

Want to laugh? Gain confidence speaking in groups? Stress relief! Low-time commitment? To think quick on your feet with the perfect comeback, instead of the agony of “I should have said...” brilliant response hours later feeling?” This is the class three hours once a week!

PA 040:

Improvisation: From Basic Improv to Scripting the Play Through Improvisation

Professor Brian Brophy

April 4-June 6

Wednesday 7-10

For more information contact Brophy@Caltech.edu

This class introduces students to the basic rules, games and performance techniques of improvisation drawn from the teachings of Viola Spolin, Augusto Boal, Sanford Meisner and performance techniques from Ann Bogart (Viewpoints), commedia dell arte, and Rasaesthetics. Students will learn performance techniques to communicate more effectively within groups, to increase their interpersonal mastery over challenging situations and how to transfer skills learned in the class to the everyday flow of life. As participants master basic improvisation skills with confidence, they ascend to higher levels of creative engagement with stress-free competitive improvisation between multiple improv teams from within the class. This class will also include field trips to the top improvisation clubs in Los Angeles Comedy Sportz and the Upstanding Citizen’s Brigade with an introduction to more recent innovations in Improvisation with Caltech grad student Andy Downard and Second City improv master teacher Jeff Michalski.

April 4 Introductory class

April 11 Viola Spolin/Augusto Boal: Games, Rules and Flow

April 18 Viola Spolin/Augusto Boal/Viewpoints

April 25 Viola Spolin/Augusto Boal/Viewpoints

May 2 Guest Artist Jeff Michalsky (Second City)

May 9 Guest Artist Jeff Michalsky (Second City)

May 10 Comedy Sportz College Team Hollywood Field Trip #1

May 16 Caltech Andy Downard on long form improvisation

May 17 Upstanding Citizen’s Brigade Hollywood Field Trip #2

May 23 Guest Artist Sanjoy Ganguly *Scripting Play or Playing the Script*

May 26/27 11am-3pm Improvisation/Playwriting workshop with Sanjoy/Sima Ganguly

May 30 Rehearsal for final improvisation competition

June 6 Final Day Competition—invited audience participation!

Recommended Reading

Improvisation for the Theater by Viola Spolin

Games for Actors and Non-Actors by Augusto Boal

Flow The Psychology of Optimal Experience by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi