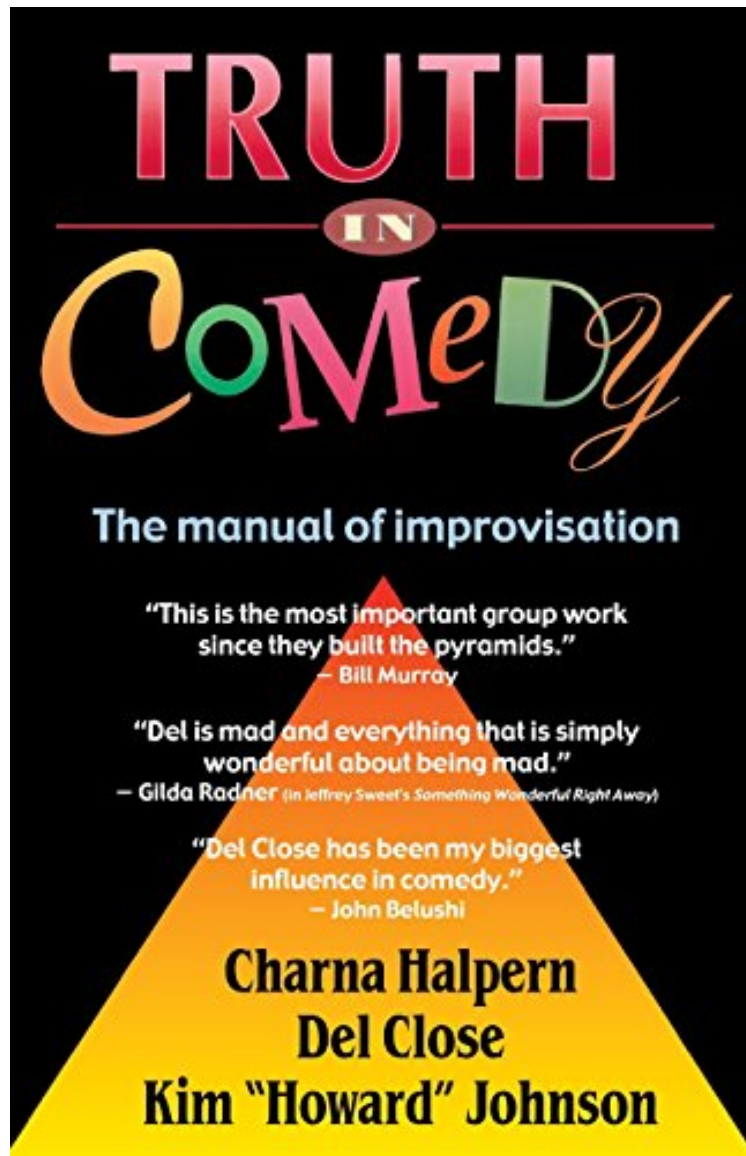


[Download] Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation

Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation

Charna Halpern, Del Close, Kim Howard Johnson
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Charna Halpern, Del Close, Kim Howard Johnson : Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Truth in Comedy, Truth in Life!By chris learyI've taken two improv classes and I really enjoyed it! The problem is that sometimes you might not understand what an instructor is trying to

get across to you because you are so nervous. The class environment is high-energy and if you have anxiety in this kind of a situation, like I do sometimes, then this book is a must when you are away from the class. I have the UCB comedy workbook, which I highly recommend. I would recommend getting this manual, if you buy nothing else. 'Truth in Comedy' simply, and clearly, heads you in the right direction right away; at least it did for me. Actually you are probably better off in buying whatever combination of improv guides which you choose. If you are planning on taking an improv class; get this book and read it first or in conjunction with the class. The more of the book that you get through while you are in the early stages of the class, the better. I had an "idea" of what improv was before I took the class, and I ended up being wrong about what I thought. This will act as a kind of compass for you; so that if you have an instructor who is not so good, or she or he is simply working against the time constraints of the class, you can get the most out of it. Believe me, I am a somewhat introverted person, and I thoroughly enjoy improv. I can't explain why I would like being up on a stage making an ass out of myself in a fun way, more than I would having attention paid to me in any other situation. Give improv a shot, it is exhilarating and rewarding!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect insight into comedy and improv

By Customer I enjoyed this book so much. I find truth very important, there will never be enough honesty in the world, taking life too seriously will often mislead you, but you can always find truth in comedy.

I am new to comedy and improvising, but this book was an amazing introduction, in a way it shaped my perspective on how I see the world and social interactions. I recommend it even if you don't care much about comedy or improvisation, it is a short light read, pleasant writing and various improv techniques exemplified within. I found it so interesting, and I am so glad I read it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More than Comedy

By Gordie This is the best book for learning comedy, which I know sounds kind of weird. I don't do improv anymore, I work in a corporate setting and I honestly still use these tools everyday.

Want to learn the improv techniques that helped Mike Myers, Chris Farley, John Belushi, and many others along the road to TV and film stardom? Then let two esteemed founders of long-form improvisational theatre, Del Close and Charna Halpern, teach you the "Harold." This groundbreaking acting exercise emphasizes pattern recognition and subversion of the audience's expectations, which are important factors for making people laugh without ever telling a joke. It involves six to seven players and many kinds of scenes: games, monologues, songs, skits and more, all of which are bound to keep both actors and audience members guessing. The Harold is non-linear entertainment that remembers everything and wastes nothing the key to successful improvising and has become a standard in comedy clubs and improv theatres around the globe.

.com Who would have ever thought that learning the finer points of improvisation could be such fun? The "Harold," an innovative improvisational tool, helped Saturday Night Live's Mike Myers and Chris Farley, George Wendt (Norm on "Cheers") and many other actors on the road to TV and film stardom. Now it is described fully in this new book for the benefit of other would-be actors and comics. The "Harold" is a form of competitive improv involving six or seven players. They take a theme suggestion from the audience and free-associate on the theme, creating a series of rapid-fire one-liners that build into totally unpredictable skits with hilarious results. The teams compete with scoring based on applause. The "Harold" is a fun way to "loosen up" and learn to think quickly, build continuity, develop characterizations and sharpen humor.

From Booklist The brain wave of three improv gurus, this book is a complete guide to improvisation for both novice and professional actors and comics. An outgrowth of the successful curriculum initiated by two of the authors at the Improv Olympic, it describes improvisational tools and techniques, from the "Pattern Game" and "The Hot Spot" to the innovative and sophisticated "Harold." Far from an ordinary how-to handbook, this clearly composed authority on comedic improvisation stresses intuitive thinking, listening skills, continuity, characterization, and, most important, teamwork. Numerous testimonials from reputed actors strengthen the text's credibility, already secured by the expertise of its authorship. Sample scenes and games take hilarious twists while illustrating the inevitability of connections and the importance of justification among team members. The authors' primary focus is the achievement of the group mind, and the book's chapter construction necessarily culminates with that creative misnomer known as the Harold. The manual is flexibly designed to allow for easy performance in both acting classes and professional settings and will prove a valuable reference source to actors and directors alike.

Kathleen Chrysler The "Harold" is a form of competitive improv involving six or seven players. They take a theme suggestion from the audience and "free associate" on the theme into a series of rapid-fire one-liners that build into totally unpredictable skits with hilarious results. The Now it is described fully in Truth In Comedy for the benefit of other aspiring actors and comics. The Harold is a fun way to "loosen up" and learn to think quickly, build continuity, develop characterizations and sharpen humor -- all part of successful improvising. Its format is flexible and allows for easy performance in acting classes and a variety of other settings. An excellent book for any comedy enthusiast. --Midwest Book