

Chapter 2

Improvisation

Improvisation

- The portrayal of a character or a scene without rehearsal or preparation.



Foundation of interpretation, emphasizing creativity and imagination.

Two Approaches to Improv

- **Character-Centered Approach** – focuses on a character or group of characters who experience different situations one after another.
 - Examples – *Friends, Seinfeld*

Situation-Centered Approach – a single situation and places a number of characters in the situation to demonstrate how different personalities will respond to the same event.

Examples – *Lost, Survivor*

Basic Techniques

- Work out setting carefully.
 - What is in your space? Distance from object to object? Where is the door/window? Who else is in the room?
- Use actions to suggest entrances and major plots.
- Visualize your character in detail.
 - What are you wearing? What time of day is it? Male or female? Age? Height?
- Before you enter, take on the physical attitude of the character.

Questions to ask about your character...

- Who am I?
- What kind of person am I?
- How am I different from the other characters?
- What are the fewest things I can do to convey the most information about my character?
- What does my character need or want?

Reminders for Successful Improvisation

- Speak loudly enough to be heard throughout the theatre or auditorium.
- Do not hide behind pieces of furniture or other people.
- Move about freely. Try not to stand beside other characters all the time.
- Take plenty of time to speak and to move so that you can create a definite impression.
- Stay in character the entire time you are on stage.

The Motivated Sequence

*Basis for all acting!!!

- ⑩ You experience the stimulus.
- ⑩ You respond instinctively to the stimulus. (primary response)
- ⑩ The idea “connects.” Your brain registers the stimulus – this usually takes only a fraction of a second. (idea connection)
- ⑩ Reflex action – body reacts (secondary response)
- ⑩ You react vocally and/or physically with your main response.