

***This class is taught by multiple teachers. Course outline subject to change. After registration, students will receive the specific course outlines for their teacher.**



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** Improvisation for the Actor

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** 18

3. **Course Description:**

This is an intermediate/advanced course for working or aspiring actors looking to sharpen their improvisation skills or improvisers who are interested in pursuing acting. This course focuses on being in the moment, finding the depth in a scene, and creating seamless chemistry with your scene partner(s). Students will learn practical improvisational skills for auditions and the art of “going with the flow” with more fun and ease. We will cover how to quickly develop three-dimensional characters spontaneously. Finally we'll explore being specific and honest in your craft to create rich scene-work. Rudimentary improv training is expected.

4. **Course Objectives:**

- Practice and discuss practical methods for “staying” in the moment
- Rehearse being given random instructions and directions to practice handling our expectations.
- Exploration of personal stories and memories in order to tap into more authentic spontaneity when creating content
- Work on practical stage presence and movement
- Discuss status and how to be in control of our own confidence
- Practically rehearse cold script readings and how to improvise effectively
- Practically work on the dynamics of auditions
- Explore emotional work and non-comedy related improvisation situations

5. **Rational: State the reason for offering the course:**

There are not many opportunities for actors to practice practical skills related to improvising without directly applying to improvised performances. This course fills a niche market of more intense crossover between scripted and non-scripted performers.

6. **Required Materials:**

No requirements. Instructor provides all materials for each week.

7. **Course Outline: What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?**

- 1) Introduction and refresher on basic improvisational and scripted acting tenants
- 2) Personal story telling – Exploring using truth when improvising or acting
- 3) Details and emotions – Committing to realistic emotions instantly and effectively
- 4) Mock auditions – Discussing and simulating a scripted or commercial audition environment to practice being comfortable and adaptable to direction
- 5) Character Work – Exploring creating more realistic and richer characters on the fly

- 6) Review and Application – Applying previous weeks and combining into a run of completely improvised or slightly prompted cold readings of scripts