

Workshop: BUDDY BINGO

- **Name:** Erica & Ada

- **Description:**

Go on an adventure in this social mixer experiment that combines in-person and virtual participants. Together with your buddy, you will complete challenges, explore the conference grounds, and have fun meeting new people. In-person attendees will need a cell phone or tablet to bring their virtual attendee(s) along with them. Earbuds are also recommended.

Please register in advance: <https://bit.ly/ainbuddybingo>

- **Biography:**

Erica Marx, M.S., is a Leadership and Team Coach who helps social change organizations build their collaborative capacity through designing engaging online events and leading applied improvisation trainings. She is a PCC certified professional coach through the International Coach Federation (ICF), and a board member of the International Applied Improvisation Network where she helped launch the online open space sessions that have run continuously since March of 2020. Erica completed her B.S. at Cornell University and has a Master's in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida

Ada Roseti: I have worked in mass media, as a reporter, producer, and manager, for 25+ years, and five years ago I decided to do something worthwhile with my skills and experience: help get more science in the public space, train scientists to interact more (and better) with the rest of the world. I am researching this subject with science tools and applied improvisation games; I am training scientists, young and old; I am talking to people, and I am getting people to talk to each other; all in order to find out how to better reach my goal: more science in the public life, more public voices in science. I guess we all want to save the world, somehow, and this is my contribution.



Workshop: Yes Let's!

- **Name:** Tony Cealy

- **Description:**

This highly interactive experiential session playfully examines how individuals and groups can use the mechanics of the *Yes Let's* activity for dynamic storytelling and how we can creatively explore oppressive or difficult situations for empowerment and social change.

- **Biography:**

Tony Cealy is an arts practitioner, facilitator and creative producer who makes work designed to engage the public in issues that are important for social change. Inspired by creative arts and design thinking, he works collaboratively with communities, artists, organisations and institutions to design projects, programmes and arts experiences in the public realm.



Workshop: Designing and Facilitating AI: What Story Are You Telling?

- **Name:** Kat Koppett

- **Description:**

"Story is meaning", as the cognitive psychologist Jerome Bruner says. Whether it is to build specific skills such as leadership, creativity or collaboration, or simply to provide an experience of joy or a chance to play, when we know the intention of our session - what story we are looking to co-create - we are much more likely to deliver that outcome. Join for a practical, interactive session full of tips and tools!

- **Biography:**

Kat Koppett is the Eponymous Founder of *Koppett.*, an AI consultancy, and the co-director of The Mopco Improv Theatre. She is the author of *Training to Imagine: Practical Improvisational Theatre Techniques to Enhance Creativity, Teamwork, Leadership and Learning*, co-host of the podcast *Dare to be Human*, and a founding member and the current Vice-President of AIN.



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Warming up to Warm-Ups - A New Approach to Understanding, Designing, and Implementing that all-important first exercise

- **Name:** Marc Spear and Rita Rigano

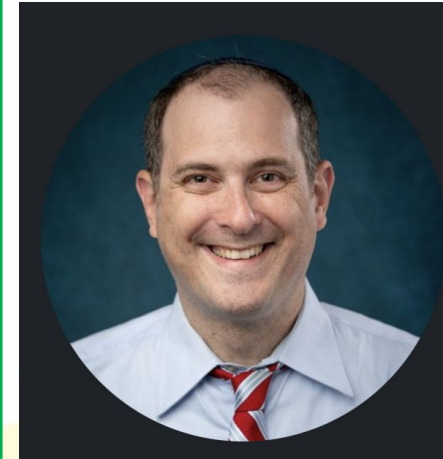
- **Description:**

This session will examine how warmups are “mission-critical” at the start of any group educational experience, even in the context of the traditional classroom or office space and even when the primary purpose of the class or gathering is not specifically improv-related. We will explore how warm-ups function as disruptors that take learners out of their heads, snap them out of their routines, and open them to fresh thinking. We will also explore the ability to escalate the complexity of warm-ups with groups that meet on a regular basis such as a class, a workshop series, or a monthly staff meeting.

- **Biography:**

Marc Spear, MBA, teaches Public Speaking and Communications Skills professionally. He is the Director of the Business Communication Department and a Professor at the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University in New York. He also designs and facilitates workshops for various organizations, groups, and teams.

Rita Rigano is Adjunct Professor of Business Communication at the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University. She has presented at technical conferences and storytelling shows. She taught software skills in corporations for many years, and taught acting/improv/storytelling to elementary, middle, and high schoolers



Workshop: Understanding and Changing Perceptions and World Views Using Applied Improvisation

Name: Brent Darnell

Description:

There is much division on many fronts these days from social to political to economic. This session explores how we can use applied improvisation to better understand others and create bridges to decrease division and increase compassion and connection.

Biography:

Brent Darnell is a playwright, author, actor, improviser, and Dramatists Guild member. He is also a pioneer in bringing emotional intelligence to the construction industry and has taught people skills to technical people at 100 different companies in 20 different countries. He also teaches these skills at Auburn, Penn State, Virginia Tech, and the University of Cincinnati. He has published eight books on emotional intelligence and people skills for technical people.



Workshop: The Future of Applied Improvisation - a panel discussion

- **Name:** Paul Z Jackson and guest panellists

- **Description:**

The field of Applied Improvisation has been around for more than 20 years, with the AIN playing a central role in its development. We can list many successful projects with hundreds of clients, point to a growing bookshelf on the topic, and be proud of the research. In this session, Paul and his guest panellists will lead a discussion on what's coming next and what we can do to shape the future we wish to see.

- **Biography:**

Facilitator, author, trainer, improviser, coach. Paul would like to be better at all of these... and more. Co-founder and long-time President of AIN, he's been pioneering the development of our new profession of Applied Improvisation and is curious about where it will go next. And what part our Network wants to play in that future.



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: 3..2..1 IMPRO! How IMPRO4Business model helps you deal with unexpected events with major impact

Name: Joanna Gdaniec

Description:

IMPROV allows us to act in Business in new way: from the field of heart which is much more powerful in achieving goals than intellectual part of mind. With this workshops I would like to invite you to new journey driven by the field of heart and feel totally different perspective of what business really is today. During our time together we will explore and invite you this new way of working by touching 2 important for IMPROV points

1. How to deal with change in the most transformational and conscious way in business and life
2. "Yes, and ..." as the way to overpass the fear and take full responsibility for results, relations and fulfillment.

Biography:

I'm a polish girl who believe that what comes from the field of heart is the best decision that one can make. I'm a founder, facilitator and experimental user of IMPROsales and IMPRO4business methodology. I have combined the principles of applied IMPROV with the principles of ethical and effective sales and bussines which give business owners, leaders and managers, another level of results and self-concept. I'm a key note speaker on international events for audience more than 3500 people. As from 2014 I have regularly facililtated and passed through IMPROsales and IMPRO4bussiness workshops and development processes for small and big groups which is counting now more than 10 000 participants.



Workshop: Improv 2 Improve...

- **Name:** Ms. Sandi Gansel RN, CRRN, LNC, CNLCP

- **Description:**

We all get frustrated at times when we don't have enough time with our medical provider. We often feel they may not have understood everything we said about our issue. Through participation in Improv 2 Improve: Your Healthcare experience, we will use the principles and skills of improv to be able to effectively interact with your health provider, even those that do not speak your native language.

- **Biography:**

Sandi is an experience critical care and trauma nurse, as well as a Veteran of the United States Air Force Flight Nurse Team. Sandi is also an improv alumnus of Second City, Annoyance, and Artistic New Directions. A determined problem solver, Sandi integrated nursing and improv to create Improv 2 Improve Healthcare Communication. She now enlightens families, healthcare professionals, and ancillary care providers in using Improv skills in their delivery of services to their patients.



Workshop: Developmental Improvisation

- **Name:** Linda Kellogg Fulton

- **Description:**

For the past twenty years, Linda has devoted herself to developing a new heuristic and empirical science-backed method of learning called “Developmental Improvisation,” offering teachers, coaches, therapists and parents a new approach to developing the personal tools kids need to grow and thrive as unique individuals in a fun and supportive environment. In this AIN program, Linda explains how this revolutionary new way of learning strengthens the “Trifecta,” which gets her students using their heart and body as well as their mind to evaluate and navigate through any situation, and utilizes “The Five Pillars,” a guidance tool teachers can use to evaluate each individual student’s progress through this new kind of learning. She discusses her methods and exercises to get students to learn vital skills like collaboration, cooperation, communication, problem-solving, adaptability and more.

- **Biography:**

As an undiagnosed dyslexic Linda was in a constant struggle before anyone knew what dyslexia was. Taking part in an experimental improv class in her freshmen year of 1974 she noticed improv was making changes in her. Eventually improv helped Linda discover how to turn her “disability” into a superpower. With her school Total Improv Kids est. 1999, she honed her abilities of passing the benefits of Improv on to her students for 20 yrs and is now here to show you how you can effect positive changes in children lives too.



Workshop: Finding LGBTQ+ Voices using Improv

- **Name:** Ed Reggi

- **Description:**

Participants discover essential tools improvisation can teach its participants.

As an out gay improviser and through my work within the LGBTQ+ communities, I share my adventures using improvisation to connect individuals who often feel disconnected within their family, school, workplace or neighborhood. Participants explore how psychological safety, trust, and empathy are essential tools improvisation can demonstrate. Participants examine their own identities through adapted improv games.

- **Biography:**

Ed Reggi is a professional actor who co-created an Emmy nominated PBS public affairs program supported entirely by improvisation. He was a member of the first all Queer cast at The Second City and continued his training under its founder Paul Sills, his mentor. He's an applied improvisation facilitator at COCAbiz in St Louis USA, where he designs and leads workshops for North America. Reggi serves as the current AIN Board President and teaches at Washington University School of Medicine and Southern Illinois University.



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Clown's Search for Meaning

- **Name:** Jessica Breitenfeld

- **Description:**

Explore improv on cocaine- the most vulnerable scenes where you explore the art of clown. A clown connects with the audience with his/her eyes. Introducing clown exercises will take your debrief to the next level. Learn how to create transformative spaces filled with humor, how to build fast team building exercises and how to challenge the toughest participants with the LAB experience.

- **Biography:**

Jessica is a therapist in Gestalt Psychotherapy certified by AETG in Spain who focuses on vulnerability through clown. Having traveled to 46 countries and having lived in 8- she has named her company Engage to bring together teams. She has been awarded the Top Female Speaker in Europe 2022 by Toastmasters. She was on the board of Directors and ran the AIN marketing conference in Barcelona in 2018



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: A winged victory for spontaneity

- **Name:** Alex Menhams

- **Description:**

What if spontaneity offers us a deeply felt shift in our relationship with the natural world? In the forest there is no boss, no five-year plan and yet a living harmony emerges. The same is true in improvisation! This hidden connection provides the jumping off point for a joyful exploration of being, belonging and living in response to what is emerging here and now

- **Biography:**

Alex Menhams has been working as a trainer, facilitator and improv coach for longer than his fresh-faced looks might suggest. As a nature-lover, plantsman and student of qi gong he is passionate about helping people come into harmony with themselves, each other and the natural world.



Workshop: Contact Improvisation

- **Name:** Stefanie Böttcher

- **Description:**

Contact improvisation is a physical form of communication that relies on mindfulness, awareness and touch. There is no goal but being present, listening with all your senses and being there for your partner – who, at times, maybe yourself.

It is as close and as intimate as we allow it to be.

In this session, we will explore some of the principles - bring comfortable clothes – we will be spending time on the floor.

- **Biography:**

The silver thread that connects each of my various former and current professions is “facilitation of personal processes under save circumstances”. As a coach, facilitator and supervisory board member I support firms and top executives with a passion for conflict and interpersonal relations.

Contact improvisation was introduced to me 22 years ago when I took workshops in university and it never left my mind, but only recently I have started practising again right after the lockdowns in Germany ended – the complete difference to social distancing...



Workshop: Storytelling to engage and inspire

- **Name:** Susanne Schinko-Fischli

- **Description:**

Storytelling is a human instinct; we all love to listen to a good story! Personal and true stories help to overcome psychological distance and build closeness and trust. They can inspire and engage our audience. To be able to tell an exciting story, you have to know how good stories are constructed and how important sensual details and emotions are. In this workshop you will learn with exercises from improvisational theatre how stories are built up, what makes a story work and how you can apply those techniques for your next presentation, meeting or workshop.

- **Biography:**

Susanne Schinko-Fischli, born in Vienna, studied psychology and acting at the University of Vienna and at the University of California, San Diego. Since 2004, she has been an independent trainer, with a focus on and passion for the methods of applied improvisation. As a trainer in the areas of social skills, storytelling, teamwork and creativity, she works online and offline for well-known organizations in Europe. She is also the author of the books “Applied Improvisation for Coaches and Leaders” and “Learning Social Skills Virtually: Using Applied Improvisation to Enhance Teamwork, Creativity and Storytelling”, published by Routledge in 2019 and 2021.



Workshop: Time to start proving people right, but how?

- **Name:** Terje Brevik

- **Description:**

"Improv? I could never do that!" - Regardless of the context, most people are convinced that improv is not for them. Most improvisers and practitioners will disagree; "everyone can improvise, we're improvising right now!". While we know that to be true, no one likes to be proven wrong, and we gain nothing from convincing them otherwise. Perhaps it's time to start proving them right? This workshop is about finding more efficient ways to define (and sell) our knowledge, experience, and services by being a great improv partner! To offer a few tools to practice what we preach by accepting their offer of no. And start looking for terminology they can connect with, instead of endlessly trying to prove them wrong.

- **Biography:**

Terje Brevik teaches methods and mindset from improv theater to individuals and teams who want to improve communication, collaboration, and creativity, on or off stage. Terje is the founder of Tøyen Impro (for improvisers), Day of Yes (for non-improvisers), and the Short Notice Improv Festival (for both). He holds two Bachelor's degrees, one in Drama and Theater Communication, and the other in Computer Engineering. Terje lives in Oslo, Norway, and already regrets ending this sentence with purple monkey dishwasher.



Workshop: Impro-Storytelling as a method for change

- **Name:** Andre Besseling

- **Description:**

A hands-on workshop to show you ways to apply Impro-storytelling in organizational settings. The workshop will teach you exercises to develop your own storytelling skills and how to make up stories that matter to the audience. It is an introduction to the Impro-Circle, a helpful model about the way improv works on stage and in real life. We will use personal stories to engage the audience and inspire the improviser.

- **Biography:**

Andre Besseling is teaching and performing Improvisation. And mostly both at the same time. So a workshop about improvisation is a way to learn, play and have fun. As a very experienced Storyteller, he knows exactly how to use improvisation in corporate settings. Sometimes for fun, sometimes as the necessary mirror to show the elephant in the room. A workshop with Andre is a warm welcome to improvisation in your daily life.



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Interacting with the audience

- **Name:** Pedro Borges

- **Description:**

In this workshop we will debate and explore techniques to help us deal with the audience, to make them more open to playfulness and to improvisation. Fear and Ego are the two major obstacles we need to overcome in order to make them connect to the Here and Now. It's important to understand what they feel, and what goes in their minds. How can we engage with an audience member and how far can we take him into our Improvised world? For this session we will be using some of our own personal experience with audience members and also techniques learned from the master of Interactive Theater, Jeff Wirth. And we will all play and experiment.

- **Biography:**

Pedro and Marta are Portuguese actors that specialized in Improvisational Theater since 2008 and they work as full-time improvisers/teachers/managers in the successful Portuguese ensemble OS IMPROVÁVEIS, counting more than 950 stage presentations and 100.000 spectators, in several shows that the group has created. They have participated in countless international Improv festivals and events around the world as guest teachers and performers. They also work as voice actors and corporate trainers for big companies and universities using applied Improvisation techniques.

More about their company: www.osimprovaveis.com



Workshop: Improv(e) your growth-mindset

- **Name:** Cindy Pittens

- **Description:**

We learn the basics of the Mindset theory from Carol Dweck and discover our own mindset regarding failing, our learning potential and the self-image you extract from that! And then of course... How does Improvisation support your growth mindset? And – the other way around – how does a growth mindset support your improv!

- **Biography:**

Cindy Pittens loves human development and improv. So, both paths have had the fullest attention in her life. She studied social work, theatre academy (Koningstheaterakademie) and Innovative training/coaching. So, when she started CP IMPRO, these paths were combined. She is teaching students and teams about personal growth and how you can fully support yourself in your personal development.



Workshop: Using Structured Improvisation to Serve People with Disabilities

- **Name:** Benjamin Lloyd

- **Description:**

Handling scripts, reading and memorizing can be challenging for the differently abled. And yet this community thrills at the opportunity to explore themselves, celebrate each other and create imaginary worlds through dramatic play. Come learn the simple process of co-creating a three-act narrative structure and then filling it with extraordinary characters. Along the way, we will learn about emotional intelligence, confident communication, supportive collaboration and narrative structure.

- **Biography:**

Benjamin Lloyd is the Executive Director of Bright Invention, Inc. based in Philadelphia, USA. He has been teaching and coaching people with autism, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome and other visible and invisible disabilities since 2015.



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Play-Break for Recovery

- **Name:** Annemarie Steen

- **Description:**

Do you know the secret to consistently highly performing individuals? They know how to integrate micro moments of recovery into their working routine. This workshop will inspire you to make play-breaks your and your clients daily habit, not only because they are fun, but because we need them to thrive.

- **Biography:**

TEDx speaker and facilitator Annemarie Steen (www.steentrain.com) is Serious about Playfulness in biz. She works with students and large corporates on the topics of Playful Leadership, Culture of Innovation, Design Thinking and Creativity. Being stuck at home inspired her to start offering online Play-Breaks that resulted in a new business (www.play-break.com).



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: World Building Through Improv: Co-creating Stories of Justice and Empowerment

- **Name:** Amy J. Ressler, MFA, EdD

- **Description:**

In this workshop, we will use a well-tested strategy for creating large group improvised stories, based on mythic themes. "Real" life examples will be shared from over 18 years' experience devising improvised good vs. evil dramas with over 100, intergenerational participants. We will practice several methods of building belief and commitment to the drama, enact one or more exciting episodes, (depending on available time) and deconstruct the experience to reflect, process and learn from one another.

- **Biography:**

Courage, Creativity and Compassion are the guideposts for Dr. Ressler's work as a specialist in drama for learning. She joined the theatre faculty at CSU Bakersfield in 2018 after 25 years in professional and educational theatre. She guides students to grow in improvisational mindset, developing flexibility, awareness, empathy and listening skills, while using drama methods to achieve their teaching objectives. She directs CSU Bakersfield's annual theatre production for young audiences, which tours to schools throughout the Bakersfield area.

For the past 18 years, Dr. Ressler has honed her creativity skills by working with youth each summer in a major world-building immersive drama camp, where she portrays the role of Professor Bumblebone, headmistress of the Frogwarts School of Wizardry.



Workshop: Kick-ass facilitation

• **Name:** Jani Turku

• **Description:**

"What happens now, how long this will take and what's expected of me?" ponders the participant upon entering a workshop or experiential training. As a facilitator by adding a well-thought structure to your applied improv workshops is gonna help you to bring out the best in your participants. It helps you to design learning better, gives facilitator confidence and introduces psychological safety to participants. This workshop introduces some ready-to-use structures and tested frameworks to level up your workshops, meetings and co-creation sessions. It's your content, participants' experience, these are the support frames to get you going.

• **Biography:**

Jani Turku is an engineer by training, improviser by heart. A detour in research and B2B sales kick-started Jani's professional career as a trainer of experiential learning and in facilitating workshops and processes. Jani's company Ideapakka produces a family of handy tools that comprises of different facilitation methods and methodologies.



Workshop: Applied Improvisors: Uniquely Situated to Build a Model of Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration

- **Name:** Vicki Crooks

- **Description:**

This session is designed to explore discipline specific approaches to the use of applied improvisation and the development of cross-disciplinary collaboration in higher education. Join a discussion about how practitioners in other academic fields approach and promote this work. Share how you use AI in your discipline. What obstacles and solutions have you encountered? Let's explore the possibilities for developing approaches, guidelines, or strategies for best practices related to using, promoting, and collaborating as applied improvisers at our colleges and universities. We may not be able to immediately eliminate the current barriers to integrated educational approaches that are currently in place. However, we can make a difference.

- **Biography:**

Vicki Crooks is a new member of the AIN Board of Directors. She is Assistant Professor of Communication at Oregon Institute of Technology, where she specializes in teaching interpersonal, intercultural, small group, and healthcare communication. She regularly uses AI in her classes and leads workshops at professional conferences. Vicki has taught communication, speech, and theatre over the past 15 years at a variety of institutions. Prior to her time in academia, Vicki taught theater and speech at the high school level, co-founded and led a thriving children's theater program, and directed numerous school and community theater productions. She has 4 adult children and several adorable grandchildren and spends her non-teaching time in Ohio with her husband of 41 years, Greg.



Workshop: Improv-informed research: getting honest about our ways of knowing

- **Name:** Peter Felsman (he/him/his)

- **Description:**

How do we research improv? This is not a rhetorical question, but a challenging one we will take on in this workshop. Through discussion and group exercises, we'll apply improv lessons to research philosophy, specifically to researching improv. If we succeed, we'll leave this workshop with some actionable next steps to advance the collaboration of improvisers and researchers in the future.

- **Biography:**

Peter Felsman (he/him/his), PhD, LMSW, currently holds the position of Assistant Professor of Social Work at Northern Michigan University. He previously completed postdoctoral work at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University, with a joint appointment in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Felsman has taught improv, clinical and research methods. His published research on improv can be found in *The Arts of Psychotherapy* and *Thinking Skills and Creativity*.



Workshop: SWARM: How to Disrupt Power Structures in Education Using Digital Improvisation

- **Name:** María Aladren

- **Description:**

Today's pedagogy spills over with new digital educational spaces and little guidance. Those spaces present an opportunity for educators to increase creativity, foment collaboration and disrupt the inherent old structures in our classrooms. Improvisational thinking and methods can help find new ways to relate and create collaborative laboratories that benefit students, teachers, and ultimately, our communities. In this workshop, we will explore improvised online collaboration and look over some ideas to build on!

- **Biography:**

Maria Aladren is a writer, director, and educator who just left the United States after decades to return to Spain. With her husband, Louis, she runs Pegasus51/Performance Project (Best of the Fest, Frontera Fest, and NY Fringe pipeline). Until recently, Maria was the chair of the Theatre Department at Union County College in New Jersey. Her work revolves around striving to give voice to artists from underrepresented backgrounds.



Workshop: Play it Forward: From Insights to Action

- **Name:** Erika Marx

- **Description:**

Only a few hours of the 2022 conference remain and your head is probably spinning with new ideas, connections, and possibilities. In this playful and grounded session we'll move through a series of improv-based activities where you will connect with your most meaningful insights, play with future possibilities and creatively navigate potential obstacles. You'll leave the session with immediate actions to take while you're still at the conference, surrounded by this wildly supportive community.

- **Biography:**

Erica Marx, M.S., is a Leadership and Team Coach who helps social change organizations build their collaborative capacity through designing engaging online events and leading applied improvisation trainings. She is a PCC certified professional coach through the International Coach Federation (ICF), and a board member of the International Applied Improvisation Network where she helped launch the online open space sessions that have run continuously since March of 2020. Erica completed her B.S. at Cornell University and has a Master's in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida
More at: www.ericamarx.com



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Selling your Art to Corporate

- **Name:** Marta Borges

- **Description:**

Selling "Improvisation" to the corporate world can be hard, you probably know that by now. Selling your improvised show, a talk or a training program to a certain corporate institution has higher stakes than the occasional impro show at the local venue. We will go through the process of selling Impro and its specificities, from both the seller's (artist) point of view and the buyer's (corporate). How can we, Improvisers, be seen as valuable and relevant to their businesses and how can we overcome their natural fear of the word "Improvisation"? Marta and Pedro from Os Improváveis will share their knowledge and experience of business improvisation and offer some valuable insights on how to do it more effectively. Bring your questions, ideas and experiences to the table and we'll have your back.

- **Biography:**

Pedro and Marta are Portuguese actors that specialized in Improvisational Theater since 2008 and they work as full-time improvisers/teachers/managers in the successful Portuguese ensemble OS IMPROVÁVEIS, counting more than 950 stage presentations and 100.000 spectators, in several shows that the group has created. They have participated in countless international Improv festivals and events around the world as guest teachers and performers. They also work as voice actors and corporate trainers for big companies and universities using applied Improvisation techniques



Applied Improvisation Network

Workshop: Applied Improv to Impact Homelessness

- **Name:** Elizabeth Byland

- **Description:**

With more than 20% of our worldwide population lacking adequate housing, it's more important than ever that we educate and empower ourselves and others to advocate for this marginalized community. This interactive workshop is designed for facilitators, community leaders, and those ready to make an impact and advocate for our homeless population. In this 60- minute (*Train the Trainer*) experiential session, Elizabeth Byland will share her insights, collected data, and approach, while guiding workshop participants through improv exercises needed to facilitate improv sessions within their community that will empower those moving forward through homelessness.

- **Biography:**

Elizabeth Byland holds a joint faculty position at Virginia Commonwealth University as the Head of Improv with the School of the Arts and Director of Applied Medical Improv with the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care. Elizabeth was just one of eight awardees that received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Medical Colleges for the applied improv program called "Applied Improv to Impact Homelessness." The improv program combines healthcare students with community clients that are moving through homelessness, and the creative tools necessary to practice compassionate communication, self-advocacy, and collaboration. Elizabeth says, "This program has by far been the most important work of my career to date. I've been developing and facilitating this program for 1.5 years and I am honoured to share my observations as a workshop presenter at the AIN Conference this year in Spain."



Workshop: Applied Improvisation for Science Communication trainings: going from "how" to "why"

- **Name:** Ada Roseti

- **Description:**

Creating a science communication training curriculum is usually a race to find the fastest way to impart the best set of skills to people who are already interested in talking with others about their research. Sometimes the scientists' motivation to engage with the public is lacking or is wrong in relation to the subject of their research. My quest is to change the approach from "how" to talk to the public, if you are a scientist, to "why" should you want to do it, which is a different (and potentially better) starting point of a conversation between the expert and the rest of the world. The workshop will start by clarifying and agreeing on a few desired outcomes of such trainings, then we will play a few games (Time Traveller is a particular favourite for SciComm training sessions), reflect on how they deliver the outcomes and move to work together to address those issues not solved by this approach.

- **Biography:**

I have worked in mass media, as a reporter, producer, and manager, for 25+ years, and five years ago I decided to do something worthwhile with my skills and experience: help get more science in the public space, train scientists to interact more (and better) with the rest of the world. I am researching this subject with science tools and applied improvisation games; I am training scientists, young and old; I am talking to people, and I am getting people to talk to each other; all in order to find out how to better reach my goal: more science in the public life, more public voices in science. I guess we all want to save the world, somehow, and this is my contribution.



Workshop: How to tailor Improv to Corporate Teams

- **Name:** Miguel Herrera

- **Description:**

In this workshop you'll learn by doing! Join the session to learn to use Instructional Design best practices, and try your hand at building your Improv Workshops for Corporate teams.

- **Biography:**

My passion for uncertainty goes beyond the stage. I left Argentina and travelled the world, living in 6 different countries and settling for now in Ireland. I've worked in both small ambitious start-ups and big tech companies. I studied Theatre, Improv, Business, Negotiation and Coaching. My philosophy is: life is a stage, and if we learn to live as improvisers we can live without being afraid to fail, always looking for opportunities, and trusting the outcome: basically we can lead a "Yes, and" life. I took on this principle implement it to the maximum expression in business, helping create Psychological Safety in teams.



AINx Talk: How to apply improvisation into Design Thinking process?

- **Name:** Bart Jurkowski

- **Description:**

Design Thinking is a process for creative problem solving and generating innovative products and services. Recently it has been widely used by companies around the world. During this talk you will know 5 phases of the process and the parts where you can apply improvisation techniques to enhance the results.

- **Biography:**

Bart Jurkowski - psychologist, trainer, and improviser. Founder of I'MPRO IMPRO - an organization that helps people grow their professional skills through improvisation. Ex-UX Senior Consultant at Deloitte Digital where he was designing user experience and innovation through the Design Thinking process.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx Talk: Mental Health and Applied Improvisation

Name: Brent Darnell

Description:

There is much discussion these days about mental health. This session explores how we can use applied improvisation principles to begin the discussion about mental health and explore ways to increase connection and understanding.

Biography:

Brent Darnell is a playwright, author, actor, improviser, and Dramatists Guild member. He is also a pioneer in bringing emotional intelligence to the construction industry and has taught people skills to technical people at 100 different companies in 20 different countries. He also teaches these skills at Auburn, Penn State, Virginia Tech, and the University of Cincinnati. He has published eight books on emotional intelligence and people skills for technical people.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx Talk: US vs.THEM

- **Name:** Hall Peller

- **Description:**

How to defeat the “Us v. Them” culture using applied improvisation and why it is so important to get rid of silos in your workplace.

- **Biography:**

Hal has been facilitating Spolin Improvisation since 1981. Hal ' s corporate work includes Fortune 500 companies such as NEC, GE Financial Services, and the Pulte Group. Also, international companies such as Petronas Energy, and Asian Aviation Center of Excellence in Malaysia; as well as GIC Private Limited and Neoedge in Singapore. Hal is a Certified Practitioner of Applied Improvisation Network.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx talk: Improvisation combats ageism

- **Name:** Jan Verlinden

- **Description:**

The definition of the World Health Organisation (WHO) of ageism is: “the reference to stereotypes (how we think), prejudices (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) towards oneself or oneself based on age”. According to the WHO, half the world’s population is ageist against other people! It is detrimental to especially elder people: they die 7,5 years earlier because of related health sufferings! It is costly for the society: in the USA alone 63 billion dollars a year The solution for this problem is **real** connection and **true** communication with the elder. And it is exactly improvisation that has the tools to realize that ;-)

- **Biography:**

Two Master degrees: 1) Economics and 2) International Relations (University of Antwerp).

Ten-days workshops Keith Johnstone: one in Berlin and two in London.

Translation iTi guide “A Guide to Keith Johnstone's Theatresports” into the Dutch language.

Impro sessions at “Zorgbedrijf Antwerp” (residential care center) to elder people to strengthen their own self image, purpose is to do performances to show their undervalued potential.

Preparing own improgroup for performing the format “Life Game” of Keith Johnstone.



AINx talk: Identify your "now" to design your "next" with AI

- **Name:** Aija Isalniece

- **Description:**

You know the famous sentence that "all answers are in you". However, how to get them out? And what to do with them afterwards? And what if I don't like them? So many questions, right? Let me introduce you methods from AI, that can be used to answer all these questions and can help you with Rolfe critical thinking model "What? So what? And now What?" in exact sequence. You can use it in business and personal coaching sessions as well as in business trainings (or even for your self)

- **Biography:**

Aija Isalniece is improvisation theater actress with 20+ years of experience, lecturer, author, entrepreneur. 10+ years working in middle and high-level management in international companies and then four years ago left that carrier and introduced applied improvisation in her home country Latvia. Working as AI trainer since. Has a master's degree in business psychology and supervision (business coaching) and in her thesis introduced AI methods for business coaching sessions.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx Talk: Improv: Therapy or fun

- **Name:** Jessica Breitenfeld

- **Description:**

Have you wondered why improv transforms lives? Psychotherapy uses the concept of LAB: Listen. Accept. Build. Learn how to get deeper with corporate clients by training the mindset of Adaptability Quotient without mentioning Improv or Therapy. By speaking the client's language, giving them results and making sure they feel understood you can expand your impact. We will explore how improv changes the mindset of participants, which is what clients notice and how important debrief is for change instead of just games.

- **Biography:**

Jessica is a therapist in Gestalt Psychotherapy certified by AETG in Spain who focuses on vulnerability through clown. Having traveled to 46 countries and having lived in 8- she has named her company Engage to bring together teams. She has been awarded the Top Female Speaker in Europe 2022 by Toastmasters. She was on the board of Directors and ran the AIN marketing conference in Barcelona in 2018

<https://www.JessicaBreitenfeld.com>



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx talk: Improvisation through the ages

- **Name:** Andre Besseling

- **Description:**

A answer to the important question, about the chicken or the egg. Or in this case: what was first: scripted or improvised theatre?

- **Biography:**

Andre Besseling is already living an impro-life for many years. As a pioneer in Dutch improv theatre, he developed different formats and exercises. He has been teaching and performing in organizations, schools, theatre groups and on lots of weird occasions. Wherever he can try to change the world by using improv, he tries to do this. Recently he is more into Solo-Improv, as a way to show organizations, what should be said, but stays beneath the surface.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx talk: Applied Improvisation in A Youth Maker Space: The VIVITA Philippine Experience

- **Name:** Gabe Mercado

- **Description:**

Veteran applied improviser Gabe Mercado set up VIVISTOP Baguio, a free maker space for kids in the Philippines. Applied improvisation principles are used extensively in this self-directed learning space dedicated to accelerating creativity for kids aged 8-15.

- **Biography:**

Gabe Mercado has over two decades of experience teaching and performing improvisation in the Philippines as the founder of SPIT and Third World Improv. He has worked across Asia, Europe and North America as an applied improvisation practitioner working with different corporate, government and humanitarian organizations. He currently heads VIVITA Philippines, a free creativity accelerator for kids.



Applied Improvisation Network

AINx talk: Stories of improvisation. Showing in-depth interviews with improvisers and experts from all over the world and professions

- **Name:** Lukas Zenk

- **Description:**

In a research project, we conducted several interviews with experts, who applied improvisation in diverse fields (www.improvisation.science). In the presentation, I will take stock of some of these stories: What stories are told about improvisation in the arts (Improvisational Theater)? What kind of metaphors do trainers choose to use improvisation for continuing education (Applied Improvisation). What narrative is told in research to describe improvisation in organizations? (Organizational Improvisation)? And how is improvisation addressed in agile transformation of organizations (Business Improvisation)?

- **Biography:**

Lukas works as Professor for Innovation and Network Research and is Deputy Head for Research at the Department of Knowledge and Communication Management, Danube University Krems, Austria. In his applied research projects, he investigates how people collaboratively solve complex problems and how creative and innovative processes can be supported. Currently, he leads the research project on Organizational Improvisation and organizes the yearly 5-day university course on Business Improvisation

