

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## THE BASICS OF IMPROVISATION AND COMEDY

What Is Improvisation? .....	1
The Commedia Dell'Arte .....	3
The Comic Spirit and Improvisation .....	5
The Elements of Successful Improvisation .....	11
A Few General Rules .....	15

## IMPROVISATION IN THE CLASSROOM

What Improvisation Is Not .....	21
Group Activity .....	23
Group Story .....	25
Mirror, Mirror .....	26
Sense Memory .....	28
Defining Location .....	29
Character Identification .....	30
Randomly Selected Characters .....	32
Nonverbal Communication .....	34
Gibberish .....	35
Truth or Lie .....	37
Hidden Motivations .....	38
What's It Used For? .....	39
Chapter Summary .....	40

## SIMPLE IMPROV STRUCTURES

Complaint Department .....	43
Who Am I? .....	45
Shopping List .....	46
Story-Story, Emo .....	47

Story-Story, Genre .....	48
Story-Story, Characters .....	49
History .....	50
Talk Show .....	52
Panel Discussion .....	54
Press Conference .....	54
The Brain .....	55
Freeze Tag .....	56
Chapter Summary .....	57

### **CHARACTER IMPROV STRUCTURES**

Character Suggestions .....	59
Location Suggestions .....	61
The Improv Structure .....	61
Basic Character Improv .....	63
Changing Emotions .....	69
Changing Styles .....	72
Stop-Start .....	74
Object Select .....	76
Reversal .....	77
Chapter Summary .....	77

### **ADVANCED IMPROV STRUCTURES**

Fill in the Blank .....	81
Man on the Street .....	83
Double Emotions .....	84
Time Machine .....	85
Foreign Film .....	87
Do It Yourself Late, Late Show .....	88
Three Person Freeze Tag .....	89
Sound Effects Story .....	90
Chapter Summary .....	91

## **ADVANCED ACTING EXERCISES**

Opening Lines .....	93
Empty Dialogue .....	94
Voiceless Acting .....	96
Faceless Acting .....	97
Unwritten Scenes .....	98
Creating Scripts Through Improvisation .....	99
Chapter Summary .....	102

## **FORMING A COMEDY/IMPROV TROUPE**

Compatibility .....	105
Leadership .....	109
Group Composition .....	112
Setting Goals .....	113
Naming Your Group .....	114

## **PUTTING ON AN IMPROV SHOW**

Finding a Place to Perform .....	117
Programming .....	120
Selecting the Emcee .....	121
Dealing with Audience Problems .....	122

## **PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR WORK**

Negotiating Contracts and Deals .....	127
Dangerous Contract Clauses .....	128
Characters and Material .....	130
Copyrights .....	131
Existing Characters .....	132
Chapter Summary .....	134