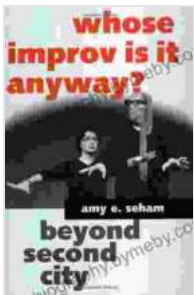


Whose Improv Is It Anyway? Beyond Second City

Improv comedy, or improv, is a form of comedic performance in which the actors create the story, characters, and dialogue on the spot. Improv has been around for centuries, but it gained popularity in the mid-20th century with the founding of Second City, a legendary improv troupe based in Chicago. Second City has produced some of the most famous comedians of all time, including Tina Fey, Steve Carell, and Bill Murray.



Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City

by Amy E. Seham

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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In recent years, improv has exploded in popularity, with improv troupes springing up all over the world. The TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* has helped to introduce improv to a wider audience, and improv workshops and classes are now offered at many schools and community centers.

But what is improv all about? And where did it come from? In this article, we'll take a comprehensive look at the history and evolution of improv, from its humble beginnings to its current status as a global phenomenon.

The Origins of Improv

The roots of improv can be traced back to ancient Greece, where actors would often improvise dialogue and scenes in their performances. Improv was also popular in the Italian Commedia dell'Arte tradition, which originated in the 16th century. Commedia dell'Arte actors would create characters and stories based on a set of stock characters and scenarios.

In the early 20th century, improv began to take shape as a modern art form. In 1926, Viola Spolin founded the first improv school in Chicago. Spolin's teachings emphasized the importance of spontaneity, creativity, and collaboration. Her students went on to found some of the most famous improv troupes in the world, including Second City and The Groundlings.

Second City

Second City was founded in 1959 by a group of actors and writers who had studied with Viola Spolin. The troupe quickly became known for its sharp wit and political satire. Second City has produced some of the most famous comedians of all time, including Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Bill Murray, and John Belushi.

Second City's improv style is characterized by its use of long-form improvisation, which involves creating a story and characters that develop over the course of multiple scenes. Second City's actors are also known for their ability to "yes, and..." each other, which means that they accept and build on each other's ideas.

Whose Line Is It Anyway?

Whose Line Is It Anyway? is a British improvisational comedy show that has been running since 1988. The show features a group of improvisers

who perform a variety of improv games, such as "Scenes from a Hat" and "Hoedown." *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* has been a huge success, and it has helped to introduce improv to a wider audience.

The show's format is simple: a host reads out a suggestion from the audience, and the improvisers then create a scene or song based on that suggestion. The show is known for its fast-paced, energetic style, and the improvisers often break character and interact with the audience.

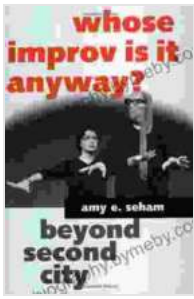
The Future of Improv

Improv is a constantly evolving art form. New games and techniques are being developed all the time, and improv is being used in a variety of new contexts, such as corporate training and education.

The future of improv is bright. As more and more people discover the joys of improv, the art form will continue to grow and evolve. Improv is a powerful tool for creativity, communication, and connection, and it has the potential to change the world for the better.

Improv is a unique and exciting art form that has the power to bring people together and create laughter. From its humble beginnings in ancient Greece to its current status as a global phenomenon, improv has come a long way. And the best is yet to come.

If you're interested in learning more about improv, there are many resources available online and in your community. You can find improv classes, workshops, and performances at most major cities. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and start improvising!



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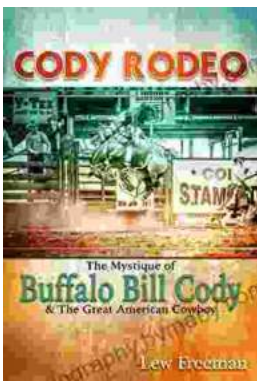
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