game                Sit, Stand, Lay
Dating Game          Hitchhiker               Spook River
Fairy Tale in a Minute Hot Seat               The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Four Corners         Newscaster               Translator
Fourth of July       One Word at a Time       Whose Line

10 Rules of Improv

1. Don’t say no. When you say no, you automatically stop all forward action. You must accept all options that your partner throws at you to create a successful scene.

2. Don’t try to be funny. Let the scene guide you and the humor will come.

3. Don’t go in with an agenda. Follow the natural flow, which is the best part of the scene.

4. Be active. Show it rather than say it. Move around your space and act out your situation.

5. Listen and learn. Your partner will often set up the scene for you to work off of. Take their cues and you will seem more into the action. This is more convincing.

6. Left field is a nice place to live, but you don’t want to live there. If everything you say and do on stage is completely unrealistic you will kill the humor of natural events and everyday life, which is often the funniest.

7. Less is sometimes more. Often the best moments are those that are subtle.

8. There is no audience. Don’t break! If you must address the audience, do so sparingly.

9. Characters! Make choices on character traits and stay with the character for the entire scene.

10. Crude is easy - don’t be easy. When you use typical potty humor, you lose the natural entertainment value of real life situations.

Benefits of Improv (and acting in general!)

- Creative thinking
- Decision making
- Confidence
- Public speaking
- Listening and observation skills
- Team work
- Focus and concentration
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Adapting to changing circumstances