

IMPROVISE!

levels B1, B2, C1, C2

Caroline Preller

Learning goals

The aim of this course is to develop improvisational (and acting) skills in English, in order to be able to survive and even enjoy a multitude of situations where you might have to speak - unexpectedly or otherwise - in English.

Why? To develop oral fluency

To develop communication skills

To create scenes of improvised theatre

Learning Objectives

The aims are both theatrical and linguistic, as when you speak a foreign language you have to jump off the deep end and just do it, but these skills are equally useful when applied to life in general. Even within a business context or in an international multicultural environment you may need to "think on your feet".

Through a variety of theatre games, both verbal and physical, from many sources, including Augusto Boal's invisible theatre, and Keith Johnstone's "Improv for Storytellers", students will develop their spontaneity, access their creativity and develop soft skills such as active listening, taking the initiative and working in a team, as well as creating dialogue.

They will work on chosen themes repeatedly leaping into the unknown, with the aim of performing in front of an audience in an end-of-term event.

No previous acting experience is necessary, just a desire to participate!

Students will learn how to really listen, and how to be heard. How to interpret body language, as well as how to use body and voice effectively for clear communication. Their confidence and ability to respond easily will increase. The task of inventing, speaking and writing down a sketch is an active way of anchoring the acquired knowledge. Students are asked to develop their critical thinking skills by reflecting on what they are learning, and how these skills can be applied to other contexts;

Course expectations

Group exercises, individual exercises, pair-work, team work, writing scenes and a weekly journal and performance.

Evaluation is based on active participation, including presence, involvement, the quantity of work produced and collaboration (50%), written work - a journal and reflective essay (20%) and progress - accomplishment of goals, and final performance (30%).

