

IMPRO THEATRE'S *SHAKESPEARE UNSCRIPTED* APR 20 – 22 / THE EDYE

Directed by Brian Lohmann & Dan O'Connor

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*

Emily Rose Jacobson, *technical improviser*

ENSEMBLE

Kari Coleman, Lisa Fredrickson, Kelly Holden Bashar,

Brian Michael Jones, Brian Lohmann, Dan O'Connor,

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



Kari Coleman



Lisa Fredrickson



Kelly Holden Bashar



Brian Michael Jones



Brian Lohmann



Dan O'Connor



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

BIOS

KARI COLEMAN, *ensemble*, began improvising with LA Theatresports as a founding member. She was most recently seen in *Rizzoli and Isles*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and *The Spoils Before Dying* with Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig, as well as reprising her role as Helen Stacy in *The Amazing Spiderman 2*. She also starred in the MTV series *Zach Stone Is Gonna Be Famous* and played Whitney on *Switched at Birth*. Guest star appearances include *Scandal*, *NCIS: LA*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Glee*, *Wilfred*, *Major Crimes* and *NCIS*. She's played George's psychotic girlfriend on *Seinfeld* and an embittered sex-ed teacher on *Veronica Mars*. She's also been a fire-eater with Penn & Teller in Las Vegas, debunked paranormal phenomena on syndicated TV and fallen off a mountain in an IMAX 3-D film *T-REX*. She is married to fellow actor Kyle Secor and they have two amazing daughters.

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.

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.

BRIAN MICHAEL JONES, ensemble, can currently be seen as "Chad" on Disney XD's *Gamer's Guide to Pretty Much Everything*. His puppeteering work can be seen on ABC's *The Muppets* and *Muppets: Most Wanted*. Brian recently performed with Channing Tatum in Joel and Ethan Coen's film *Hail Caesar!* as a love struck sailor in the musical number "No Dames." In addition to his numerous national commercials, his TV/film credits include: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Castle*, *Community*, *Raising Hope*, *Wilfred*, *Bones*, *NCIS: LA* and the independent comedy film *Tribute*. Theatre credits include: the role of Frodo in *Fellowship! The Musical Parody of "The Fellowship of the Ring,"* *The Diviners*, the fool in *King Lear*, *West Side Story*, *42nd Street* and *Boys Next Door*. His work with The Jim Henson Company includes *Unstable Fables* and the improvised puppet show *Puppet Up!* Brian teaches improv at the Impro School and directs LA

Theatresports and the Pepperdine Improv Troupe.

BRIAN LOHMANN, co-director, ensemble, has directed *L.A. Noir UnScripted* (The Broad Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival mainstage, John Anson Ford Amphitheater), *Tennessee Williams UnScripted* (Odyssey Theater/ South Coast Rep), *Dickens UnScripted* (Broad Stage/North Coast Rep/A Noise Within) and *Shakespeare UnScripted* (OSF Green Show/Carrie Hamilton Theater.) He directed *ModRock* at the El Portal, as well as many genres of improvised musicals. Favorite performances include the Berkeley Jazz Festival with Bobby McFerrin, *String of Pearls* at Carnegie Hall and Johnny Lonely in his critically acclaimed solo show *Johnny Lonely's Unhappy Hour*, which toured the UK and Australia. Stage credits include ACT, The Old Globe, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Laguna Playhouse and The Magic Theater. Brian has taught for the American Conservatory Theatre's MFA program, Stanford, The Guthrie Theatre, The Public Theater's Shakespeare Lab, The Old Globe/USD, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare at the Huntington. Awards include Garland, Drama-Logue, and StageScene LA.
www.brianlohmann.com

DAN O'CONNOR, co-director, 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 Improbable 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.danocconnor.net

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, 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*.

EMILY ROSE JACOBSON, social media coordinator/technical improviser, is a native Texan, and is overjoyed to be working with Impro Theatre. Most

recently, she was the ASM for *L.A. Noir UnScripted* and *Sondheim UnScripted* and is an ongoing student at the Impro Theatre School. She is a BFA Theatre graduate from Chapman University and is currently in MB Stage Productions' *The Video Games* as well as a company member in the Los Angeles troupe of *The Murder Mystery Company*.

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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