



STORYBOX

Art Form: Theatre

Style: Improvisation

Culture: American

Technical Needs

- ❑ stage area
- ❑ piano or keyboards

Meet the Artists

Chicago Improv Festival (CIF)'s **Intuition Theatre Company** is a collective of improvisational performers under the direction of Jonathan Pitts.

Intuition Theatre Company is a diverse ensemble of professional actors, improvisers, musicians, and performance artists whose collective credits include: The Blue Rider, Congo Square Theatre, Goodman Theatre, iO, Local Infinities, Lookingglass Theatre, Redmoon Theater, The Second City, Steppenwolf Theatre, Teatro Vista and Victory Gardens Theatre among others.

Intuition Theatre Company's members include Marla Caceres, Mike Descoteaux, Roni Geva, John Hildreth, Robert Hines, Nick Johne, Erica Mott, Vayram Nyadroh, Jonathan Pitts, Tony Sancho, Jenn SavaRyan, Jay Skelton, Jonathan Wagner and Joe Yau

The company's core philosophy is to educate audiences of all ages, artists, and Chicago area students about improvisation, a Chicago-born art form.

About the Performance

Storybox is a fully unscripted theatre production that combines elements of Paul Sills' Story Theater, Japan's Noh Theatre, Keith Johnstone's Narrative Techniques and Anne Bogart's Viewpoints, to create a single story from multiple sub-stories. After getting a suggestion from the audience at the start of the show to create the

base of the lead character, the cast of actors and musicians create the dramatic and comedic characters, environments, images, scenes, soundscapes and overall story arc. While dressed in black, they employ wooden sticks and colored cloths as costumes and props, use movement, employ storytelling, and create transformations from scratch.

This unique production brings the audience along on the journey of the lead character's life. The production shows students the eternal value of storytelling, communal mythology and shared creativity.

Contextual Information

The Chicago Improv Festival's aim is to educate audiences about the history, the present, and the future of a Chicago-born art form known to the world as improvisational theatre. Through improvisation we can learn to become better listeners and communicators, work to resolve conflicts and focus on being creative and spontaneous.

Longform improv performers create shows in which scenes are often interrelated by story, characters or themes. Shows may take the form of an existing type of theater, for example a full-length play or Broadway-style musical such as Spontaneous Broadway. Longform improvisation is especially performed in Chicago and New York City. Perhaps the best-known (and considered the first) longform structure was developed by ImprovOlympic cofounder Del Close

Vocabulary

Stage Directions:	specific instructions written by the playwright telling the actor what to do or where to move; also, specific areas of the stage (see upstage, downstage, stage right and stage left)
Dialogue:	what the characters say to each other
Setting:	where and when the story or play takes place
Props:	the objects used on stage by an actor in a play
Costume:	what an actor wears to make him or herself look like their character
Actor:	a person who portrays a character on stage
Director:	a person who tells the actors where to move on stage and creates the shape of the play

Rehearsal:	practice of a play or other performance in preparation for a performance with an audience
Character:	a person in a story or play
Character Trait:	a quality which describes someone's behavior or physical appearance
Script:	the text of the play that the actor uses
Blocking:	where an actor moves on stage
Stage Manager:	the person in charge of running a rehearsal
Cue:	the line, sound or action which signals the performer to begin speaking or moving
Downstage:	the area of the stage that is closest to the audience
Upstage:	the area of the stage that is farthest from the audience
Stage Left:	the area of the stage to the actor's left when facing the audience
Stage Right:	the area of the stage to the actor's right when facing the audience