

LULU FRENCH

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Objective: To teach improvisation while creating a safe and nurturing environment in which students feel free to take risks and release inhibitions while learning how to "yes" others, release the urge to control, and give over to the scary and wondrous spontaneous expression that arises when working purely in the moment.

2000 – 2014: Gotham City Improv, NYC. Workshop instructor, host and performer for various nationwide events (schools, corporate and non-profit events, conventions). Have taught all levels of comedic improvisation from improv basics to advanced scene work. Instructed students in short-form improv, long-form improv styles, and basic comedy writing. Directed, produced, and performed in various improv performing ensembles and main stage shows.

2003 – present: Broadway Classrooms, NYC. Conduct improv workshops for students grade 7-12 visiting NYC on arts themed school trips. A group's skill level is typically unknown until working with the students and can vary widely, so a degree of workshop flexibility to fit the abilities of a particular group is required. The goal is to create a fun and dynamic workshop using exercises that include all or most of the students at any given time.

2011 - present: The Theater Project Classroom, Maplewood, NJ. Teach improvisation to Middle School aged children focusing on building confidence, working as a team, and listening and building off other students' ideas.

2015 - present: Arts Horizons, Englewood, NJ. Work as a teaching artist in area schools teaching improvisation to children grades 3 – 12. Schools include Roosevelt Elementary, Weehawken, NJ, Alpine School, Alpine, NJ, and the Marion P. Thomas Charter High School, Newark, NJ.

2013 - present: South Orange / Maplewood Adult School and The SOMA School's Children's Summer Program, South Orange, NJ. Teach improvisation focusing on learning simple improv games, working as a team, and creating characters.

2011 - present: Dreamcatcher Repertory Theater, South Orange, NJ. Teach improvisation to adults and produce an end of session performance consisting of various improvised short-form games.

2008 – present: YMCA Camp Fitch/Family Camp, Erie, PA. Conduct an annual improv workshop for older kids and adults. Co-host and perform in a show comprised of improvised games primarily utilizing audience volunteers.

2011 - 2016: After-school Enrichment Program, Clinton Elementary, Seth Boyden Elementary, Maplewood, NJ. Teach improvisation to elementary school aged kids using basic theater games and age appropriate team building exercises.

2013 - 2016: IN Studios, NYC. Teach the Kinetic Improv class which helps adult improvisers to be more physical in their work, use each other to create special effects, explore the entire theater as a performance space, create interesting stage pictures, and find ways to initiate scenes organically through physicality and emotion.

2012: Education Director, The Performance Classroom / The Theater Project, Maplewood, NJ. Organize registration for performing art classes for youths. Communicate with students' parents, teachers, and administrators at The Theater Project. Handle all the administrative duties for the program. Create flyers using Mac graphic tools. Maintain e-mail database. Promote classes through distribution of flyers, press releases, sending mass e-mails, and creating ads.

2009 – 2010: CentreStage/Queens Theatre in the Park, NYC. Worked with fourth and fifth graders over 18 sessions to help them write and eventually perform a fifteen-minute play. Guided students into playwriting using basic improvisational ensemble building games and simple writing exercises. Introduced writing exercises to explore the generation of character, conflict and resolution, and character interactions. Proper play script writing structure was introduced during the writing period.

2008: New York University, Stonestreet Studios, NYC. Taught on-camera comedy classes in improv and situation comedy to NYU drama students. Filmed students in a professional TV studio using both one and three-camera set ups to prepare for the various situations in which on-camera improvisation is used in TV and film in today's market. Taught the differences in performance style between on-camera sketch comedy, multi-camera situation comedies, and single camera TV and film comedies. Directed and shot scripted material from a control room while students manned cameras and monitored other technical elements.

2005 – 2008: Power Play, NYC. Taught improv to corporate groups as part of Gotham City Improv's corporate industrial teaching program, typically focusing on team building and communication skills.