

Actors + Performers

Best Improv Schools in NYC and L.A.

BY KC WRIGHT | LAST UPDATED: AUGUST 30, 2022



Photo Source: Shutterstock

Of all the [tools in the actor's toolbox](#), improv skills (and training) are among the most crucial for all sorts of jobs. Whether you're a classically trained actor aiming to branch out, a beginner trying to have fun onstage, or a professional comedian making your mark on the local scene, here are several great places to [learn the](#)

Get Cast Today

Gain access to the best platform for performers and build your career on Backstage.

[Join Now](#)

Auditions & Open Casting Calls

[New York Auditions](#)

[Los Angeles Auditions](#)

[London Auditions](#)

[Auditions for Movies](#)

[See all Auditions](#)

Featured Calls

Gigs

[Internship at Enrich Acting Studio](#)

art of improvisation.

[Join Backstage to access jobs you can apply to right now!](#)

New York

Peoples Improv Theater

The [Peoples Improve Theater](#) (also known as The PIT) teaches, develops, and presents some of the best original comedy in New York City. A wide variety of classes appeal to students of all types, including an excellent program for aspiring sketch writers. Start with basics such as the Joy of Improv, or check out workshops including Basics of Sketch Comedy ones specifically made for female comics!

Hudson Valley Improv

This New York–based actor and director spreads the joy of comedy with her own brand of Improv Empowerment Training. Jones leads small private classes and group workshops that teach liberation through improvisation called [Hudson Valley Improv](#). Students gain confidence, peace, and an “amazing place of OK-ness” through customized improv games and improve their comedic skills in the process.

Get Cast Today

Gain access to the best platform for performers and build your career on Backstage.

TV Commercial

Pillsbury Spec VO

Animation

Animated Comedy Series

Search all Calls

[Join Now](#)

Magnet Theater

Another great place to take classes and see inexpensive nightly shows, New York's [Magnet Theater](#) teaches actors to bring their own knowledge to the forefront. According to Magnet's Improv Secret No. 1: "It's not about trying to be funny." Students learn to apply several techniques with honesty and personality, creating a unique brand of comedy based on individual point of view. Get started with classes that fall under its Improv Fundamentals category, or try your hand at one of Magnet's regular Free Intro to Improv workshops.

The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Training Center

UCB aims to create comedy gold through the imaginative art of improv and sketch comedy. Holding the title for the only accredited improv and sketch comedy school in the country, the [UCB Training Center](#) offers a variety of classes that will delve deep into honing in techniques and help students establish their comedic timing. The UCB Training Center has locations in L.A. and New York.

Los Angeles

The Groundlings

[The Groundlings](#) is a legendary institution that teaches improv and sketch comedy to scores of Los Angeles actors each year, and boasts some of the comedy world's best as alums; greats like Will Ferrell, Kristen Wiig, Jon Lovitz, and many more have earned their stripes there. Most classes are extremely structured within a progressive curriculum, but first-timers can take drop-in classes such as Intro to Improv, a three-hour seminar introducing the Groundlings' character-based teaching philosophy.

The Second City

One of the world's best-known comedy theaters, Chicago's [Second City has a Hollywood location](#) where aspiring L.A.-based improv actors can learn from the best of the best. Its grounded brand of comedy is taught through acting, writing, and improv programs, and alums are seen all over television on shows including "30 Rock" and "SNL."

Improvolution

The [Improvolution](#) school teaches the wondrous and vigorous art of improvisation on stage. Founded by Groundlings alum Holly Mandel, Improvolution's instructors teach courses on how to remain confident and on top of your toes when performing in front of an audience. The school has four levels of classes that will expand students' improv and scene-building skills the further they progress. Improvolution has locations in NYC and L.A.

Inspired by this post? Check out our [audition listings!](#)

TAGS [Actors + Performers](#) [Education](#) [Advice](#)

[Los Angeles](#) [New York](#) [Comedy + Improv](#)

MORE FROM COMEDY + IMPROV



Earn \$8,080 for a Horror Film + More Nationwide Gigs

October 5, 2023



Now Casting: Earn \$3,000 for a Kids' Series + 3 More Gigs

September 25, 2023



Now Casting: Earn \$6,400 for a Short Romantic Comedy + 3 More Gigs

September 21, 2023



5 Great Comedic Monologues for Women

September 13, 2023

[SEE ALL >](#)

RECOMMENDED



Top Dance Programs for Kids

June 14, 2016



4 Top Acting Schools Break Down the Muscle Behind Their 'Mafia'

April 5, 2016



List of Dance Schools in Los Angeles and New York

April 21, 2010



5 Stage Combat Classes You'll Want to Check Out

February 17, 2015

NOW TRENDING



A High-Paying Parisian Brand Commercial Needs Talent + More Worldwide Gigs

October 4, 2023



The Top Films Every Actor Must Watch

September 13, 2023



Earn \$1,000 for a Mattress Commercial + More Casting Calls in New York City

October 6, 2023



5 Things Every Actor Should Know Early in Their Career

October 4, 2023



10 College Dance Programs You Should Know

September 13, 2023



Now Casting: Star in a Vampire Fantasy Film + 3 More Gigs

October 5, 2023



How To Become a Victoria's Secret Model

September 14, 2023



Top Talent Agencies for Washington, D.C., Actors and Performers

September 22, 2023

Casting Calls Straight to Your Inbox

Stay informed with Backstage Daily. Get exclusive content, the latest casting notices, and advice to advance your career.

FOR FINDING JOBS

- Actors & Performers
- Voiceover Artists
- Creative Freelancers & Crew
- Influencers + Content Creators
- Models
- Search Casting Calls
- Popular Auditions
- How it Works
- Advice & Guides
- Backstage Kids
- Community
- Gig & Tell
- Acting Monologues
- Online Classes
- Create Your Free Talent Profile
- Join
- Buy Backstage Magazine

FOR FINDING TALENT

- Film, Video & TV Production
- Theater & Performing Arts
- Voiceover Production
- Commercial + Branded Content
- Influencers + UGC
- Talent Database
- Pay Talent
- How it Works
- Advice for Creators
- Post a Job

OTHERS

- For Companies & NGOs
- For Schools





COMPANY

- About
- The Team
- Careers
- Press
- Partners
- Affiliate Program
- Celebrity Testimonials
- Sitemap
- Articles
- Archive
- Group and School Subscriptions

SUPPORT

- Help
- Contact
- Pricing
- Advertising
- Report Content

CONNECT

-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Instagram
-  YouTube
-  Podcast

CHOOSE LANGUAGE

English

GET THE NEWSLETTER

Enter email

Submit

GET THE IOS APP



[Cookie Preference](#)

© 2023 Backstage. All rights reserved.

[Terms of Use / Privacy Policy](#)

The most trusted name in casting since 1960.

 Made in Brooklyn, NY at home 