

The Renaissance

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Improvvisational Comedy

Modern improvvisational comedy, as it is practiced in the West, falls generally into two categories: shortform and longform.

Shortform improv consists of short scenes usually constructed from a predetermined game, structure, or idea and driven by an audience suggestion. Many shortform games were first created by Viola Spolin. The shortform improv comedy television series "*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*" has familiarized American and British viewers with shortform.

Longform improv performers create shows in which scenes are often interrelated by story, characters, or themes. Longform shows may take the form of an existing type of theatre, 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 is the Harold, developed by ImprovOlympic cofounder Del Close. One of the newest forms of longform is the Clap-in, a form created by former Empty Stage Director Stan Wells. This form consists of a series of scenes edited by their own performers by clapping. Scene by scene a story is created from beginning to end. This form is well known for the freedom it gives to the performers.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Improvvisational_theatre

Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
at the Renaissance
May 2, 2009, 8:00 PM

Books on Improvisation

Improvisation for the Theatre

by Viola Spolin

Musical Improv Comedy:

Creating Songs in the Moment

by Michael Pollock & Jason Alexander

Improvisation for Actors & Writers:

A guidebook for Improv Lessons in Comedy

by Bill Lynn & Kip King

101 Improv Games for Children & Adults

by Bob Bedore



Comedy Series



Colin Mochrie

Colin Andrew Mochrie was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland. As the son of an airline maintenance executive, his family tended to move around quite frequently. They first moved to Montreal and then to Vancouver. He considered himself a loner during his childhood days due to his shyness, a trait that he claims he still evidently has. At 16, he was dared by a friend to join a High School play where he had the part of an undertaker. It was then when he got his first laugh (by splitting his pants) and afterwards, he "craved for nothing but more laughter." He then turned to Theatersports, where he attended an acting school for four years.

Introduced by a friend, he teamed up with Ryan Stiles, who at the time was doing stand up comedy, to do improv. Shortly after doing Expo '86, Colin moved to Toronto. There, he auditioned for The Second City (a famous North American comedy theater), where Ryan Stiles was working at the time. He was hired by Debra McGrath. In 1989, he and Deb got married. They later had a son, Luke, who was born sometime during 1991.

Brad Sherwood

Bradley Ramone "Brad" Sherwood (born November 24, 1964 in Chicago, Illinois) is an American actor, comedian, and corporate speaker. He has worked in entertainment as a writer, producer, and actor.

In 1992, Sherwood became a recurring performer on the improvisational comedy show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" After "Whose Line?", Sherwood turned his attention to stand-up, and made an appearance on 2002's Jane White Is Sick And Twisted. He also hosted The Dating Game from 1997-98, and The Big Moment in 1999.

He has teamed up with Colin Mochrie to tour the United States and Canada performing classic improv games from Whose Line. He and Mochrie performed at the Ritz Carlton Kapalua (HI) for Sprint Presidents Circle in April 2008.

