



# AMERICAN STAGE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **American Stage Empowers Youth & Adults with New Classes in 2017!**

St. Petersburg, FL - American Stage announces winter and spring class schedule including the launch of new Improv course for teens. Improv Training Program classes for adults, as well as acting and playwriting classes for youth grades K-12 are now available.

Registration is open for 8 & 10 week Improv class and 15 week Youth class sessions. Classes begin throughout January, 2017 plus a one day December 2016 Improv workshop.

All classes taught by professional theatre artists and perform in the American Stage mainstage theatre. Payment plans available. Discounts available for Adult Improv class early registration through December 21st. Financial aid available for Youth Classes. Ignite your creative voice in the new year!

**American Stage Improv Training Program** Winter quarter classes begin in the first and third weeks of January, 2017 for beginner to advanced level students interested in the art of improvisation, sketch comedy, and comedic storytelling. **All classes are uniquely crafted and taught by professionals from American Stage Improv, Second City, The Groundlings, and Upright Citizen's Brigade.** At the end of the quarter, all levels perform in a student show in the American Stage mainstage theatre. This multi-level program guides participants through the foundations of improvisation as a performance medium, and offers guidance and coaching toward forming improv troupes. **Receive 10% off by enrolling before December 21st 2016, or receive 15% off with a current college ID.** Be bold, be playful, do improv!

**American Stage Education & Outreach Youth Classes** Spring semester programs begin Saturday, January 28th 2017 for grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. Spring semester classes meet for 15 weeks, giving students a truly in-depth experience, and the opportunity to create original work under the guidance of professional theatre artists. Each class culminates in Final Sharing for family and friends in our mainstage theatre. Our theatrical process empowers creative, intellectual, and emotional growth, making young people bolder, wiser, and more compassionate on stage and in life. Students explore teamwork and collaboration, develop self-confidence, and improve communication skills and acting technique.

For more details or to enroll:

Phone: (727) 823-1600 ext 204

Online: [www.americanstage.org/education](http://www.americanstage.org/education)

Walk-up: 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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## **AMERICAN STAGE IMPROV TRAINING PROGRAM CLASS DETAILS**

### **SKETCH WRITING INTENSIVE**

An “intro to the writer’s room”. This one-off class starts with learning the fundamentals of sketch writing with an emphasis on creating a cohesive sketch show. Rather than writing in isolation, we simulate what a writer’s room is like: pitching sketches, slinging ideas back and forth, writing drafts, doing readthroughs and notes, and narrowing focus to perfect just the top sketches (still including work from each student). We then rehearse and perform the sketches in the final hour of the intensive.

**Dates:** Saturday, December 17th

**Time:** 10am-5pm (one hour lunch break)

**Location:** American Stage

**Informal Performance:** Saturday, December 17th at 4:30pm

**Instructor:** Matt Schwartz

**Tuition:** \$75

### **INTRO TO IMPROV**

In the Intro to Improv class, you will learn how to give up judgment, embrace new possibilities and say “yes” to change. This class will introduce you to the fundamentals of improv comedy and give you the skills to think quickly and creatively on your feet. The class will culminate in a showcase performance for family and friends.

**Dates: (Choose one of 2 sections)**

Wednesdays January 18-March 8 (8 weeks), 6:30pm-8:30pm

Or

Saturdays January 21-March 11 (8 weeks), 10:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 12 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** John Huls (Wednesdays), Patrick McInnis (Saturdays)

**Early Registration Price: \$193.50 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$215

### **LEVEL 1: SETTING THE SCENE**

This class introduces students to the basics of how to perform long-form improv. Students will learn and put into practice improv concepts like “Yes, And”, “Give And Take”, “Playing At The Top Of Your Intelligence”, and “Object/Space Work”. No matter what your improv experience level is, this ten-week course will show you how to create interesting scenes and explore new ideas, culminating in a showcase for your friends and family.

**Dates: (Choose one of 2 sections)**

Wednesdays January 4-March 8 (10 weeks), 6:30pm-8:30pm

Or

Saturdays January 7-March 11 (10 weeks), 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 12 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** Shrey Neil

**Early Registration Price: \$207 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$230

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## **LEVEL 2: FINDING THE FUNNY**

Picking up where Level 1 left off, students will learn and put into practice improv concepts like “The Game Of The Scene”, “Heightening/Exploring” and “Walk-Ons”. The Level 2 course shifts focus to elevate the artistry of your improv work. It will heighten your technique, storytelling instincts, and wit, culminating in a showcase for friends and family.

**Dates:** Saturdays January 7-March 11 (10 weeks)

**Time:** 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance:** Sunday, March 12 at 6pm

**Instructor:** Chris Juul

**Early Registration Price: \$224.50 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$255

## **LEVEL 3: CREATING THE CHARACTER**

Picking up where Level 2 left off, students will learn to put into practice improv concepts like “Point of View”, “Character Mirroring”, and “Status”. This ten-week class is taught by Ricky Wayne, working television & film actor and sketch-writer who studied at The Groundlings in LA. Ricky is also from the improvisation team, Hawk and Wayne. Students in this class will hone their acting skills, and stretch and define their comedic voice.

**Dates:** Saturdays January 7-March 11 (10 weeks)

**Time:** 12:00pm – 2:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 12 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** Ricky Wayne

**Early Registration Price: \$243 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$270

## **LEVEL 4: LONGFORM FORMAT**

Picking up where Level 3 left off, students will learn troupe-focused improv concepts like “Group Scenes”, “Tags” and “Second and Third Beats” and apply them to performing a long form format that highlights the strengths of the group. This ten-week course culminates in a showcase for your friends and family. It is taught by Gavin Hawk, who is one half of the renowned troupe Hawk & Wayne, an Associate Professor of Theatre at Eckerd College, and the Artistic Director of A Simple Theatre.

**Dates:** Saturdays January 7-March 11 (10 weeks)

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 12 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** Gavin Hawk

**Early Registration Price: \$243 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$270

## **TO ENROLL:**

**Phone:** (727) 823-1600 ext 204

**Online:** [www.americanstage.org/improv](http://www.americanstage.org/improv)

**Walk-up:** 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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## AMERICAN STAGE EDUCATION CLASSES FOR YOUTH

### **[SPARK] Improv – NEW!**

#### **Grades 9-12**

Improv isn't just crazy fun, it is a necessary and foundational skill-set for ALL theatre artists. [SPARK IMPROV] ignites awareness, intellect, and artistry in young adults as communicators and collaborators. Students will explore the basics of working as a troupe/ensemble (Be fearless, Be focused, Be flexible), hone their creative voices, and collaborate to develop honest, impromptu scene work. Students will also explore various genres of improv – including short-form, and MUSICAL improv. This is an intensive course that begins with the basics, and culminates in a professional-style improv performance in a Final Sharing for family and friend, as well as a chance to open for our professional improv show in House Teams Live on April 16th.

**Schedule:** Saturdays January 28 – May 6, 2017

**Time:** 10am-12pm

**Instructor:** TBD

**Performance:** Saturday, May 6th, 2017

**Tuition:** \$265

### **[SPARK YOUTH] Original Production**

#### **Grades 6-8**

Ignite your creative voice! Building on the improv and acting skills students explored last semester, young artists work as an ensemble with a director/playwright to create, rehearse, and perform an original play on the main stage at American Stage. This experience challenges students to build their acting, writing, and teamwork skills. Through the process, students will explore WHY theatre matters, and how powerful it can be. They will learn to take initiative, express their ideas clearly (in rehearsal and on stage), and support one another in order to craft a piece with a clear message that is relevant to their audience and community. No experience necessary! Students new to theatre are just as encouraged to participate as students with previous experience. Creating collaborative, original theatre asks each artist in the ensemble to bring their unique strengths and voices to the table. Students will perform their original work on the American Stage Mainstage on May 6th at 2pm.

**Schedule:** Saturdays & Tuesdays, January 28 – May 6, 2017 (2 rehearsals/meetings per week)

**Time:** Saturdays 10am-12pm, Tuesdays 6pm-8pm

**Instructor:** Sarah Pullman-Atanacio

**Performance:** Saturday, May 6th at 2pm, American Stage Mainstage

**Tuition:** \$575

### **Story Quest!**

#### **Grades 3-5**

Actors are storytellers. The skills developed by the actor help us communicate, connect, and inspire others (and ourselves!). In this popular class, students will use the actor's tools (body, voice, mind, and imagination) as they craft an original story. They will dig into how actors create characters, and make bold, artistic choices in harmony with the story and the rest of the ensemble. Theatre activities will encourage them to learn to take creative risks in a safe and supportive environment. Students will share what they've learned and created in a Final Sharing for family and friends on the last day of the session

**Schedule:** Saturdays January 28 – May 6, 2017

**Time:** 10am – 12pm at American Stage

**Instructor:** Soolaf Rashied

**Final Sharing:** Saturday, May 6th, 2017

**Tuition:** \$265

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## **Creative Characters**

### **Grades K-2**

Explore the wonder of your imagination! Children will enjoy the process of artistic collaboration as they bring characters to life. They will explore the essential tools of the actor's trade (Body, Voice, Mind, and Imagination), and put them into practice through the actor's process to present fully realized characters. Activities will include creative drama games that encourage students to make bold and creative choices through interpretive movement, vocal and verbal expression. The class will end with an informal presentation of the characters explored in class.

**Schedule:** Saturdays, January 28 – May 6, 2017

**Time:** 10am – 11:30am at American Stage

**Instructor:** Molly Healy

**Final Sharing:** Saturday, May 6th, 2017

**Tuition:** \$220

### **TO ENROLL:**

**Phone:** (727) 823-1600 ext 204

**Online:** [www.americanstage.org/improv](http://www.americanstage.org/improv)

**Walk-up:** 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## **SERVICE & FACILITIES**

**Physical Accessibility:** The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating.

*Benefits of a Valid Disabled Parking Permit: Displaying your valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). **This does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).***

## **AMERICAN STAGE**

Since 1978 American Stage has been dedicated to telling meaningful, compelling stories with integrity and professionalism. As the Tampa Bay area's longest-running, most critically-acclaimed professional theatre company, we seek to bring the power of quality live theatre to each generation in our community.

American Stage invites you to lean forward and experience the most captivating stories of the moment and the most relevant stories of the past. All told with passion and a commitment to excellence.

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