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Behind The Scenes: Improvising Long Form



Synopsis

"Mick has been the catalyst for the most messed-up, funny, smart, low-budget, loud, subversive, hilarious, mind-expanding improv shows of his time." Bob Odenkirk, star of *Better Call Saul* In this follow-up to his highly regarded book *Improvise. Scene from the Inside Out*, globally acclaimed improviser, director, and instructor Mick Napier focuses on the complexities and theories of long form improvisation. This extended form of improvisation invites performers to be inspired for at least thirty minutes by a single suggestion as they push their creativity to the limit. Napier taps into more than 30 years of experience and distills his tools for success into practical, engaging lessons: -The art of introductions and edits -Different approaches to openers -Pros and cons of the back line -Why it's okay to be funny -Finding the dominant energy -Sustaining a strong character

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book! LOVED IT! Like Mick's first book, he makes you think differently about scenic improv and in this book he makes you think differently about long form. He lays his points out clearly and does a terrific job explaining the reasons behind his theories, and back them up with examples from his years of experience. He then gives you practical exercises to address these issues, that are simple and doable. Which is important to me. Of course, he speaks honestly and challenges old ideas about long form, confronting the reader on issues that improvisers rarely admit to like: it's okay to get laughs in long form. He also discusses the issue on how to make long form more accessible to a larger audience and the importance of giving a proper introduction to include them. So brilliant, so simple, yet if you have been improvising for a fair amount of time you may have over

looked it. Mick comes from a director's eye, so he locates things that a player may not and like the great improv books he does not try to cram his ideas down your throat. You get the sense he's letting the reader come to his own conclusions. It is clear he's put a lot of time and thought and passion into this book. I highly recommend this book! Did I say I loved this book? I did.

This is not a 'how to' book about long form improvisation. Mick Napier has written a treatise that challenges and empowers students of long form improvisation to do their best work. What this book provides is valuable knowledge on how to educate your audience on what improvisation is so that they can then enjoy the comedy experience. It also emboldens the actors to evaluate seemingly basic choices in scenes that can enhance the work no matter what improvisational school of thought one subscribes to. If nothing else, read the chapter about 'The Back Line' because it's a game changer for anyone interested in improving the long form experience for audiences. This book is a must read!

Long form improvisation has been waiting for this book to call out all the bull that is going on in the industry. The knowledge in this book will make your shows tighter and funnier. Mick is the best in the biz. You could drop this book in the middle of a terrible improv show and if the actors were to read it and put its lessons into practice, they would be given a standing ovation by the end.

More than a read, it's a resource. This book is full of improv exercises to make you and your improv show better, faster, stronger. Don't bother dog-eared important pages, you will dog-eared the entire book. I recommend this book to all my students and improv friends. If you want to put on a great improv show and feel great doing it, I highly recommend this book.

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