

Improvisation

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1. Definition

- Unscripted performance created spontaneously in the moment, often in response to a prompt, scene partner, or audience suggestion.

2. Core Principle: "Yes, And"

- Accepting what a scene partner offers ("yes") and building on it ("and") keeps the scene moving forward collaboratively rather than blocking ideas.

3. Benefits for Actors

- Builds spontaneity, active listening, quick thinking, and comfort with the unknown - all valuable even in scripted acting.

4. Types of Improv

- **Short-form:** brief, game-based scenes (common in improv comedy).
- **Long-form:** extended, interconnected scenes built from a single audience suggestion.

5. Common Exercises

- Scene games, status exercises (playing high/low social status), and object work (miming with imaginary props).

6. Application Beyond Comedy

- Improv skills help actors respond authentically to unexpected moments in scripted performance, such as a scene partner deviating slightly from rehearsed blocking.