

GLOSSARY OF TERMS & CONCEPTS

IMPROVISATION THEATER requires actors spontaneously create a monologue, scene, or play without a script. In some cases, like Jazz improvisation, actors will take a theme or suggestion to develop new work.

YES AND... Rule Number One: "YES AND". Rule Number Two: When in doubt refer to rule number one. Accept your scene partner's offer and then advance the scene with your next response; Agree with every offer; then, respond with detailed offers that build and support your fellow players offers. Conceptual NOs and BUTs stop the action. Beginning students often go for the joke or sell out their partner by negating offers, thus bringing scenes to a screeching halt.

GIVE & TAKE Improvised dialogue going back and fourth between the players with a balance exchange of ideas. **AVOID** Questions, blocking.

IN THE MOMENT Be prepared, Listen and focus on the current moment. Listen and Respond to your scene partners. Planning ahead takes you out of the moment resulting in many missed opportunities and often leading to forcing your concept of the scene and negating or selling out your fellow players. Be flexible enough to move with the scene.

PANTOMIME Use your space and define your environments, characters and actions using physical gestures and committing to the scene head to toe. Avoid being a talking head. Physical activities and choices take us "out of our heads" and help keep us "IN THE MOMENT"

CONFLICT GOOD / ARGUING BAD The best comedy and drama both derive from great conflict. The worst (with rare exceptions) comes from bickering back and forth minute details. In Improvisational Theater, arguing details becomes petty. Rather than demanding "I'm Right" try and solve the conflict.

BIG CHOICES / BIG VOICES and **MAKE BIG MISTAKES** Mantras of EIGHT IS NEVER ENOUGH producer, Walt Frasier. Take chances. Don't wimp out. Don't be afraid to fail. Big choices lead to forward moving scenes (AS long as they do not BLOCK your partner) Big mistakes lead to big rewards. Justified BIG MISTAKES lead to outrageous results. Big mistakes are noticed and learned from. Not being afraid to make BIG MISTAKES leads to many more successful choices. Fall seven times and get up eight. Soon enough you will realize there are no wrong answers or mistakes at all.

BLOCKING Rejecting information or ideas offered by another player. One of the most common problems experienced by new improvisers.

QUESTIONS Rephrase questions as a detailed statement (Answer your own question) most questions are usually a sign of players overly relying on their scene partners to carry a scene. "What is that?" should be something like "That is a very exquisite flower you have there." / "Where are we?" could be "It sure is cold in this apartment."

ASK FOR is a question or statement posed to the audience looking for a suggestion for scene topic.

NOTE: Improv Theater and Comedy training is a must for every performer but also valuable to countless other professionals. EIGHT IS NEVER ENOUGH and other companies help numerous professionals develop better sales, service, communication, leadership and public speaking skills. Team Building workshops and shows have been performed for teachers, doctors, top corporate executives (Morgan Stanley, Johnson & Johnson, AMEX etc) and even insurance adjusters from Medicare. In every field, great ability to communicate, think creatively and think on one's feet enhances your chances to succeed.

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