

Very Very Improv Theatre

House Rules for Community Jams

January 17, 2024

Very Very Improv's Community Jams are designed to give improvisers stage time in a supportive environment where performers can develop their skills and learn from other improvisers in a performance setting.

To create the best opportunities for improvisers to thrive, Very Very Improv requires all performers to commit to the following:

1. **Have fun.** Improvised theatre is an expression of creativity, imagination and play. Help make performances enjoyable for both the improvisers and the audience, contributing to an environment where improvisers are excited to work.
2. **Positively participate:** Help ensure that everyone associated with Very Very Improv Theatre - company members, students, volunteers, partners and the audience - can fully participate in the company's work. Be intentional in your words and actions helping create a space that includes and is safe for everyone.
3. **Be curious.** We encourage everyone to ask questions, explore ideas, create and find opportunities to learn something new while being mindful of how our choices impact others.
4. **Choose generosity.** Give the best you can to the work and believe the best of others. Everyone will fail but recognize that failure is an opportunity to practice humility and forgiveness. Give yourself and others the space to learn and do better.
5. **Team play.** Improvisers depend on one another to be successful, therefore take steps to build professional relationships, trust, and confidence with other improvisers, supporting and encouraging each other to excel.
6. **Show respect.** Both on-stage and off, all those working with Very Very Improv Theatre are expected to treat everyone and the playing space with respect. This includes:
 - **respecting physical boundaries.** Don't do anything physically dangerous to yourself or your scene partner. Do not hit, shove, lift, tackle, or otherwise place others in the way of physical harm.
 - **respecting sexual boundaries, on and off stage.** Do not grope, simulate sex, touch sexual areas, or be otherwise sexually aggressive toward others.
 - **respecting the space you are in and don't do anything to damage it.** Do not punch walls or doors, throw chairs, or place yourself in a physically dangerous position.

- **ensuring that you have consent** before engaging physically with your classmates or fellow performers.
- **creating and maintaining a harassment-free environment.** Harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual attention, deliberate intimidation, inappropriate physical contact, offensive comments relating to race, gender, religion, or identity, and advocacy or encouragement of any of the above behaviours.
- **acting professionally.** Improvisers are expected to show up on time, sober throughout the show, and dressed properly to perform.

Any improviser who does not adhere to the house rules, determined by those leading the Community Jams, could be denied the ability to participate, may be asked to leave the venue, and may be denied the opportunity to participate in future Community Jams.

We understand that, due to the unscripted nature of improv, performances can veer into unsafe territory. We believe that having a pathway for response to unsafe conditions and harassment helps to uphold the values of the company expressed in the house rules.

Improvisers are encouraged to report any concerns or experiences that do not align with the house rules to a member of the Very Very Improv Theatre cast or a staff person at the performance venue. All reports will be taken with the utmost seriousness and the company will take steps to prevent future occurrences.

**Very Very Improv Theatre's Community Jam House Rules are based on the company's Code of Conduct (CoC) which in turn are based on the CoC of Blind Tiger Improv (NY) which themselves are inspired by the Chicago Theater Standards.*