

# Improv 1

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## Course Description

Improvational Theatre develops many of the same skills as the traditional theatre arts curriculum, but instead of recreating the playwright's characters, the actors create their own. This class is designed for both the performance and non-performance personality. No right or wrong answers, no memorization of lines required, just a great attitude. Aka Theatre Sports, students work in teams to create the unique scene based on skills developed around the CROW technique: Character, Relationship, Objective and Where. Students will learn spontaneity, concentration, listening skills, and acting skills. The class will end with a live theatre sports match with an audience.

**VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY** – Signing below gives permission for students and their work to be videotaped and photographed.

## Course Units

### FIRST QUARTER

#### Weeks 1 – 3: Getting acquainted

- Theatre games and improvisation
- Theatre Vocabulary
- CROW
- Voice & Movement

#### Weeks 4 – 5: Character Games

- Characters on Stage
- Creating Characters
- Character Relationships

#### Week 6 – 9: Story Games

- 7 part Story
- Yes And...

### SECOND QUARTER

#### Week 10 – 13: Naïve Games

- Make your Partner a Rock Star
- Playing the scene
- Building off of a suggestion

#### Week 14 – 17: Prepare for Final Presentation

- Selecting games for a performance
- How do you Emcee?

#### Week 18: Final Presentation

- Final Performance
- **50 Drama Points DUE**

**Environment and Safety:** To have a truly meaningful experience in this course, it is important that we observe two types of safety rules: physical and emotional. Our basic safety rule is no unplanned bodily contact. Just as important are emotional hurts. You and your peers put yourselves on the line when you present for each other. You openly share yourself with us and then allow others to comment on your expression. To preserve the integrity of and maintain positive feelings about your work, the following rules apply to all comments and classroom activity:

- Respect is the bottom line. Use it at all times.
- Appreciate the choices made by each person.
- Make an effort to know everyone in the class.
- Be constructive in any criticism.
- Focus your comments to the individual presenting (i.e. do not compare people)
- Limit discussion to in-class only (our work is confidential)

It is essential that we care for each other well and work together for the common goal of a meaningful production. Drama should be fun AND controlled. Please have fun when it is time to have fun and FOCUS when it is time to focus. Students will sometimes get to choose scene partners and sometimes will be assigned partners in order to grow as actors.



In order to respect the auditorium and each other:

- Keep cell phones/music devices turned off during class. If a device is seen or heard, it will become my possession.
- Place your full attention on each other and your experiences here.
- Use the restroom between classes. If an emergency arises, wait for an appropriate time to ask.
- Keep food/drink out of the classroom. Water is allowed.
- Wear appropriate clothing at all times. No open-toed sandals or baggy or restrictive clothing allowed.

Consequences for not following the guidelines:

- Warning
- Working in the theatre after school to clean and/or organize
- Referral to administration

**Class Assignments and Projects**

**Continue to develop improv performance skills** through focused practice and collaboration

**Participation** – 10 points given per day when student is ACTIVELY ENGAGED. (Your engagement level will be assessed daily by me) Participation is vital to achievement in performing arts. Any absence (excused or unexcused) will result in a zero for participation. Students may regain lost participation points through extra credit assignments like extra performance/play reading critiques or extra theatre points.

**Theatre Points** (50 points is an A)\*\*

\*\*Information about upcoming local productions will be given frequently including Kamiak Productions. Also see information board.

**Grading Breakdown**

- Projects** ≈40%  
Performance Assessments, Cooperation with Improv Coach,
- Attendance/Participation** ≈30%  
Attendance, level of involvement, contribution to class
- Written Work** ≈20%  
Notes, feedback, quizzes, tests
- Theatre Points** ≈10%  
See attached sheet

**Questionable Improv Materials:** In order to establish the best environment possible, it is important that all students feel comfortable being a part of the audience and performing with each other. **Improv can be unsafe when subjects that break the student code of conduct or are simply distasteful become the focus of a scene.** Please consider what is appropriate for a classroom situation before using an idea on stage. If I find something used in a scene to be inappropriate for the classroom environment I will step in to stop the scene. If a student continually uses inappropriate material, they will be referred to administration. If you personally find something objectionable in any way, feel free to step outside the classroom or have a conversation with me in private.

**The Show Must Go On!** It is essential that all students are here and on time ready to rehearse. When a player is missing, it becomes very difficult for the remainder of the group to develop a performance. Illness and appointments aren't always avoidable, so please do your best to stay healthy and schedule around this class. Please respect your scene partners by being on time and prepared to start.

Detach and keep above portion for your portfolio

**DUE: Monday, September 11th – on time or early returns rewarded with 5 theatre points**

I have read and understand the information and look forward to the semester!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Print Name\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name\_\_\_\_\_

Parents: In order for you to receive important information from the theatre department, please clearly write your email address. Thank you!

Email:\_\_\_\_\_

## Kamiak Theatre Points

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Points Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Points Awarded \_\_\_\_\_  
 (50 = A, 45 A-, 40 = B, 35 = B-, etc)

TURN IN THIS FORM ANY TIME YOU WISH TO UPDATE YOUR THEATRE POINTS

**Directions:** The following are suggestions and point values to help you achieve your goal. On the back of this form, explain what you did and get a signature for outside activities. Also attach any supporting papers (ie ticket stubs, programs, written reviews, etc). If you need suggestions for earning these points, talk with me right away. \*Note: In order to get theatre points for an activity, the activity must have taken place during the current term.

<b>Kamiak Theatre Activities</b>	<b>Non-Kamiak Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Attend a Drama club meeting (5 pt each)</li> <li>▶ Participate in a Kamiak production (25 – 50 pts depending on job/role)</li> <li>▶ Audition for a Kamiak production (even if you don't want a part!) (10 points)</li> <li>▶ Help build the set for a Kamiak production (5 points per hour)</li> <li>▶ Help with fundraiser for Drama (Help with concessions, Usher, publicity day 10 – 20 points depending on time spent)</li> <li>▶ Create display for display case of previous or upcoming production (15 points)</li> <li>▶ Assist Mr. Sullivan with a project for the theatre or drama club (TBD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Attend a production (Kamiak or other high school/community production) and write a critique (2 page typed essay) (25 points each)</li> <li>▶ Read a play and give an oral presentation to the class (25 – 50 pts for full length; 10 – 20 pts for one act)</li> <li>▶ Dress as a character and perform an extra monologue or scene (10 – 25 depending on length and quality)</li> <li>▶ Perfect attendance in acting class for the semester (25 pts)</li> <li>▶ Write a scene or one act play (10 – 25 pts depending on length and quality) must be typed</li> <li>▶ Volunteer at a local community theatre (usher, build sets, etc) (10 – 25 depending)</li> </ul>

# Kamiak Theatre Points

(Complete this Form Fully and Neatly)

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Points Earned\_\_\_\_\_

(50 = A, 45 = A-, 40 = B, 35 = B-, etc)

Activity\_\_\_\_\_

Location\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Name\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Description of activity\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Knowledge gained from experience\_\_\_\_\_

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Attach any paperwork to support experience – ticket stubs, programs, written reviews, flyers, posters