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How To Be The Greatest Improviser On Earth



Synopsis

Become great at performing long-form improv! We skip the basics and get into advanced topics like: being truly present, being authentic, dealing with difficult performers, being actually funny (!) and the rarely discussed but essential skill of being healthy. "Will Hines was my first improv teacher. He's not an improv nut, but he is, you know? He has perspective. " - Ilana Glazer, *Broad City*"Will is one of those teachers that makes you feel like you have something special inside yourself- that you can possibly change the world. " - Abbi Jacobson, *Broad City*"Despite being a mild mannered man from Connecticut, it's fair to consider Will one of improv's war chiefs, or maybe witch doctors. I'm not sure. This analogy has run its course. " -Chris Gethard, *The Chris Gethard Show*"I haven't improvised in a loooong time, but Will Hines wrote a book that makes me want to. I'm tearing through it" - Rich Sommer, *Mad Men*, UCB improv team America"I read this book" - Shannon O'Neill, Artistic Director of UCB NY

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Pretty Great Publishing (July 27, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0982625723

ISBN-13: 978-0982625729

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 121 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

The best thing about this book is that it goes over the big stuff in improv as well as the little things. There are example answers that are practical and you can tell come from a person who's been and is an improviser, who's gone through almost every situation possible. The exercises go over some areas you may not have received instruction about, being present, difficult people, being authentic, and more.

Interesting perspective on improv, and very different from the Upright Citizen's Brigade's Comedy

Improvisation Manual or Truth in Comedy, the two standards in improv. Will Hines has a less analytical/procedural approach and is the first improv book I've found that offers solid advice for playing with problematic improvisors.

I'd been following author Will Hines for many months on YouTube, Improv4Humans, etc., and finally got to see him live while taking an improv 101 class at Upright Citizens Brigade where he actively performs. Later I learned he wrote this book, and I feel like it needs to be required reading alongside the class textbook "UCB Manual". Whereas the UCB manual addresses the "how-to" of improv, what I liked most about Will's book is how it addresses common challenges happening *internally*. That is to say: all the anxiety and fears that are common for newbies like me. He offers encouragement and advice for those things, and breaks down complex concepts into simple thoughts. For example, when talking about "Top of Intelligence" (a confusing concept to me), "Top of intelligence means not making your characters dumber than they should be." Brilliant! And all that said, I do not think you need to have read the UCB manual in order to enjoy it... it works on its own. I'm hoping to do a book group, since the end of each chapter contains practice exercises to help put the concepts into action. Can't wait to try it out!

Will's book is easy to follow and "teaches up", meaning he assumes you're already working with some level of improv familiarity. That said, his book is not overly complex, so that you feel confused or disengaged. I think it's the best improv text out there. Will's tone is kind, funny, friendly, and helpful. It has helped me as an improviser, and I will recommend it to my improv students.

This is a great book by one of the funniest people in Improv. Even if you have no interest in taking Improv classes, there are a lot of laughs and just generally good suggestions on how to communicate with people. If you are taking Improv classes, have taken them or will take them, then this is a must read.

I've read quite a few books on improv and this one is by far my favorite. Lots of good points made concisely with examples. Apart from the concise advice, I love this book because when I read the part about "Reps," "Don't quit because of a rut," and "Is improv a road to nowhere?" I felt like Will Hines was encouraging me to continue pursuing improv just because I like it and I will get better with reps.

Only halfway through and I already love it. If you're interested in improv, or are a seasoned vet, this is a great read!

I have been improvising for just a little over a year and I found this book to be very helpful. In particular, I really enjoyed how Will transcribed whole scenes to help illustrate his ideas. It really helped me to understand how certain tools can help make my scenes more successful. I highly recommend this for anybody wanting to gain confidence and learn ways to improve their scenes!

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