

IMPRO THEATRE'S *DOROTHY PARKER UNSCRIPTED* MAY 18 – 20 / THE EDYE

Directed by Jo McGinley & Paul Rogan

IMPRO THEATRE STAFF

Dan O'Connor, *producing artistic director*

Rick Bernstein, *managing director*

Nick Massouh, *director of the Impro Theatre School*

Madi Goff, *associate director of the Impro Theatre school*

Paul Hungerford, *Impro Studio producer*

Matthew Pitner, *Impro Studio manager*

Emily Rose Jacobson, *social media coordinator*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Trefoni Rizzi, *scenic designer*

Sandra Burns, *costume designer*

Leigh Allen, *lighting designer*

Alex Caan & Arlo Sanders, *technical improvisers*

ENSEMBLE

Lisa Fredrickson, Madi Goff, Kelly Holden Bashar,

Paul Hungerford, Lauren Rose Lewis, Jo McGinley,

Dan O'Connor, Edi Patterson, Mike Rock,

Paul Rogan, Michele Spears



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

Impro Theatre is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Impro Theatre's programming is made possible, in part, by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

ENSEMBLE



Lisa Fredrickson



Madi Goff



Kelly Holden Bashar



Paul Hungerford



Lauren Rose Lewis



Jo McGinley



Dan O'Connor



Edi Patterson



Mike Rock



Paul Rogan



Michele Spears

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

For the uninitiated, this unique form of theatre generates a few questions:

Who writes these plays?

Everyone that is present on stage. Impro Theatre is an ensemble of actor/playwrights who write theatre as they perform it. Our crew is improvising the sound and light changes right along with us.

How do you rehearse this kind of show?

We immerse ourselves in the particular genre and then reinvent it in an entirely new way, right in front of your eyes. Through the rehearsal process, we embrace the essence of that particular performing style without saying or performing anything that has been previously written or performed.

What is it like performing a play when you don't have a script?

It is terrifying, inspiring, and wonderfully exhilarating. The performers are embracing whole-heartedly the acting tenet to "be in the moment" as they have no other choice.

How do I know you are making it up?

We invite you to come back and see another show – it will be completely different from this performance. It is one of the reasons why people come back and see multiple shows!

For more information about Impro Theatre, go to www.ImproTheatre.com

ABOUT DOROTHY PARKER (1893–1967)

As a poet, writer, critic and satirist, Dorothy Parker is a legendary literary figure best known for her biting wit and wisecracks. She wrote for the magazines *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* during the late 1910s and came to fame in the 1920s writing book reviews, poetry and short fiction for fledgling magazine *The New Yorker*, where she remained a contributor for many years. One of her most popular stories, "Big Blonde," won the O. Henry Award in 1929. In addition to her writing, Parker was a noted member of the New York literary scene in 1920s. She helped form a group of artists known as the Algonquin Round Table, also known as the Vicious Circle for their habit of engaging in witty, sharp-tongued banter. In the 1930s and 1940s, she wrote screenplays in Hollywood and was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Dorothy Parker UnScripted is inspired primarily by Dorothy Parker's short stories. Instead of a full-length play, the performance includes a series of improvised shorter pieces that, taken together, are intended to reflect Parker's artistic style and creative sensibilities.

BIOS

LISA FREDRICKSON, *ensemble*, in addition to Impro Theatre, has been an ensemble member of Seattle Theatresports, SAK Comedy Lab Orlando, Disney's Comedy Warehouse and Inflatable Betty. She is the resident improv teacher at California Lutheran University. She was an original cast member of *Fellowship! The Musical Parody of "The Fellowship of the Ring"* in Los Angeles, performed at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and performed in *Boo* at New York, New York

in Las Vegas. TV credits include *Greek*, *Desperate Housewives* and *The Tick*. She has been in numerous TV commercials, usually as some sort of uptight mother. She loves babies and banjos.

MADI GOFF, ensemble, is an improviser, writer, and actress originally from the Texas hill country. She has performed as a guest artist in Impro Theatre's *Jane Austen UnScripted* at The Broad Stage and at North Coast Rep, as well as in *Fairytales UnScripted* at the Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga. Madison is a technical improviser for Impro Theatre Main Company shows like *Twilight Zone UnScripted: Abridged* at the Impro Studio, and she also performed in and co-directed *Game of Falls*, an epic soap opera in the style of *Game of Thrones* at the Impro Studio.

KELLY HOLDEN BASHAR, ensemble, was most recently seen on *Speechless*, and she played Martin Freeman's wife Pearl Nygaard in the Golden Globe and Emmy-winning hit miniseries *Fargo* on FX. Some of her other recent credits include *Parks and Recreation*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Dog With A Blog*, and *Gilmore Girls*. She co-starred with Rita Rudner in the film *Thanks* and can be seen in numerous commercials. Kelly is also a writer and one of the credits she is most proud of is being the co-writer of, (and portraying "Pippin" in), the critically acclaimed play *Fellowship! The Musical Parody of "The Fellowship of the Ring."* In addition to being a main company member at Impro Theatre, Kelly is also part of the teaching faculty. Her best role, by far, is mom to Brooke and Maggie.

PAUL HUNGERFORD, ensemble guest artist, studied acting and film at Emerson

College, where he appeared in *The Baltimore Waltz* and *Red Noses*. He also studied at the British American Dramatic Academy's summer in Oxford, where he played in *As You Like It* and *Measure for Measure*. He has been seen in over 60 commercials and on such television shows as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Dirty Sexy Money*, *My Wife and Kids* and a recurring role on Bravo's *Significant Others*. Film credits include *Stark Raving Mad*, *Happy Holidays* and *Hate: A Comedy* (Best Short Film at Aspen Comedy Festival). His voiceover work includes Blizzard Entertainment's *World of Warcraft: Mists of Pandaria* and the animated short film *Nougat* (Best Short winner at SXSW After Midnight Film Festival). Paul is Director of Impro Theatre's LATheatresports and is very proud to be working with Impro Theatre. He is from Bridgeport, CT, and lives in Burbank with his wife, two daughters and huge dog.

LAUREN ROSE LEWIS, ensemble, can currently be seen in PixL's original TV movie *Sisters of the Groom* in a supporting lead role as the ex-girlfriend still in love with her old beau. Over the summer, Lauren appeared in the "thriller" film *Unforgettable*, starring Katherine Heigl and Rosario Dawson. In addition to starring in the indie film *First Period*, she has appeared on numerous television shows, including guest starring on Showtime's *Dexter* and Nickelodeon's *iCarly*. Other television credits include: *Presence*, *Friends with Better Lives*, *Hit the Floor*, *Melissa and Joey*, *CSI: NY*, *Entourage*, *NCIS*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Rules of Engagement*, *Ugly Betty*, *Days of Our Lives*, the Hallmark Channel's movie *A Kiss At Midnight* and the FOX pilot *Inside*

Jokes. Lauren has also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, starring in David Mamet's *The Water Engine* and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

JO MCGINLEY, co-director, ensemble, has been directing unscripted theatre since 1996. Passionate about a playwright, writer or film style, diving into their world, and having the great fortune of working with the most talented improvisers/actors around is what keeps Jo inspired about live theater. She has also directed *Twilight Zone UnScripted* and *Dorothy Parker UnScripted* for Impro's main company. She also loves bringing improvisation into the sports and business worlds, and recent clients include The US Olympic Ski Teams, Cisco, Accenture, Kaiser, and Salesforce Worldwide. One of her favorite theatrical credits includes playing Superman's wife in *The Legacy* which won best comics-related film at Comic Con.

DAN O'CONNOR, ensemble, producing artistic director, for Impro Theatre, has directed *Chekhov UnScripted* and co-directed *Jane Austen UnScripted*, *Fairytales UnScripted*, *The Western UnScripted*, *Shakespeare UnScripted* and *Sondheim UnScripted*. Collectively, these shows have performed at The Broad Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Laguna Playhouse, North Coast Repertory, Falcon Theatre, Carrie Hamilton Theatre at The Pasadena Playhouse, Lewis Family Playhouse, New Vic Theatre, Odyssey Theatre and many others. Stage acting credits include Improable Theatre's *Life Game* (Off-Broadway) and shows with ACT and A Noise Within. Television directing credits include ABC's *Sons and Daughters* and Oxygen's *Campus Ladies*; acting includes *Seinfeld*, *VEGAS*, *Raising Hope*,

Campus Ladies, *Starstruck* and *Malcolm in the Middle*; and he also co-created and starred in NBC/PAX's improv show *World Cup Comedy*. Dan has taught and directed improvisational theatre to universities and companies worldwide including USC, Duke, Pepperdine, UT Austin, Dreamworks, Disney Animation and Cirque du Soleil. He is a graduate of the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London and recently gave a TED Talk about teaching the world to improvise.

www.danoconnor.net

EDI PATTERSON, ensemble, plays Jen Abbott on the HBO series *Vice Principals*. Some of her other credits include *White Famous*, *Black-ish*, *Bajillion Dollar Properties*, FX's *Partners*, *The League*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Californication*, *You're Killing Me*, *The Mike Tyson Mysteries*, various voices for *We Bare Bears*, guest-writing for *Saturday Night Live* and co-writing songs for the musical *Fellowship!* Ed is a Main Company member of both Impro Theatre and The Groundlings, where she performs weekly. Twitter and Instagram: [@EdiHasAUunicorn](https://twitter.com/EdiHasAUunicorn)

MIKE ROCK, ensemble, has performed in Impro Theatre's *Chekhov UnScripted*, *Twilight Zone UnScripted*, *The Western UnScripted*, *Shakespeare UnScripted* and *Jane Austen UnScripted*. Former artistic director of Madison, WI Theater Sports, later producer/artistic director NYC's ComedySportz and co-founder of The Bert Fershners sketch comedy group (Comedy Central, MTV, VH-1 at The Edinburgh Fringe, Aspen & Montreal's Just For Laughs.) He is also a member of the faculty at Nerdist School. Other recent improv: *Mannerhouse Manor*, *Mission: Star Mission*, and *The High*. TV credits include

Chelsea Lately, The Goldbergs, Modern Family, The Mentalist, Law & Order, Conan O'Brien, After Lately, Hello Ross, Monk. He is also an announcer for *NFL Replay* and *KCRW*.

PAUL ROGAN, co-director, ensemble, is originally from London and has worked with all of the UK's major improv groups, including the Comedy Store Players and with Eddie Izzard and Friends. He joined Impro Theatre to co-direct and perform in *Jane Austen UnScripted*. U.S. TV includes *Castle, Timeline, KC Undercover, I Didn't Do It* (as snarky science teacher Mr. Jenkins), *Anger Management* (two different roles), *Legit, My Name is Earl, Big Love, CougarTown, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Sleeper Cell* and *Cory in the House*. Film includes *Miss March, Thunderpants* and *A Knight in Camelot*. Theatre includes "George" in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, the "Emcee" in *Cabaret* and "Malvolio" in *Twelfth Night*. He has been on lots of BBC Radio comedy shows, including six full series. As a stand-up comedian, Paul has played the Improv in Hollywood and hundreds of live, TV and radio gigs.
www.paulrogan.com

MICHELE SPEARS, ensemble, is an actor, improviser, director/choreographer and arts educator. A founding member of Impro, she has also performed with Theatresports, Inflatable Betty, Pulp Playhouse and Disney's Laughing Stock Company. Recent projects include: *Object of Her Affection* at REDCAT (director); *Traveling Music* at Stage 72 in NYC (director/choreographer); *The L.A. Gay Men's Chorus Down Under Concert* (choreographer); *The Soltanoff/Findlay Project* for Center Theatre Group (performer); *Sondheim UnScripted* at The

Oregon Shakespeare Festival (director/performer); *Important Things with Dimitri Martin* for Comedy Central (actor); and *Wake Up Your Weird* at the O'Neill Theater Center, which premiered in New York and is currently touring (director/choreographer). Her work has been recognized with LA Weekly, N.Y. Night-Life, Dramalogue, StageScene LA and Santa Barbara Independent awards, as well as an American Choreographers' Award nomination. She's a graduate of NYU/TISCH, a member of the Directors Lab West and currently teaches theatre at Harvard-Westlake School.
www.michelespears.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

TREFONI MICHAEL RIZZI, scenic designer, Off-Broadway/Regional: *A Woman of Will* at The Daryl Roth Theater NYC; *The Little Prince; A Child's Christmas in Wales;* and *The Inspector General* at The Colorado Shakespeare Festival. World/West Coast Premieres: Maltby/Shire's *A Time for Love* at Arena Studio Theatre; P.J. Barry's *Bad Axe* at Foothill Theatre Company; Stephen Legawiec's *Peru in Africa* at the Miles Playhouse; Melanie Marnich's *Quake* at Theatre Pangea; and Lee Blessing's *Chesapeake* at Venice Theatre Works. Local: *Parallel Lives* at The Falcon Theatre; *Copenhagen* at Rubicon Theatre; *Sex and Education* at Laguna Playhouse and Colony Theatre; *Two Boys From Brooklyn* at The Palace Theatre; and *Marilyn, Madness and Me!* at the El Portal Theatre. Awards and Honors: Ovation Award - *Songs for a New World* at Rubicon Theatre. Guest Designer: Lincoln Center Theatre's Director's Lab, Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Award Winning Author and Publisher of *Teddy's Travels - America's National Parks* - www.teddystravels.com.

SANDRA BURNS, costume designer, is an award-winning artist based in Los Angeles. She designs costumes and sets for theatre, dance, TV and film. Past collaborations include work at DouglasPlus, REDCAT, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, The Broad Stage, Fountain Theatre, LATC, Odyssey Theatre, The Falcon Theater, St. Ann's Warehouse and PS 122. Sandra was the costume designer for the Academy Award nominated short film *New Boy*. She is currently designing costumes for the TV series *Last Man on Earth* and *Lopez*. Sandra received her MFA from the California Institute of The Arts (CalArts). www.sandraburnsdesign.com

LEIGH ALLEN, lighting designer, is a multi-award winner for lighting design, and is a recipient of the Career Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. Leigh returns to Impro Theatre after her highly acclaimed designs for *Stop Kiss*, *Half of Plenty*, *Razorback* and *American Dead*. Other credits include: *Beauty and the Beast* (Musical Theater West), *Champagne* (Regent Cruise Lines), *Shimmy!* (Princess Cruise Lines), *Snoopy On Ice*, *The Red Road* (Native Voices), *Killer Joe* (Ovation Award: Production of the Year), *The Fab Four* (South Bay CLO), *The Prince of LA* (The Old Globe in San Diego) and *Vincent in Brixton* (Pasadena Playhouse). Leigh also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and LA Weekly Lighting Design Awards for *Johnny Got His Gun*.

ALEX CAAN, technical improviser, is an improviser, actor and musician native to Los Angeles. He has been working and studying with Impro Theatre since 2013. He has contributed to several other

company productions as a technical improviser, including *Shakespeare UnScripted*, *The Western UnScripted*, *Jane Austen UnScripted*, *Twilight Zone UnScripted*, *Chekhov UnScripted* and *Sondheim UnScripted*. Additionally, he performs both on and off stage at the Impro Studio in Los Feliz.

ARLO SANDERS, technical improviser, is a professional standup comedian and actor who has been studying with Impro Theatre for the past four years. In the fall, he will be directing *Hemingway Untold* at Impro Studio in Los Feliz.

RICK BERNSTEIN, managing director, has worked with many arts organizations throughout Los Angeles. He has been the Managing Director at Rogue Machine Theatre, Road Theatre Company and Elephant Theatre Company, and he was a staff member at The Theatre @ Boston Court, The Colony Theatre and LA Stage Alliance, working in various capacities in arts management, marketing and administration. He has also managed and consulted on several shows at various theatres throughout southern California. Rick's film and television production credits include *The Tonight Show*, *K-PAX*, *Tomb Raider* and *Frozen Assets* (which critic Gene Siskel named "The Worst Film of the Year"). He is a graduate of Stanford University.

ABOUT IMPRO THEATRE

Impro Theatre creates completely improvised, full-length plays in the styles of the world's greatest playwrights, authors and composers. With no pre-planning or prepared scenarios, the performers start with audience suggestions and combine verbal dexterity

and dynamic physicality to bring character and plot to life in an instant, making each show unlike any other theatrical experience. The show you are about to see will never be seen again.

Founded as Los Angeles Theatresports in 1988, **IMPRO THEATRE** has evolved from a successful short form improv troupe into a critically acclaimed theatre company. Impro Theatre's performances are unique; there are no repeated characters and no set story structure. Each performance offers an exploration into the process of spontaneous creation while encouraging a profound level of engagement between performers and audience, who are all united in discovering what happens in the moment on that particular night.

In Southern California, Impro has performed sold-out shows at South Coast Repertory, The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, The Pasadena Playhouse, North Coast Repertory in San Diego, The Falcon Theatre in Burbank and many more. Venues around the world include the John Anson Ford Amphitheater in Los Angeles, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago, Evans Auditorium at Texas State University, The Melbourne Fringe in Australia and Theatre Adyar in Paris. Impro has received multiple Ovation Recommended honors and Critics' Picks in *Los Angeles Times*, *Back Stage* and *LA Weekly*. *Los Angeles Times* says "Impro Theatre has evolved into a powerhouse improvisational company in full-length shows that are off-the-cuff and consistently hilarious. An indigenous Los Angeles treasure, the company should be seen — and reseen!" *American Theatre Magazine* says, "These virtuosic talents simply are as superhuman as they seem. These are serious professional actors,

classically trained, who can write on their feet better than many writers can type at a desk. Impro's work has taught me to demand more from the theatre. Here might be the salvation the theatre seeks."

Impro Theatre currently has 12 different styles of shows in our repertoire:

- Jane Austen UnScripted
- Chekhov UnScripted
- Dickens UnScripted
- Fairytales UnScripted
- Horror UnScripted
- L.A. Noir UnScripted
- Dorothy Parker UnScripted
- Shakespeare UnScripted
- Sondheim UnScripted
- Tennessee Williams UnScripted
- Twilight Zone UnScripted
- The Western UnScripted

Impro Theatre also manages the Impro Studio performance space and the Impro Theatre School, which is the home of Narrative Improv in Los Angeles.



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