

Children's Theatre Workshops

INTRODUCTION TO IMPROVISATIONAL THEATRE (FOR GRADES 4-8)

Through games and exercises, students learn the fundamentals of 'Improv'.

"In the long history of humankind, those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively, have prevailed"
- Charles Darwin



"After his hysterically funny show, Michael came to our class as a celebrity. His rapport with the students helped even the most introverted students perform 'improv' with confidence. It was a fabulous way to explore drama!"

- Grade 5/6 Teacher, Regal Rd. PS

"Michael's improv workshop was great! My students had a wonderful time and couldn't stop talking about it. The ground rules that Michael established for activities made the students' sketches much more successful. Michael has given us the tools so that we can continue to do improv sketches during our Drama classes"

- Grade 5/6 teacher, Regal Rd. PS

"Michael's workshop really gave me courage to act. I also really liked the games! At first I did not what improv was but now I do and I really like it! Now I have the courage to perform in front of a lot of people. It was awesome!"

- Grade 4 student

WHAT?

What is 'Improv'?

Improv is a form of unscripted theatre where most or all of what is performed is created in the moment with little or no pre-planning. The educational benefits for students of learning to improvise are immeasurable. The skills of improvisation can enhance any relationship or interaction. For most students, it increases confidence, assertiveness, poise, creativity, problem solving ability, public speaking skills, decision making, playfulness and trust (in oneself, as well as in others). It is also extraordinarily fun.

WHY?

Why is 'Improv' a great Educational Tool?

Improv is about moving forward together with a common goal. **Improv** inspires and develops a long list of valuable life skills, not limited to:

Collaboration, Communication, Observation, Focus, Active Listening, Risk-Taking, Consensus, Generosity, Respect, Innovation, Creativity, Experimentation, Flexibility, Tolerance for Error, Intuitiveness and Trust.

Improv is an effective learning tool because it emotionally involves participants, as well as those who are "in the audience", and offers unique insights for both. Improvisation exercises give individuals the opportunity to recognize their own responsibility for the way things turn out. They are also fun, interactive, and highly engaging. Lessons learned tend to stick because of their experiential nature, creating long-term retention and application in the "real world."

WHO?

Michael McMurtry

Michael McMurtry is a writer and performer who has worked extensively in theatre, comedy, television and film. Michael earned a Gemini nomination for his role in CityTV's "Godiva's," and has also written three critically-acclaimed one-person shows, including "The Enthusiasm of the Species" and "This Might Help" which aired on CBC and BRAVO. His short films have aired on BRAVO, The Comedy Network and CBC TV. In 2010 Michael created his first all-ages show, *Happyview P.S.*, which was an instant critical and audience hit. Currently, he is touring schools teaching workshops and performing "Cinderella", his acclaimed and delightful retelling of the popular Cinderella tale.



RATES?

Workshop Rates:

Workshops are tailored to your needs, time requirements and budget. Please contact Mike for more information.

"Michael introduced the students to exercises that were varied, fun and included many elements of the drama curriculum expectations, including 'role/character, relationship, time and place and focus and emphasis'. His expertise was evident throughout and he demonstrated a range of skills and knowledge in all aspects of drama"

-Grade 5/6 teacher, Clinton PS

"Michael's improv drama workshop was amazing. It was great fun and we learned how to act on the spot. I think he was a great teacher."

-Grade 4 student

"Michael's workshop brought me to a whole new world of drama."

-Grade 4 student

"The class was a lot of fun because we had groups and did these little improv warm-ups. By the end we were doing full improv scenes. The scenes were all realistic yet very funny. I would definitely do the workshop again!"

-Grade 6 student

"The Drama Program was so much fun! I learned how to work together better with some of the people I don't talk to a lot! Michael was an awesome teacher, he was so supportive and helped when we got into arguments, Michael is awesome!"

- Grade 6 student

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