



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **American Stage Empowers with Improv Classes in 2018!**

- **Enrollment is now open for Winter Improv Training Program beginning on January 17.**
- **All classes are uniquely crafted and taught by professionals from American Stage Improv, Second City, The Groundlings, and Upright Citizen's Brigade.**
- **20% Discount available for early registration with Adult Improv classes through January 3rd.**
- **All levels are welcomed.**

**St. Petersburg, FL** – American Stage announces that enrollment is now open for Winter Improv Training Program classes for adults. Classes run 10 weeks and begin in January, 2018. 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 January 3rd. Ignite your creative voice in the new year!

### **American Stage Improv Training Program**

Winter quarter classes begin in the third week of January, 2018 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. Be bold, be playful, do improv!

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

**January 17<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### **IMPROV4LIFE**

Improvisation enhances communication, confidence, wit, problem solving, and encourages laughter and creative risk-taking. If you try it, your life will be changed for the better both on stage and off. Improv4Life is like a club for those who are either new to improv, or are hooked and would like to keep playing. In every session, you will discover new possibilities as you explore the philosophy and practice of "Yes And." Through scenework and short-form improv games like those seen on the show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, this class provides the FUNdamentals and great practice time. Be bold, be playful, do improv! Improv4Life will culminate in a student performance for family and friends.

**-MORE-**

**Dates:** Jan 17 – Mar 21 (10 weeks)  
**Time:** 7pm-9pm  
**Location:** American Stage  
**Performance in Student Festival:** Sunday, Mar 25  
**Instructor:** John Huls

**Tuition:** \$172 with code EARLY (regular price \$215)  
**Enroll by Jan 3 for 20% off with code: EARLY**(discount can be transferred to another class after Sept 18)

**January 17<sup>th</sup> - March 21<sup>st</sup> or January 20<sup>th</sup> - March 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **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 17- March 21 (10 weeks), 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Instructor:** Jenna Felder

Or

Saturdays January 20 - March 24 (10 weeks), 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 25 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Early Registration Price: \$184 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$230

**Lab Fee:** \$30 \*All students in Improv Level 1 are required to purchase *The Upright Citizen's Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual*. You may purchase this book through American Stage Education or on your own. You must have the book on the first day of class. Once your enrollment for the class has been processed, someone will be in touch with you about purchasing the book.

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

Wednesdays January 17- March 21 (10 weeks), 6:30pm-8:30pm

Or

Saturdays January 20 - March 24 (10 weeks), 10:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 25 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** Gavin Hawk

**Early Registration Price: \$204 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$255

### **SKETCH: PROLAB SERIES**

Learn to write and perform sketch comedy! This elective starts with the fundamentals of sketch writing with an emphasis on creating a cohesive show. Rather than writing in isolation, we simulate a writer's room: pitching sketches, slinging ideas back and forth, writing drafts, doing readthroughs, cuts and edits, and narrowing focus to perfect the top sketches.

**-MORE-**

This class is part of our **ProLab Series**: unique elective opportunities for intermediate to advanced improvisers to explore a range of skills that hone improv technique and artistry. Sketch Comedy can still be taken as a one-off experience. We recommend, but do *not require* completion of Improv Level 2 (or equivalent experience).

Sketch Comedy will culminate with a performance of an original sketch comedy show at our Student Improv Festival on March 25th.

**For more details or to enroll:**

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

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

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

**Dates:** Saturdays January 20-March 24 (10 weeks)

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

**Location:** American Stage

**Final Performance: Sunday, March 25 at 6pm**

**Instructor:** Matt Schwartz

**Early Registration Price: \$204 (use code Early)**

**Tuition:** \$255

**Enroll by January 3rd for 20% off with code: EARLY**

**Receive 15% off\*:**

**When retaking a Level (applies to L1-L4).**

OR

**Your 2nd class during the same quarter.**

OR

**By presenting a current college ID at the Box Office.**

\*15% discounts can only be applied via phone or at Box Office. Cannot be used in combination with EARLY promo, unless otherwise noted.

**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

**AMERICAN STAGE | AS/40**

American Stage celebrates **40 Years Strong** this season. Since 1977, American Stage, has contributed to the vitality of Tampa Bay as a regional professional theatre. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to under-served populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

**Powerful Stories. Boldly Told.**

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