

George Akers & Kelly Nielsen
Senior Seminar Database
10-15-08

Improv, Acting, Sketch, Comedy, Film stuff

Acting as a Career

Henry, Mari Lyn and Lynne Rogers. *How to Be A Working Actor*. Back Stage Books, 2008.
All the info an aspiring actor could need about unions, agents, contracts, and other business aspects of the acting profession. Specific info included on how to get along in specific cities.

Lemack, Brad. *The Business of Acting*. Ingenuity Press USA, 2002.
Another great book filled tons of practical advice on how to start a career in show business.

Improv and Comedy Resources

Atkins, Greg. *Improv!* Heinemann Press, 1994.
A great big book of improv games and exercises.

Gwinn, Peter. *Group Improvisation*. Meriwether Publishing, 2007.
Another fantastic book full of improv games and exercises. Additional material included from Charna Halpern, owner of the iO improv theatre in Chicago.

Libera, Anne. *The Second City Almanac of Improvisation*. Northwestern University Press, 2004.
A history of improv and lots of articles about what makes good improv from some of the biggest names in it.

Vorhaus, John. *The Comic Toolbox*. Silman James Press, 1994.
An exploration of the nature of comedy including the types of comic characters and comic storylines. A good read for someone interested in comedy.

Getting connected

Chicago Improv Network
Chicagoimprov.org

The main internet forum for people doing improv in Chicago. You can post anything here—casting calls, show dates, roommate needs, stuff for sale and anything else that could possible relate to people in improv.

Performink
Performink.com

Chicago's main website that lists auditions and casting calls.

Improv Theatres

The Annoyance Theatre
Annoyanceproductions.com

The third biggest improv theatre in Chicago. Check site for shows and classes. Known for being more laid back and easy-going. Also, the shows – “Co-ed Prison Sluts” for example—tend to be pretty vulgar.

Boom Chicago
BoomChicago.nl

A really big and well-known improv theatre in Amsterdam that many Chicago performers go to. Check website for info on auditions.

Comedy Sportz Chicago
Comedysportzchicago.com

The big spot for short-form improv in Chicago. The site tells you all about their shows and classes.

iO
<http://chicago.ioimprov.com/>

The renowned iO improv theatre in Chicago's website. This is the next big one besides Second City. Their focus is on Long-form improvisation. Check the website to see what shows are up and when you can sign up for classes.

The Neo-Futurists
Neofuturists.org

A big theatre in Chicago that performs a famous show called “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind,” which is 30 plays in 60 minutes. One of the most popular semi-improvisational theatre experiences in the city. They offer classes too.

The Playground Theatre
The-playground.com

The fourth biggest improv theatre in Chicago. Check the site for shows and how to form a team to perform there.

The Second City
<http://www.secondcity.com/?id=theatres/chicago>

The website for the renowned Second City sketch comedy theatre. Check the site for shows and classes.

Improv Festivals

Chicago Improv Festival

Chicagoimprovfestival.org

Big improv festival every year that your group can submit to participate in.

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Edfringe.com

One of the biggest fringe festivals in the world so if you're in the UK with your theatre troupe, do it.

The New York International Fringe Festival (FringeNYC)

www.fringenyc.org

Another big fringe theatre festival to apply to.

San Francisco Fringe Festival

www.sffringe.org

Another fringe festival to try performing at.

Sketch Comedy

Chicago Sketch Fest

Chicagosketchfest.com

Chicago's biggest sketch comedy festival. Go to the website to get the application form.

Funnyordie.com

Will Ferrell's sketch comedy website. Check it out for inspiration and ideas.

HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen

<http://www.hbo.com/comedy/>

This is a big comedy festival that many of the best performers in Chicago prepare a show for. Something to look at and think about as a festival to submit to further down the road.

Sketch Center

Sketchcenter.com

Find info on sketch comedy festivals, groups, and events across the country here.

SNL's Website

http://www.nbc.com/Saturday_Night_Live/

Watch videos of new and classic sketches for inspiration and guidance on writing and performing sketch comedy.

Chicago Theatre

Steppenwolf Theatre Company

<http://www.steppenwolf.org/work/casting.aspx>

Info on Equity and non-Equity casting at Steppenwolf theatre in Chicago.

Theatre in Chicago website

<http://www.theatreinchicago.com/>

Website that tells you everything that is going on with theatre in Chicago. It tells you what shows are playing, info about all the theatres, and more.

Chicago Film

Around the Coyote Short Film and Video Film Festival

www.aroundthecoyote.org

A film festival in Chicago. Check site on how to submit work.

The Chicago International Film Festival

www.chicagofilmfestival.org

Big film festival for the city. Go to website to find out how to enter your work.

Chicago Underground Film Festival

www.cuff.org

Another film festival that you can submit your work to.

Agencies

Ambassador Talent Booking Agency

333 N. Michigan Avenue, #910

Chicago, IL 60601

312-641-3491

A potential agency for the aspiring actor.

Creative Directory

www.creativedir.com/

List of all the talent agencies in Chicago.

Lily's Talent Agency Incorporated

1301 West Washington Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60607

312-780-0123

Another potential agency for actors.

Headshots

Chicagoheadshot.com

Photographer Rance Rizzutto's website. A highly recommended headshot photographer by people in improv.

Website Building

GoDaddy.com

Website where you can purchase your URL and web hosting for your new website.

Business Cards

www.vistaprint.com

Website where you can buy business cards for very cheap or free.

Atlanta Improv

Dad's Garage Theatre

DadsGarage.com

Dad's Garage is the biggest improv theatre in Atlanta and is widely respected beyond the city limits for its high quality improv and scripted theatre. Take classes or see shows here.

Relapse Theatre

Relapsecomedy.com

The Relapse Theatre is another good improv and comedy theatre.

Whole World Theatre

Wholeworldtheatre.com

Another big improv theatre in Atlanta worth being familiar with.

Living in Chicago as an actor

Housing

Chicago.apartments.com

A Chicago apartment finding site. Lets you search by price and location.

Chicagoapartmentfinders.com

Another apartment search site. Also lets you search by price and location.

thecha.org

Chicago Housing Authority's official website. Information on finding affordable housing.

General Needs

Chicago.Craigslist.org

An Internet classifieds that lists everything from "roommate needed" to stuff for sale and more.

Transportation

Transitchicago.com

All the information about public transportation on the CTA in Chicago.

General City Info

CityofChicago.org

The mayor's official website on the city that includes info about libraries, parks, taxes, and recreation in the city.

Timeout.com/Chicago

Information on all the events and goings on in the city from theatre, comedy, movies, special community events, and more.

Personal Finances

Taylor-Hough, Deborah. *Frugal Living for Dummies*. Wiley Publishing, 2003.

A great book filled with tips on how to save money and live cheaply.

Garrison, Larry and Wallace Wang. *Breaking Into Acting for Dummies*. Wiley Publishing, 2002.

A book that tells you lots of great advice on starting a career in acting and also tips on saving money.

Tyson, Eric. *Personal Finance for Dummies*. Wiley Publishing, 2006.

All the info you need about how to manage your finances, including saving and growing your money.

mindyourfinances.com

Website with variety of resources for managing your personal finances.

Food

The Chicago Food Bank Website

Chicagosfoodbank.org

The Chicago website with information on all the free food pantries in the city.

Food Stamps

<http://www.commodityfood.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/states/Illinois.htm>

Department of Agriculture's food stamp application website for Illinois residents.

Jobs

Chicagojobs.com

Job search website.

Chicagojobs.net
Another job search website.

Community Arts and Therapeutic Arts

Programs and Theaters Committed to Community, Activism, and Arts

Community Arts Network
www.communityarts.net/

Excellent resource for all interested in community-based art. Wide selection of resource types, including job listings, current blogs, educational programs, variety of disciplines, etc. Highly recommended.

Art Reach Foundation
artreachfoundation.org

Non-profit organization based out of Atlanta with aim of helping children cope with trauma of war, natural disaster, etc. through methods of arts therapies.

Community Performance, Inc.
www.comperf.com

Community Performance, Inc. works with communities and organizations to produce performances generated from stories.

Headlines Theatre
www.headlinestheatre.com/intro.htm

Theatre based in Vancouver that focuses on politically conscious, community-specific, issue-oriented theatre, with notable emphasis on using Theater of the Oppressed.

Dramatic Action: Community Engaged Theatre in Canada and Beyond
www.communityengagedtheatre.ca

Website focused on providing information on community engaged theatre, with specific focus on Canada. Has fair number of links to articles on the topic.

Sojourn Theatre
www.sojourntheatre.org/

Noteworthy theatre based in Seattle. Focuses on creating original works on pressing issues and performance in non-traditional settings.

Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed
www.ptoweb.org/home.html

Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed website. Provides brief history, conference information, etc.

Alternate Roots

www.alternateroots.org

Excellent program in Atlanta area focused on intersection of arts and activism in community-based settings.

Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning

artsinlearning.org

Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning (APAL) homepage. This is a non-profit program dedicated to building connections between educators and teaching artists to create fresh and engaging learning experiences for students.

Center for Community Arts Partnerships

<http://www.colum.edu/CCAP/index.php>

Center for Community Arts Partnerships at Columbia College Chicago. Program intended to unite educators, artists, students, community members through arts-integrated education.

Drama Therapy

nadt.org

National Association for Drama Therapy's website. Contains drama therapy resources and information on how to become a certified drama therapist.

dramatherapyfund.org

Non-profit organization with goal of supporting development and growth of drama therapy.

www.nccata.org/index.htm

National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Association's website. Contains information on jobs, grants, conferences, etc.

www.artsintherapy.com

Arts in Therapy Network is a non-profit dedicated to providing online community for healing arts therapists. Contains descriptions of a variety of healing arts, among other resources.

<http://www.dramatherapyinstitutela.com/index.htm>

Institute for studying drama therapy, located in Los Angeles. Program can supplement a complimentary masters degree to provide one with alternate certification with the National Association for Drama Therapy.

Higher Education

Graduate Programs

steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/dramatherapy
NYU's graduate program in drama therapy.

www.ciis.edu/academics/pdt.html
California Institute of Integral Studies' graduate program in drama therapy.

art-therapy.concordia.ca/
Concordia University's Arts therapy (which includes drama therapy) program.

<http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-pgdip-pgcert-cross-sectoral-community-arts/>
Masters' program in Cross-Sectoral and Community Arts at Goldsmiths University of London.

<http://sps.cuny.edu/programs/maat/index.html>
M.A. program in Applied Theatre at the School of Professional Studies in The City University of New York.

performance.tisch.nyu.edu/page/home
Performance Studies M.A. program at NYU.

<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/edtheatre>
Graduate program in Educational theatre at NYU. Only one of its kind in country.

http://www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad/degree_programs/graduate/performance_as_public_practice/ma_performance_as_public_practice/index.cfm
Performance as Public Practice graduate program at University of Texas at Austin.

http://www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad/degree_programs/graduate/mfa_dty/index.cfm
Drama and Theatre for Youth M.F.A. program at University of Texas at Austin.

Surviving Grad School

www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Lakes/6007/Survival.htm
Graduate Student Survival Kit provides large number of links to sites related either specifically to the graduate student experience or to useful research resources.

www.cs.indiana.edu/how.2b/how.2b.html
Paper outlines how to be a good grad student.

gradschool.about.com/cs/survival/
Compilation of links on about.com regarding grad school and its survival.

Exploring Career Paths

Basalla, Susan Elizabeth. *"So What are You Going To Do With That?": Finding Careers Outside Academia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Book explores career options beyond academia.

Goldberg, Jan. *Great Jobs for Theater Majors*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Book details variety of career paths, particularly suitable for theater majors.

Other Post-grad Possibilities

Peace Corps

www.peacecorps.gov

Website details Peace Corps program.

Teach for America

www.teachforamerica.org

Teach for America program places recent college grads in low-performing schools as teachers.

Fulbright Scholarship Program

fulbright.state.gov

Fulbright program provides travel grants for variety of programs, especially research proposals and English teaching assistantships.

Story Corps

www.storycorps.net

Story Corps project provides means for loved ones to interview each other as part of large-scale oral history project. It is possible to serve as a facilitator for this project for a year.

Living in Atlanta

Atlanta, general

www.atlanta.net

Recreation-oriented look at the city of Atlanta.

www.atlantaga.gov

City's official website. Contains info on employment opportunities, online services, etc.

www.atlantadowntown.com/index.asp

Central Atlanta Progress Atlanta Downtown Improvement District's website. Contains variety of info on living in downtown Atlanta specifically, including parking.

atlanta.creativeloafing.com/gyrobase/index

Website contains variety of reviews and blogs on aspects of Atlanta living.

Performance in Atlanta

atlantaperforms.com

Excellent resource for those in the performing arts industries in Atlanta. Provides info on all performances taking place. Also contains info on auditions and other employment.

www.alliancetheatre.org

Major theatre in Atlanta with variety of programs. Particularly interested in the Educational Theater programs.

Housing in Atlanta

www.atlantahousing.org

Atlanta Housing Authority's website. Variety of info on housing in Atlanta.

atlanta.apartments.com

Website allows you to search for housing in Atlanta area.

Jobs in Atlanta

www.ajc.com/hotjobs/content/hotjobs

Atlanta job search website.

www.atlantajobzone.com

Atlanta job search website.

Food in Atlanta

www.ehow.com/how_14354_eat-atlanta-cheap.html

Instructions on how to eat in Atlanta for cheap.

www.urbanspoon.com/pr/9/1/Atlanta/Cheap-Eats.html

Has specific suggestions of restaurants for eating cheaply in Atlanta.

Transportation in Atlanta

www.itsmarta.com

Abundant information on using the MARTA in Atlanta.