

Ye Olde Improv Competition

Frequently asked questions

Welcome to the 1st annual Ye Olde Improv Competition, hosted by Off the Cuff, in conjunction with the USF Shakespeare Competition at Southern Utah University in Cedar City Utah! Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the competition; if you have a question that you can't find the answer to please email us at info@otccomedy.com.

When is the competition?

Ye Olde Improv Competition will be held in conjunction with the USF Shakespeare competition on October 8-10, 2009. All of the improvisational performances will take place on Saturday October 10, 2009 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on the campus of Southern Utah University.

How much does it cost to compete?

Registration is \$100.00 per troupe.

Do I need to fill out a registration form?

Yes, the form can be found at otccomedy.com under the Ye Olde Improv tab and must be emailed by September 19, 2009.

How early should I fill out my registration form?

The cut-off date for forms will be September 19, 2009. Please be aware that the competition is first come first serve and there are only ten slots available for troupes. Please register early to assure that your troupe will secure one of those slots.

What kind of improvisation will the competition consist of?

This will be a short form improvisation competition consisting only of short form improv games with an emphasis on listening, relationships, acceptance, commitment, and showmanship.

What games are we allowed to compete with?

Although there will be seven games to rehearse, on the day of the competition all troupes will play the same three games that will be chosen randomly at a meeting with the troupe captains on Friday October 9th, 2009. Instructional videos and explanations of the seven games can be found on Off the Cuff's website otccomedy.com under the

Ye Olde Improv tab. Please make sure your troupe is well versed in all seven since the final three will be chosen randomly from these seven games.

Where can I find the rules of the games?

Instructional videos and explanations of the games may be found at otccomedy.com. You may also email info@otccomedy.com to explore the possibility of Off the Cuff coming to your school to work directly with your troupe

What if my troupe is scheduled to perform at the same time as my ensemble scene?

Schedule conflicts are to be expected and unavoidable. To make it easier, we recommend that if your ensemble is performing on Saturday that you compile your troupe with students who are not participating in the ensemble scene, however troupe members may be changed until the day of the performance to accommodate any such problems. Please note that performance times cannot and will not be changed.

What if one of my students is scheduled to compete with their mono or duo scene at the same time as the improv competition?

Schedule conflicts are to be expected and unavoidable. To make it easier, we recommend that if your monos or duos are performing on Saturday that you compile your troupe with students who are not participating in the mono or duo scenes, however troupe members may be changed until the day of the performance to accommodate any such problems. Please note that performance times cannot and will not be changed.

How long will we have to compete?

Each troupe will have a total of 25 minutes. Five for set-up; your time will begin as soon as the stage manager gives you the stage. Fifteen for performance; time will begin when the stage manager says go. Five for verbal feedback from the judges; time will begin as soon as the judge begins.

How will the improv be judged?

Troupes will be judged in five categories. Each category will be given a letter and point ranking. S- Superior 10 pts. E- Excellent 8pts. G- Good 6pts. F- Fair 4pts. P- Poor 2pts. The five categories are:

Listening: Actors should create honest responses to what is said and done on stage. All actors contribute to the scene without interrupting each other; putting ultimate trust in their fellow actors and themselves.

Acceptance: Actors should see every idea or suggestion as good one and build upon it until it's used to its fullest potential. Always yes and & never say no.

Commitment: Actors should pour 100% of themselves into the creation of their scenes, their characters, the show, and whatever their partner brings to the stage.

Relationship: Actors should create meaningful, realistic, and important relationships within the scenes. Actors should focus on the relationship and not on a joke or gimmick.

Showmanship: The show should move smoothly through the use of blocking, diction, projection, confidence, and energy. Each game should be explained clearly and effectively. The show should hold the audience's attention and help them understand their role as the audience in the show.

The troupes with the highest letter and point values will place and be given awards.

What if I need help getting started?

You can find information on how you can receive hands on help organizing your troupe by having Off the Cuff come to your school for workshops and shows at our website otccomedy.com in the Ye Olde Improv tab. Instructional videos and explanations of the games may also be found at otccomedy.com

How many players may be on each troupe?

Troupes may have no less than 4 players and no more than 6 players. Please keep in mind that any referee or emcee counts as a player.

What does the referee or emcee do?

The referee or emcee's job is to introduce the troupe, explain the games, end the games and fill the time in between the scenes. Students may take turns filling this position or you may assign one person to ref or emcee. This is where most of the showmanship occurs that your troupe will be judged on.

Can I put a student in charge of the troupe?

Anyone can be the captain of your troupe. If the captain is a student who would also like to perform with the troupe please note that they will be counted as a player.

Can students on the troupe be changed once my form is turned in?

Yes. The names of the students on the troupe can be changed up to the time you check in with the stage manager on the day of the performance. Once you have checked in, however, the student's names are final.

When and where is the check in?

The official check in will be held Friday October 9, 2009 at the morning meeting where the final 3 games will be chosen randomly.

Where will the performance take place?

All performances will take place on the Southern Utah University campus. The exact room assignment will be given to troupe captains at the meeting on Friday October 9, 2009.

When will I know the time my troupe performs?

Times will be assigned to the troupe captains at the meeting on Friday October 9, 2009.

How early should we be there before we perform?

Please check in with the stage manager no later than thirty minutes prior to your performance time.

Where do I find out if my troupe has placed?

Awards for the troupes that have placed will be awarded at the award ceremony Saturday night.

Can we name our troupe?

Definetly!