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## **Improvisation for Theatre**

Resource Material:

*Improv Encyclopedia*

*Courage to Create*

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Rollo May

[www.humanpingpongball.com](http://www.humanpingpongball.com)

*Improvisation of Theatre* is offered at JCCC as an alternative method of exploring characterization and fostering an intuitive approach to the acting craft. Improvisation provides acting students with a visceral rather than intellectual, spontaneous rather than intentional and physical rather than mental approach to characterization. The course is designed to be a means to an ends; not an ends unto itself.

### **Student Ice Breakers:**

- Learning names and traits
- Developing a sense of strengths and weaknesses of students
- Developing a sense of partnering (Agreement) and team for students
- Example Exercise: **Alliteration**

### **Look & Listen = Focus:**

- The most basic, yet perhaps the most difficult of skills to develop. Must be worked before each Improvisation session . . . . without fail
- Start with the eyes and move to the ears
- Silent is golden (“let’s not be clever”) Team work through other means of communication

- Don't anticipate (Get students out of their heads)
- The "Garlic & Stake" of Bull dozing!
- Example Exercises: **Pizza / Build a Machine / Jump**  
**(add- ears) Emotional Walk / Group Order**

**Commitment:**

- Commitment is not just the willingness to "go there"
- Keep it out of the realm of **(MMS)**
- Going "Blue" – keep it out of the toilet
- Private Jokes are to remain private!

**Limitations:**

- Limitations are the key to creation
- Even in improvisation we search for structure – limitations help us find it

**Journals:**

- Journals are very important to Improvisation as a learning tool
- Promotes an important process of self evaluation
- Negates Improvisation as a form of "Self indulgence"
- Establishes a criteria in which to engage performance values

**Keywords:**

Accepting	Bulldozing
Advancing	Chivalry
Agreement	Offer