

Indie Scene Starter Kit

Get more practice - form a practice group!

- ❖ Assemble a group - reach out to people in your improv classes or other students/friends who are around the same level of improv experience, from schools teaching the same philosophies.
- ❖ Find a time & place to practice - 2 hours, once a week is typical, people either rent space or have rehearsals at someone's house. Find a time to rehearse before you reach out to coaches.
- ❖ Sometimes not everyone can rehearse at the same time - that's ok, you can still be friends! But assemble a team with people who CAN regularly commit to the same time.
- ❖ Hire a coach - Coaches set their own rates, so ask their rate as well as availability. Tell them what part of town you rehearse in, their rates/availability may change if you rehearse across town from them.
- ❖ Practice with a coach! Don't practice without a coach. Don't give each other notes.
- ❖ If your practice group fizzles out, don't be discouraged. Life happens, people go in and out of improv, keep at it! Add people or form another group.

Find a coach!

- ❖ Reach out to advanced improvisers and/or teachers who you enjoy watching or learning from - many of them coach!
- ❖ Ask for recommendations of coaches from teachers/performers/friends.
- ❖ A hit-or-miss resource is improvcoaches.com - the best way to use it is as a way to get in contact with someone who's email you don't have. Absolutely make sure you research and vet the coaches there outside of that website; be aware, *anyone* can post anything on that site.

- ❖ Communicate before they start coaching and as you continue having a relationship - figure out what your team wants to work on, and make sure your coach is a good fit. For example, if you're doing game-based improv, find a coach who does that.
- ❖ It's not unusual to cycle to another coach after a period of time - 6 months, a year, a few years. Many teams stay with the same coach for years, that's also normal!

Get up on stage!

- ❖ The Sauce Jam (improv jam at WGIS, for individuals)
- ❖ Draft Night (improv show at WGIS, for individuals)
- ❖ Have a team? Reach out to shows that host indie improv shows, ask to get booked on their show. A great tip - go see the show before you ask to be booked on it!
- ❖ Rent a theater to put up a show! The Clubhouse, Lyric Hyperion, The Stray, The Glendale Room, The Madnani Theater, and more - most indie shows that are out there started this way. Start your own indie show!