

The Second City
TRAINING CENTER

FLIP FOR
KIDS & TEEN
PROGRAMS!

TAKE
ALEAP



2016-2017 ADULT COURSE CATALOG



LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

Everyone who walks into Second City has a different story. We come from Old Town, or Wilmette, or Omaha, or Melbourne. We are writers, or actors, or filmmakers, or none of those things. We seek a career, or a hobby, or inspiration, or a friend. So now what?

Now you let your story unfold. This is your setting, your creative home base, where you can explore who you are and who you want to be. It's your playground, where you can take risks, and fail, and laugh as you get back up and do it all again. To help you on your path, we've added additional theaters, computer workstations, bleachers, and hang out areas. You can take a workshop, audition for a show, meet a partner to write a sketch, or grab a bench, look at the skyline, and contemplate the fate of the universe.

And the coolest thing is, you won't be doing it alone. You'll be working with amazing teachers who want to help you reach your goals. You'll get guidance from our terrific staff who want to help you navigate the possibilities. Your journey here will lead you to experience what it means to be a part of an ensemble, whose passion and diversity will carry you to new heights just as you'll carry them.

It's been an exciting year for us, as well, as we've launched the Harold Ramis Film School, the first program of its kind in the world. With a screening room, sound stage, and a terrific faculty, the program is a crucible for the next generation of comedic filmmakers.

We're so glad to have you here, and we're honored to be a part of helping you find and tell your story. So let's get started.

- Matt Hovde, Artistic Director,
The Second City Training Center, Chicago

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 **FLIP CATALOG OVER FOR KIDS & TEEN PROGRAMS**



GO FOR IT

THE IMPROV PROGRAM

The Improv Program is a complete foundation in the principles of scenic improv as practiced by The Second City. Based in the work of Viola Spolin, this year-long program covers all elements of the improv process. Students begin in Level A with ensemble, environment, and object work, and end in Level E by rehearsing and performing their own fully improvised show.

Graduation from the Improv Program plus Scenic Improv 1 or improv express fulfills the improv prerequisite for The Conservatory auditions.

Improv Levels A-E

- Level A: Building Blocks of Scenic Improv
- Level B: Improvising Scenes
- Level C: Introduction to Character Work
- Level D: Advanced Scenic Improv
- Level E: Improv in Performance

Performance: Level C & D students have demonstration performances at the end of each term. Level E culminates in a 45 minute, one-act, fully improvised show.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Students who have completed a degree program in Theater should consider the Improv for Actors (IFA) program.

2.5-3 hours • 8 weeks each

Improv Express

Go faster with Improv Express! Improv Express students explore the same concepts taught in our Improv Levels A - E and Scenic Improv 1 classes, but in a shorter time period.

- Improv Express Level 1: Building Blocks of Scenic Improv and Improvising Scenes
- Improv Express Level 2: Character Work and Scenework
- Improv Express Level 3: Advanced Scenes and Improv in Performance

Graduation from the Improv Express Program fulfills the improv prerequisite for The Conservatory audition.

Performance: Improv Express Level 2 includes a demonstration performance at the end of the term. Improv Express Level 3 has a mid-term, 45-minute, one-act, fully improvised show.

3 hours • Twice a week • 8 weeks

Drop-In Class

Join us for a drop-in class Sundays at 7PM. Open to all levels of improvisers. Practice, have some fun, and meet new people. Register in person before class. First come, first served.

2 hours

Immersion & Intensives

Looking to explore improv and other topics in a 1-week or 3-day burst? Check out our Immersions & Intensives section on page 31.

COACHED ENSEMBLES*

A great opportunity for students to get more stage experience. Ensembles are created and coached by our faculty members. Each ensemble gets a 4-week run.

Open to current and former Training Center students of any level.

*Audition Required

Improv Jam

Get up and play, meet fellow improvisers and learn new games. Led by a Second City faculty member, jams feature fun, challenging short form games and exercises. On-lookers welcome, too. No registration required.

FREE. 2 hours • Thursdays: 10PM

ADVANCED IMPROV

Improv for Actors

Trained actors are taught the fundamentals of Second City-style improv.

Completion of IFA 2 fulfills the improv prerequisite for The Conservatory audition.

Prerequisite: Must have a theater degree or the equivalent amount of professional training and/or experience. Submit an acting résumé for consideration to chicagoadmissions@secondcity.com.

Level 1

Scenework: Cover the fundamental elements of scenic improv, from creating environment and physicality, to game creation and heightening.

Level 2

Advanced Scenework: Strengthen improv skills and create unique characters. Discover how these characters and their points of view affect a scene to create richer dialogue and better moments.

3 hours • 8 weeks each

Improv For Actors Full Program

This class meets twice per week to fulfill both levels of IFA in one term.

3 hours • Twice a week • 8 weeks

Advanced Short Form

Dive deep into short form and learn how to make games successful for any type of audience. Students learn to effectively heighten scenes, break games without breaking shows and build up their playbook.

Prerequisite: Improv Level E, Improv for Actors 2 or equivalent experience.

3 hours • 4 weeks

That's Not Funny:

Dramatic Improv 1

Focus on moments instead of laughs-they'll happen too, but only when scenework is taken seriously.

Prerequisite: Improv Level C or equivalent experience.

3 hours • 4 weeks

That's Not Funny:

Dramatic Improv 2

Take what you learned in Dramatic Improv 1 and continue to heighten and explore the drama. Focus on dramatic tension, its release and some stage combat.

Prerequisite: That's Not Funny: Dramatic Improv 1.

3 hours • 4 weeks

Scenic Improv 1

Become a better improviser by concentrating on strong scenework, playing emotionally with a partner, using the environment, and progressing the action of a scene.

Prerequisite: Completion of Level E, Improv for Actors 2, IFA Full Program or one year of improv training with Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Scenic Improv 2

Dig deeper into playing with a scene partner, creating sustainable and interesting characters, and improvising more nuanced scenes through subtext, while adding humor into the mix.

Prerequisite: Completion of Scenic Improv 1 or Conservatory 2.

3 hours • 7 weeks

Long Form 1

Explore the most commonly used and proven long form structures. Learn the elements of successful long form, while exploring how and why long form works. Strengthen the quality of a scene while working with a variety of structures.

Prerequisite: Improv Level E or equivalent experience.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Long Form 2

Take long form structure to the next level with more advanced scenework that supports material generation in the Second City style.

Prerequisite: Long Form 1.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Diagnostics

Each student will be individually evaluated to identify unique improv issues and work towards fixing them. Learning from mistakes allows an improviser to completely free up their improv potential.

Prerequisite: Improv Level E or equivalent experience.

2 hours • 6 weeks

Solo Performance

Create compelling characters by improvising with specific goals and crafting structurally sound, multi-layered scenes and monologues for those characters. Students will focus on joke structure, timing, re-writing and overall performance.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Duos: Just the Two of Us

Students will use the 8 P's of Performance (Process, Purpose, Passion, Power, Projection, Patience, Perseverance and Professionalism) to find their duo's voice. Duo teams will explore character and scenework, bond as a unit, investigate duo formats and learn how to do everything with just two people.

Performance: This class culminates in a performance during the last week of the term.

Prerequisites: Improv Level C, Improv for Actors 1, or equivalent. Participants must enroll with a partner.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Specialty Classes

Experience classes taught by master instructors in their areas of expertise. The length, cost and prerequisites vary, depending on how the class is set up. Check our website for upcoming special courses.

THE CONSERVATORY

Study improv as an acting technique and its use in the development of a Second City-style revue in this advanced program, the cornerstone of The Second City Training Center. Students build upon the fundamentals of improv, advance their scenic and character skills, explore forms and styles, and learn to use improv to create material for a satirical comedy revue.

The Conservatory Faculty

Ryan Archibald

Ryan Bernier

Jack Bronis

Jen Ellison

Jeff Griggs

John Hildreth

Norm Holly

Matt Hovde

Paul Jurewicz

Peter Kim

Anthony LeBlanc

Anne Libera

Rachael Mason

Scott Morehead

Micah Philbrook

Adam Schreck

Jay Steigmann

Andel Sudik

Seth Thomas

Anneliese Toft

Craig Uhler

Level 1: Scenic Improv

Building on previous experience, this class lays groundwork for the Second City-style of scenic improv: creating relatable characters in believable situations. Skills include how to create environment, use details to inform choices, and improvise based on a premise. In Level 1 students focus on creating characters based on self.

Level 2: Characters

Work on sustaining characters, moving scenes forward and letting scenes develop and evolve. Continue to build believable characters, while building confidence, which are vital parts to the characters' emotional work.

Level 3: Advanced Scenework and Character Work

Expand range of character and scene types - like presentational characters, external characters, and breaking the fourth wall. Incorporate point of view in characters and scenes.

Level 4: Sketch Forms and Styles

Learn the elements of a Second City running order, and improve acting ability for sketch work by creating scenes in styles and forms of theater and film.

Level 5: Generating Material

Develop scene ideas, and use improv to explore and refine them. Build elements that can be used in the Level 6 revue.

Level 6: The Revue

An 8-week rehearsal focused on producing and performing a Second City-style revue show.

Performances: Students in Levels 3 through 6 perform improvised shows as part of their experience. Level 6 students perform shows to develop material which leads to a weekly show in The Second City's e.t.c. Theater.

3 hours • 8 weeks each

To audition, students must have at least one year of improv training and completion of at least one acting class at a post-high school level.

SEVERN DARDEN GRADUATE PROGRAM

This year-long supplemental training program aims to develop our best Conservatory graduates into strong performers who are talented and skilled enough to be hired professionally by The Second City. Serving as a premier showcase for these carefully selected Conservatory graduates, house teams are cast through auditions roughly two or three times per year, are mentored by our faculty, alumni, and resident directors, and perform weekly in the Blackout Cabaret as they progress through several phases of training.

Twisty, the all-improvised house team show, is the entry point to the system, which begins with an ensemble developing a strong identity. The group's coaching continues through exploration of advanced techniques and styles and culminates in the mounting of a fully scripted original sketch revue partially developed through improv.

Auditions open to graduates of The Conservatory.



THE ACTING PROGRAM

The Acting Program empowers students with the necessary core skills to take responsibility for their own growth and learning as an actor. This program offers a unique method of acting that enables students to discover skills found in the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of the human condition. Each level of the program builds upon the skills achieved from the previous one. Auditioning and working in the business will also be examined. This is great for beginners or actors who have been out of the classroom for a while.

Acting 1: Beginning Acting

Examine fundamental acting skills focusing on tools from the intellectual side of the human condition. These include play analysis, beat work and monologue work. The audition process will be examined as well.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Acting 2: Scene Study

Focus on partner work and emotional skills. Students are assigned a dramatic scene and partner while learning various tools like sense memory, emotional memory, and personalization. Self-esteem and building the performer's confidence are vital components to this work as well.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Acting 3: Advanced Scene Study

Focus on physical skills. Students are assigned a comedic sketch and are part of an ensemble piece with the whole class. Tempo, repetition, body placement, and nonverbal communication are just a few of the tools examined.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Acting 4: Styles

Learn what you need to approach any work with heightened physical or language elements and use all of the tools from the previous levels to create a well-rounded character.

3 hours • 8 weeks

ACTING LAB

The Acting Lab is an advanced acting conservatory which empowers students with skills to pursue acting as a profession. Students explore the detail work of advanced scene study and styles, investigate different facets of the profession and have the opportunity to have their work observed in a graduation showcase.

Prerequisites: To audition, students need to have completed the four levels of the Acting Program or have a performance degree in theater. Students who didn't attend the Acting Program, should send their theatre resume to chicagoadmissions@secondcity.com.

3 hours • Twice a week • 8 weeks

Acting Lab 1: Scene Study and Style

An exploration of the skills and tools involved in creating detailed performances. Students use contemporary and classical scenes to focus on making more specific choices by exploring advanced sense memory, emotional memory, and heightened physical tools as well as strengthening their foundation skills.

Acting Lab 2: Professional Lab

An investigation into how to get the role and sustain a career in the profession. Students learn how to use their acting skills to master multiple audition and performance scenarios as well as develop professional behavior skills and learn what will be expected of them as professionals.

Acting Lab 3: Showcase Lab

This level focuses on developing a performance of scenes and monologues to showcase each student's skills as an actor. Two performances will be open to the public and industry professionals.

Voice & Speech

A fundamental course designed to enhance performance skills by developing an open, well-placed, well-supported speaking voice. Emphasis on the fundamentals of good stage speech, including a study of the International Phonetic Alphabet, vocal expression, projection, getting rid of vocal regionalisms, and developing Standard American articulation.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Dialects

Gain knowledge and practice through researching and preparing dialects that are commonly used in contemporary dramatic texts. Skills learned in this class help students become more versatile and well-rounded performers.

Prerequisite: Voice & Speech.

3 hours • 8 weeks



**NO ONE
LOOKS STUPID
WHEN THEY'RE
HAVING
FUN.**

-Amy Poehler

THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Second City Music Program is dedicated to helping students explore comedy's unique relationship to music through voice, improv, and songwriting. Classes vary, and include musical improv, comedic songwriting, guitar and ukulele lessons, and music direction for those interested in learning what it takes to be an MD at Second City or another improv theater. Whether students are trained singers or musicians, or have never sung or played a note in their lives, our music program will help them expand their artistic range.

MUSIC IMPROV

Level 1*

Improve musicianship and apply existing improv skills to this heightened genre through short form musical games and techniques.

Level 2

Continue to strengthen musicianship and improv skills while being guided through longer and more challenging forms, such as musical montages and fully-improvised musicals.

Level 3*

Explore and refine technique through hands-on exercises and improvised musicals. Master the individual elements of the musical, and assemble them to tell a story.

Level 4

Refine musical improv techniques and experiment with long form structures and genre study. Focus on instilling a command of musical theater styles essential to the creation of strong parody and satire.

Level 5

Develop necessary skills to create scripted musical material through improv. Explore and perform various music-based sketches in a Second City-style revue.

Level 6

Work as an ensemble to create and develop an original musical sketch comedy revue with a run in a Training Center theater.

Performance: Levels 1-4 will culminate in a final performance. Level 5 will have multiple shows throughout the term designed to test out new material. Level 6 culminates in a run at Donny's Skybox. To audition, students must have one of the following:

- Graduate of the Improv or Improv for Actors Full Program
- Taken Music Improv Fundamentals
- Graduate of or currently enrolled in The Conservatory Program
- Given special Program Head approval.

*Audition required.

Comedic Songwriting

Discover the foundation of creating musical numbers for a Second City-style revue. Designed for musicians and non-musicians alike, this is a great way to build a portfolio and gain valuable experience.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Vocal Basics 1

Focus on vocal technique, both sung and spoken. The curriculum includes group study as well as substantial individual attention. Students strengthen their singing and speaking voice, improve range, flexibility, and power.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 4 weeks

Vocal Basics 2

Focus on extended vocal performance techniques: solo and character work, preparation for a sung audition, and an increased awareness on how to protect the voice over the long haul in both musical and non-musical improv.

Prerequisite: Vocal Basics 1.

3 hours • 4 weeks

Basic Guitar for Improvisers

Learn how to strum a handful of chords, how to use a capo, and more. Whether students want to write songs for a show, or just jam out, a few major and minor chords will put them there!

Prerequisite: Open to all students. Students need to bring own guitar.

1.5 hours • 4 weeks

You Could "Uke"

Spend four weeks exploring the rudiments of playing the ukulele. Learn tuning, chord vocabulary and applied music theory. We'll supply students with an arsenal of strums and easy licks. Come prepared to sing, play, and have a fun time.

Prerequisite: Open to all students. Students need to bring own ukulele.

1.5 hours • 4 weeks

Rap 101: Writing & Reciting Rhymes

Explore the process of writing and reciting rhymes, as well as rap's several styles, to use in scenes and create songs.

Prerequisite: Improv Level C or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Yes Yes Y'all: A Rap Workshop

Freestyle rapping is used to show lyrical deftness and spontaneity, separating freestylers from rappers who only do prepared rhymes. Gain the swagger to freestyle and write verses by learning improv games, develop imagery and metaphor, and rap from character perspectives.

Prerequisite: Improv Level C or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Music Improv Fundamentals 1

An introduction to the basics of music improv, learn the essential skills needed to succeed in creating improvised songs and musical scenes. Strengthen vocal technique, improve musicianship, learn to rhyme, and apply existing improv skills to song.

Prerequisite: Improv Level E or Vocal Basics.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Music Improv Fundamentals 2

Deepen music improv scenework by bringing more character and specificity into songs. Use the technical skills of rhyming and melody to serve the scene, and ground songs in listening and honest emotional reaction.

Prerequisite: Music Improv Fundamentals or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Music Direction 1: Improv

In improv, a talented music director can make an okay scene good, and a good scene great! Learn the in's-and-out's of accompanying and collaborating with improv actors. This includes underscoring scenes, playing in film and TV genres, improvising songs in a variety of musical styles, and expanding skills for varied types of improv shows. Come develop the chops needed to be a well-rounded MD.

Prerequisite: Intermediate piano skills.
2 hours • 8 weeks

Music Direction 2: Sketch Comedy

Use improv piano chops to grow skills as a music director for the sketch comedy revue. Learn how to work with an ensemble of improv actors to teach existing musical material, create new musical sketches, design the sound of the show, and much more.

Prerequisite: Music Direction 1.
2 hours • 8 weeks

Writing the Comedic Musical:

A Crash Course

Jump into the deep end with this crash course in writing the musical comedy. Learn about theatrical song technique, as well as in the bigger picture of character and story structure.

Prerequisite: Writing 4, Comedic Songwriting, Music Improv 1, Conservatory graduate, or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 4 weeks

Private Instruction

Students are placed with an experienced Second City music director for a 30-60 minute, one-on-one lesson to focus on individual growth. Areas of exploration include vocal strength, breath support, flexibility, voice for character work, general musicianship, audition preparation, and building musical improv skill sets. Students may also choose to design custom courses of study in comedic songwriting or music direction. Open to all students.

Contact Rachael Mason for more information: rmason@secondcity.com. Lesson rates vary by instructor.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

The Musical Improv Jam

A Second City Music Director leads participants through fun and challenging short form music improv games. Get up and play, meet fellow improvisers, and learn new games. On-lookers welcome, too. No registration required.

FREE • 1.5 hours
Saturdays: 4

INFINITE SUNDAYES

Infinite Sundayes is a showcase of the Training Center's top Music Improv program graduates. Featuring short form, long form, and eventually culminating in a completely original musical sketch revue, this ensemble will sing about literally anything.

Auditions open to graduates of the Musical Improv Program or The Conservatory Program.

THE YEAR-LONG DIRECTING PROGRAM

The first and only one of its kind, The Second City Directing Program is a year-long focused study of directing improv and revue comedy. A small group of select participants (an average of six) immerse themselves in a program that covers the unique and specific skills required to work as a professional director for The Second City.

This professionally-oriented intensive program includes:

- Discussions with current and former Second City actors, directors, producers, and teachers
- Hands on work with actors, assistant directing assignment in various Second City divisions,
- Coursework in improv, sketch writing, and music.
- Several formal directing projects presented in Training Center theaters

Prerequisite: Admission is by application only. Candidates should have extensive experience in either theater or improv with a working knowledge of both disciplines. All applicants should also have some combination of previous training and practical experience in directing.

Applications are due in mid-April for each year's new class. Classes will begin in late July.

For more information about the year-long program, please contact Anne Libera: alibera@secondcity.com.



SPECIALTY COURSES

Producing 101

Have an idea for a show, but don't know where to put it up? What about fundraising? How to get people to see it beyond family and friends? How much time does this all take? All shows can be done with little to no budget and get a real audience. This class will unlock some of the mystery behind what it takes to go from idea to stage.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
3 hours • 8 weeks

Intro to Directing Sketch Comedy

Learn the process of creating scenes through improv, assembling running orders and managing ensembles.

Prerequisite: Completion of any full Second City Training Center program or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks



MOVEMENT & PHYSICAL THEATER

The Physical Comedy Program is a unique movement program focusing on developing the physical skills of the performer to create purposeful yet fluid expression. From clowning to tap dance to stage combat, physical comedy delights audiences and is a great way to add detail and range to scenes and characters. The various classes within this program help develop tools to become a skilled artist of this classic art form, and can be applied to improv, acting, and more.

Movement

This movement class is designed to change the way performers look, move, and feel on stage. Students learn to use their bodies to make strong character choices, increase ranges, and feel more confident.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

2 hours • 8 weeks

Clowning

Students strip away layers of self-consciousness while familiarizing themselves with the bare-bones of theatrical clowning. Learn to establish a direct and immediate relationship with an audience and become complicit with scene partners while moving through performance space with musicality. Participants will focus on exercises in clowning, physical comedy, and improv to heighten their natural sense of play.

Prerequisite: Movement.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Stage Combat

For students who have ever wanted to learn how to slap someone, deliver a punch to the stomach, or fall without hurting themselves in the process? Stage Combat focuses on the skills needed to protect the actor and their instrument when engaged in stage violence. A working knowledge of stage combat is essential to any performer's training, and this class will give students those fundamental skills.

Prerequisite: Acting 2 or Improv Level C.

3 hours • 4 weeks

Tap Dance for Theatrical Characters

Enhance comic dialogue, songs and musical theater stage performance with some footloose and fancy-free hoofing. This workshop focuses uniquely on blending the basic fundamentals and styles of tap to enliven participants' theatrical capabilities.

Prerequisite: Open to all students. Tap shoes are encouraged, but not required.

1.5 hours • 6 weeks

**IF YOU
SEE & BELIEVE
IT, THE AUDIENCE
WILL TOO**
-Susan Messing



**THERE ARE
NO MISTAKES,
ONLY OPPORTUNITIES.**
-Tina Fey

COMEDY WRITING

Master the skills of writing sketch comedy in this six-level program designed for writers and actors of all experience levels. Learn scene and story structure, dialogue, hone in on character development, and explore how comedy works. Take a funny premise and turn it into a hilarious scene that could be put on stage or filmed. Weekly writing assignments and in-class exercises generate material and establish a regular writing schedule.

Writing 1: Foundations of Sketch Comedy

Brainstorm ideas, create rich environment, craft dialogue that works, and build sharp storylines based on the five-point story structure. Explore comedic formulas and the Second City-approach to crafting relatable characters and bringing a "Yes, And" mindset to the writing process.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing 2: Basic Sketch Structure

Analyze archival material to understand how a Second City-style revue is built. Learn to pitch scenic ideas, create strong relationships, and build quirky cast scenes.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing 3: Building Blocks of a Sketch Revue

Students deepen their understanding of the revue through new sources for ideas. Visual jokes, writing for specific actors, and personal experiences become the inspiration for written work.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing 4: Creating Satire

Evolve writing skills by exploring theme, joke construction and practical applications for comedy writing. Students evolve their comedic voices, sample comedic songwriting, plunder history for inspiration and explore custom writing challenges from The Second City theatrical world. This course culminates with an in-class reading of material.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing 5: Creating A Revue*

In Writing 5, students write an original comedy revue. Individual and collaborative assignments guide them in generating an abundance of material. Explore theme, variety and theatrical possibilities and assemble a running order. The term ends with a casting session of performers drawn from student and alumni actors of the Training Center. This course requires a significant amount of out-of-class work.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing 6: Producing a Revue

Building on the work of Writing 5, this class shifts into production mode. Students produce a Second City-style revue, from pre-production through closing night. Use improv and collaboration to refine material and punch-up jokes. Students take on professional production roles as they stage scenes, add music and prepare for opening night in Donny's Skybox Theatre or the de Maat Studio Theatre.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Performance: Student revues are staged in one of the Training Center theaters for a 4-5 week run.

*Students who wish to continue on to Writing 5 must submit a scenic writing sample for admission. Students returning who are enrolling in Writing 5 can also register for their Writing 6 class and receive the multi-class discount.

Students returning from hiatus wishing to enroll in Writing 5 should contact the office at 312-664-3959, no less than four weeks before the start of a new term.

Accelerated Writing

This course is an accelerated survey of the Writing Program and covers topics from Writing 1 through 3. Intended for advanced students who are familiar with the Second City-method for creating sketch through improv, Accelerated Writing introduces sketch structure, brainstorming techniques for writers, and the sketch formulas typical of a Second City revue. This course challenges students with an accelerated pace and weekly homework assignments. Students may move on to Writing 4 with the permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: The Conservatory or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Storytelling: Crafting Your Story

Chicago has seen an explosion of Storytelling and Live Lit shows, most of which involve first-person nonfiction narrative, or - simply put - true stories from each student's own experience. The craft of shaping the events from life into a compelling story is one that involves riveting performance, but first it's a writing project. One that draws on the skills of memoir (identifying rich and resonant memories, gaining the perspective on one's own life, etc.) and the short story or sketch writer (heightened observation, sharp use of language, etc.). Add to these skills the ability to tell stories in a confident, commanding fashion, and this results in a first-rate storyteller.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Storytelling: Discovering Your Story

Take personal experiences and turn them into a story worth telling. Draw from personal experiences to find material that is honest and relatable and learn to tell a story in a way that's compelling and entertaining. This class is appropriate for students interested in bringing authenticity and polish to storytelling, writing, solo performance, and stand-up work.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Storytelling: Performing Your Story

This class empowers students to bring their truth and presence to the stage with comfort and confidence. In the same supportive environment cultivated in Second City's improv classes, the skills of live, page-free storytelling are strengthened through a relaxed dynamic, humor, generosity, emotional honesty, and character work. Students' understanding of Storytelling and Live Lit will grow from one-on-one feedback, exercises that strengthen story structure, identifying the "internal event," mastering timing, and cultivating stage presence.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Stand-Up 101: The Basics

Develop as a solo performer by writing and workshoping comedic material. Students learn how popular stand-up comics evolved, expand their comfort zones and experiment to discover their own unique styles.

Class culminates in a final performance on one of The Second City Training Center's stages.

Prerequisite: Improv Level B.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Stand-Up 201: Crafting Your Personal Style

Students build on the skills developed in Stand-Up 101 by honing their comedic voice through a variety of exercises and personal feedback.

Class culminates in a final performance on one of The Second City Training Center's stages.

Prerequisite: Stand-Up 101.

3 hours • 8 weeks

So You Want To Try Stand-Up

Go from, "I wish I could" to, "Wow-I did," in a supportive workshop environment. Participants write, improvise and discuss material in preparation for their first stand-up open mic performance.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 1 day

Private Study - Writing

Students are placed with an experienced Second City writing instructor for a 30-60 minute, one-on-one lesson to focus on individual growth and feedback. Areas of exploration include material generation, sketch comedy creation, structure, character, and feedback on longer-form and solo material.

Contact Rachael Mason for more information: rmason@secondcity.com.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Lesson rates vary by instructor.

Writing Humor Pieces for the Web

Learn the craft of writing long-form humor pieces for sites like *McSweeney's*, *Shouts & Murmurs*, and *The Second City Network*. Whether a student wants to get their work published online or just wants to push themselves as comedy writers, this class helps them find and polish their comedic voices.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 6 weeks

WRITING WITH THE ONION

The Second City has partnered with *The Onion* to present this fundamental course outlining *The Onion's* unique system of generating comedy ideas and stories. Learn how to create winning premises, essays and one-liners, but also find a unique comedy voice and learn to trust it to produce reliably successful humor writing. Students work through *The Onion's* multi-step process in a workshop environment.

Basic Writing with The Onion

An introduction to *The Onion's* unique top-down approach to comedy writing and how to implement that approach to craft successful comedic premises and concepts. With detailed instruction and in- depth workshops from current *Onion* staff.

Prerequisite: Competency with English composition and grammar.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Intermediate Writing with The Onion

Students learn how to write a successful comedic story, hone prose to a fine edge, and apply *The Onion's* style of comedy creation to cultivate their own voice and style. In hands-on workshops, they work with the instructor and other students to develop foundational comedy-writing skills.

Prerequisite: Basic Writing with *The Onion*.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Advanced Writing with The Onion

The laugh-potential of students' writing turns up exponentially in this exploration of comedy writing in groups. Learn to navigate the egos and politics of a writers' room to create the most successful possible comedy using *The Onion's* counter-intuitive, ego-less creation process, resulting in an end product that's greater than the sum of its parts.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Writing with *The Onion*.

3 hours • 8 weeks

The Onion Master Class

This class mimics the real *Onion* writers' room, giving participants an experience very similar to working at *The Onion*. By applying all techniques learned in the first three levels, students produce publish-worthy humor stories, articles, or features. This course features intense hands-on work with the instructor, as well as group projects.

Prerequisite: Advanced Writing with *The Onion*.

3 hours • 8 weeks



ONLINE CLASSES

Take Second City Training Center classes from anywhere in the world! Our online students learn the basics of comedy sketch writing, writing for TV, and hone in on character development, comedic songwriting, creating online content and more! We often offer specialty online classes, be sure to regularly check out secondcity.com for all of our offerings!

Online Sketch Writing 1

Students receive individual instruction through online correspondence, exploring the fundamentals of character development and theatrical scene structure. Exercises include a variety of comedic genres, from "Simple Yet Impossible Goal" to "Clash of Context" to "Inappropriate Response".

Prerequisites: Open to all students. Students must have PDF-formatting software.

Commitment: 1-2 hours per week: 30 - 45 minutes for the lesson, 30 - 60 minutes for the assignment.

Online Sketch Writing 2

Building on Online Sketch Writing 1, students continue to learn the universal comedy techniques used in mainstream media as well as focus on satire, character development and rewriting.

Prerequisite: Online Sketch Writing 1.

Commitment: 2 - 2.5 hours per week: 30 - 45 minutes for the lesson, 30 - 75 minutes for the assignment.

Online Writing Strong Women

Students create memorable female characters that drive their pieces. Writers (women AND men) create sketches, monologues, stories and character pieces through writing exercises, analysis of text and a variety of writing assignments.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Online Character Cocktail Party

Explore one specific character in many different situations and sketch types. Start thinking about how a character can have a personality independent of one specific sketch idea. Students will leave each level with a stronger understanding of how to build effective 3D characters.

Prerequisite: Online Sketch Writing 2 or equivalent.

Basic Writing with The Onion Online

Second City has partnered with *The Onion* to present this fundamental online course outlining *The Onion's* unique system of generating comedy ideas and stories. Learn how to create winning premises, essays and one-liners, and also find a unique comedy voice and learn to trust it to produce reliably successful humor writing.

Prerequisites: Open to all students. Students must have PDF-formatting software.

Commitment: 2 - 4 hours of lecture review, exercises and assignment completion.

Online Intro to Comedic Songwriting

Turn a strong point of view into a great comedic song. Work with classic song structures to strengthen lyrics and discover how melody and musical style can influence comedic songwriting. Students get specific, personal feedback to improve their songs, whether they are writing lyrics or lyrics and music.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Online Writing for TV & Film

Explore visual writing, story structure and character to create longer works for TV and film. The class reads existing scripts, views film and television selections, and writes and workshops original ideas on a weekly basis. Students leave the class with a fleshed-out prose description of their project, structural suggestions for moving forward and character descriptions.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Commitment: 3-4 hours per week for reading, writing assignments and responding to their classmate's work.

Online Writing Satire for the Internet

Learn how to form a strong comedic point of view on topical news and pop culture events. Participants brainstorm, draft and rewrite short pieces in the style of *McSweeney's*, *Shouts and Murmurs* and *The Second City Network*. At the completion of the course, students have the opportunity to submit a piece to the editor of *The Second City Network* for potential publication on the site.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Online History of Comedy on Film

This class focuses on the role of comedy in cinema as a reflection of society and culture from its origins and the great lineage of comedy. Weekly assignments, discussion groups and live chat sessions allow students to discuss lectures, presentations and films they screen online every week.

Prerequisites: Open to all students. Students responsible for the online streaming costs associated with viewing the films discussed in class. Students will also want broadband internet access fast enough to allow streaming of films. Commitment: 8 weeks. 5 hours per week.

Online Writing the Sitcom Spec Script

If students are serious about writing in the entertainment industry, they'll need a spec script, an original pilot, a screenplay (if writing movies is a goal of theirs) and a short film. This class provides participants with a solid spec script (a script for an existing comedy on television) so they can learn how to write a TV comedy and have a writing sample.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.



THE TV, FILM & DIGITAL PROGRAM AT THE HAROLD RAMIS FILM SCHOOL

This program is about empowering content creators and performers with the knowledge of what it takes to be successful in the TV and Film industries. Classes in this program focus on screenwriting, film production, voiceover, on-camera acting, and film editing and distribution. To reflect the true collaborative nature of film, this program is open to people at completely different levels of writing, improv, or acting experience.

ON-CAMERA CLASSES

Acting on Camera

Gain on-camera acting experience in scripted and improvised scenework with a teacher that acts as the director, to understand how to adapt stagecraft for the screen. Gain a better understanding of how to act on camera, correct on-set etiquette, the actors role in film production, and how to approach the process of filmmaking. At the end of the class, students receive an edited scene for their reels.

Prerequisite: Improv Level C or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks

On-Camera Auditioning 1

This overview shows actors how to prepare for and complete a successful on-camera commercial audition. Work on auditions ranging from testimonials to m.o.s., and give tips on how to nail different types of commercial scripts. Students film practice auditions and review them in class.

Prerequisite: Improv Level B.
3 hours • 4 weeks

On-Camera Auditioning 2

Building on what students successfully did in On-Camera Auditioning 1, this class works with more advanced audition material and situations. Get more on-camera time, and delve into the casting and talent agent business. The class culminates with the teacher directing and filming students in scenes they can use in their reels.

Prerequisite: On-Camera Auditioning 1 or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 4 weeks

On-Camera with Matt Miller

Walk into an on-camera audition with confidence! This one-day workshop will feature:

- Three mock commercial auditions
- One mock film audition
- A character typing exercise
- Review of auditions in class
- Business materials/strategies Q&A session
- Practical advice for actors new to the commercial/film audition world & helpful tips for the more experienced.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
6.5 hours • 1 day

TV Audition Workout with Matt Miller

This workshop features three auditions for co-star, "under five," and one-liner type roles – which is what these shows are casting for locally. Perfect for experienced actors who want to stay sharp, this workshop is run as a professional audition session.

Prerequisite: On-Camera Workshop 1 or Program Head approval.
4.5 hours • 1 day

Hosting for Television

Learn to think on your feet and soar under pressure as Lesley Powers challenges students in different hosting situations. Participants explore entertainment stand-up (think E! News), becoming red carpet savvy, game show hosting, co-hosting tricks, and man-on-the-street interviewing.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
3 hours • 1 day

VOICEOVER CLASSES

Beginning Voiceover for Improvisers

Learn why improv is a skill that is actively sought after in voiceover artists and discover what actors need to get started in the world of voiceover. Students learn about mic technique, demos, the difference between narrator and character reads, rates, tips, tricks, and resources for building their career in the Chicago voiceover scene.

Prerequisite: Improv Level B.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Advanced Voiceover for Improvisers

Students learn how to manage multi-person reads, read-to-time, manage difficult copy, explore narration copy like a pro, get copy specifically chosen for their voice types and - the pièce de résistance - an audition for an agent or voicecasting professional - all in this 5-week intensive!

Prerequisite: Beginning Voiceover for Improvisers.

3 hours • 5 weeks

Podcasting 101

This hands-on class teaches students how to further their comedy brand and voice through podcasting. Learn how to conceptualize, develop, write, and cast a podcast idea and then learn recording techniques, audio editing and programs, marketing, and how to brand the podcast to appeal to a wide range of audiences. Students leave the class with a sample first episode and the knowledge to create a successful podcast.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

FILMMAKING CLASSES

Introduction to Filmmaking

This introductory class provides an overview of what TV, Film and Digital content creation looks and sounds like. Students leave the class with a good understanding of the different types of media one can create, the process of filmmaking, and all of the elements that go into the creation of a film, TV show, web series, podcast, as well as short videos like those seen on *The Second City Network*.

Prerequisites: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Short Film Making

This production course is for improvisers and writers who want to turn their written sketches into videos. Produce and direct a short comedic sketch that will be shot during class time. Write for film, cast actors and work with a film crew to leave class with a finished short sketch.

Prerequisite: Intro to Filmmaking or Program Head approval.

3-4 hours • 8 weeks

Advanced Short Filmmaking

Students enter the class with a script or sketch and over the course of eight weeks, prepare it to be cast, shot and edited. Students will learn how to secure locations, work on a film set, and work with an editor to create their finished short film.

Prerequisites: For consideration, students should send a script for approval to Jack Newell, Program Director, The Harold Ramis Film School and TV, Film & Digital Program, jnewell@secondcity.com. Program Head approval needed to take the class.

3-4 hours • 8 weeks

Editing Comedy

Learn how to use editing to build a story, deliver character, and create comedy with raw footage from production. Students learn the basic rules of editing and when they can break them to enhance their comedic storytelling. Students gain an understanding of how to control pacing and rhythm, point of view, and how to enhance performances through editing. There are editing assignments that will help students explore their ideas through the technical art of editing.

Prerequisites: Intro to Filmmaking or Intro to Writing for TV & Film. Students need their own laptop with Adobe Premiere.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Developing Your Movie Idea:

A Crash Course

This 2-day story workshop demystifies the process of developing a movie idea into a satisfying, feature-length screen narrative. Students are taken through a lively, step-by-step story development process in real-time, and watch the magic happen as the process is applied to their own ideas.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 2 days

Directing for Film

Students learn to access their creative vision to realize written and improvised materials. This class focuses on on directing terms, how to turn written material into performance, how to understand camera work, editing, mise en scene, and the role of the director in all stages of a production. Good for beginners or people looking for a more formalized approach to directing film.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Filmmaking, Intro to Writing for TV & Film or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 4 weeks

FILM APPRECIATION CLASSES

History of Comedy on Film

This film appreciation class takes comedy lovers on a journey through comedy, from the era when Chaplin and Keaton were kings of the silent screen to Judd Apatow and Adam McKay's contemporary mastery of character and the bromance. Also available online.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Masters of Comedy

Each term focuses on the films of a different comedic filmmaker or comedy troupe. These include Mel Brooks, Monty Python, and Christopher Guest and more. Their films are viewed, discussed and dissected to examine the core of their creative sensibilities.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 4 weeks

Black Films Matter

Explore the comedic sensibilities of black filmmakers in American cinema in four distinct eras. Each week, students will watch a film and select scenes and participate in discussions led by the instructor that will place each film in its historical and societal context and explore its similarities and differences with mainstream American cinematic comedies of the same eras. Each film shown will be black-written and black-directed and feature a predominantly black cast.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 4 weeks

TV & FILM WRITING CLASSES

Introduction to Writing for TV & Film

Write quickly and improvisationally while applying the stylistic and format requirements of film and TV to discover the key moments of the story. Explore visual storytelling, screenplay format, story structure, and character development. Writers pitch ideas and hear feedback from their classmates to hone their movie idea. Students will leave this class with a working outline for a TV or film script.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Intermediate Writing for TV Film

Students build on what they learned in Intro to Writing to TV & Film, expanding upon visual storytelling, screenplay format, story structure, and character development as it pertains to their specific project. Students will leave this class with a refined outline and the first ten pages of a TV or film script.

Prerequisite: Intro to Writing for TV & Film

3 hours • 8 weeks.

Screenwriting 1

Students with an understanding of sketch comedy will begin the process of writing a treatment for a traditionally structured screenplay, building on their writing skills to understand structure, character, and plot.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Writing for TV and Film or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

Screenwriting 2

Students bring their film ideas and outlines from Screenwriting 1 to life. Weekly workshops guide them through the process of completing scenes, raising the dramatic tension, finding the characters' voices and stepping toward a completed screenplay.

Prerequisite: Screenwriting 1 or Program Head approval.

3 hours • 8 weeks

The Sitcom Writers' Room

Students experience the life cycle of a sitcom episode by collaborating to write a sitcom spec script with their classmates. As a group, students will select a known sitcom to study, pitch episode ideas, write a one-sheet pitch for the network's approval, break the story's plot in the room, are assigned to write certain scenes, rewrite other scenes, punch up dialogue and see a table read performed by comic actors. Leave class with the experience to write a script.

Prerequisite: Intro to Writing for TV & Film or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks.

Jump Start Your Web Series

Go from pitch to plan and leave this class with a road map to make a web series. Examine production needs, logistics, and story structure as you build detail onto a series idea. Using improv, group feedback and production "reality checks", the class provides a sounding board for existing series ideas. Develop a pilot episode, synopses for the other five episodes, and real-life insight into budgeting and producing a 6-piece web series from scratch.

Prerequisite: Intro to Writing for TV & Film or Introduction to Filmmaking.
3 hours • 8 weeks.

Writing the Sitcom Spec Script

This class provides students with a solid spec script - a script for an existing comedy on television, they can learn how to write a sitcom script and leave class with a writing sample.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Writing for TV & Film or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing the Hour-Long Pilot

Learn how to write quickly and improvisationally based on the techniques and theories learned in Intro to TV/Film Writing. Students explore and dissect the crucial elements of the most successful hour-long pilots in the new golden age of television while developing an original idea into a professional quality script. Students are responsible for writing new pages every week. Provided they stay on task, students leave this class with at least 30 edited pages of an original one-hour pilot.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Writing for TV & Film or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks

Writing the Sitcom Pilot

A pilot is the first episode of an original TV series – and a great addition to a writing packet. Learn how to create an idea for a sitcom, pitch an idea, develop the story and characters, and create a script for the first episode.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Writing for TV & Film or Program Head approval.
3 hours • 8 weeks



THE
HEART
OF

IMPROVISATION IS
TRANSFORMATION
-Viola Spolin

COMEDY STUDIES

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

The Second City
TRAINING CENTER

Unlike any other course of study in content, scope, or resources, Comedy Studies provides a unique opportunity to study full-time at The Second City for an entire semester. This program is developed and taught by the experts in comedy at The Second City Training Center in Chicago, with **college credit** provided by Columbia College Chicago.

Comedy Studies is open to anyone with a minimum of an undergraduate junior level status of 60 credit hours or more. The program also accepts applications from recent college graduates. Classes are offered during fall, spring and summer semesters.

Visit comedystudies.com for more information.



THE WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Wellness Program aims to create a nurturing and safe environment for people who are choosing to experience the personal and social benefits that the study of improv and commitment to ensemble can provide. Be that to promote self care, be with like-minded individuals, or to work toward a common goal, the Wellness Program exists for individuals who may want to use improv as a tool for something other than solely performance based goals. While the vast majority of Wellness Program participants are not joining The Second City with the intent to pursue a professional career in performance or comedy, all are welcome and encouraged to graduate on to other programs at The Second City.

Improv for Anxiety
Ensemble-based improv training along with cognitive behavioral therapy for people with social anxiety and other anxiety disorders.

The program provides an interactive opportunity to learn skills derived from improv as part of recovery. In addition, Second City Training Center has partnered with several licensed clinicians who have experience in both improv and mental health treatment to facilitate an 8-week therapy group. The therapy group helps to integrate the improv and CBT skills into real life. The improv class will meet once per week and the therapy group meets separately once per week.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
This program is also available for teens.
Treatment group sessions in Level A, optional for Levels B-E.
2.5 - 3 hours • 8 weeks

- Level A: Building Blocks of Scenic Improv
- Level B: Improvising Scenes
- Level C: Introduction to Character Work
- Level D: Advanced Scenic Improv
- Level E: Improv in Performance

Improv for ASD
This is a class in improv for teens and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Classes focus on ensemble and team-building to help with the exploration of different relationships and social cues. Improv games used in this class teach skills such as accessing emotions and storytelling. This is done in a safe and fun setting where the students can explore and challenge themselves. Improv is a great tool to work through many types of barriers which stand in the way of creativity and socialization.

Prerequisite: Open to all students. ages 15+
90 minutes • 8 weeks

Humor Doesn't Retire:

Improv for Seniors
Learn the basics of Improv by working on scenes and games with one another. Students are with the same group each week. This option provides a more focused and cumulative learning experience. No experience necessary for Level 1; students have the opportunity to progress through five levels. Includes performances in the upper levels.

Prerequisites: Open to students ages 55+.
2 hours • 8 weeks

Stand Up to Anxiety
Face feelings of discomfort and reduce avoidance behaviors in social, work/school, and family settings. Face performance anxiety and develop as a solo comedic performer by writing and workshopping material. The class has the option of a final performance on one of The Second City Training Center stages.

Prerequisite: Improv for Anxiety Level A.
3 hours • 8 weeks.

Improv for Veterans

This class is catered to anyone who has served in the armed forces. Students will learn improv fundamentals, build communication skills, and connect and have fun with other veterans.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.
2.5 hours • 8 weeks

Mid-Life Crisis: Improv for Generations X & Y
For those whose age may be more mature than their sense of humor, this class teaches improv fundamentals in a relaxed, fun environment amongst peers. Hire a babysitter, step away from the computer and enjoy some fun. Cheaper than a Ferrari!

Prerequisite: Open to all students. Ages 35 - 55ish.
2.5 hours. 8 weeks.

**IT'S NOT ABOUT THE JOURNEY
IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET.**
-Del Close



IMMERSIONS & INTENSIVES

Our immersion programs are a crash course in the philosophies and methods The Second City uses to find, explore, and create material. This programs attract students from all over the country and abroad. Come learn new skills, meet new friends, and take advantage of Chicago's rich comedy scene!

Classes are Monday through Friday each week, and students receive a voucher for a Second City or UP Comedy Club show. Improv 1 and Writing 1 classes have no prerequisite. Students with extensive experience may contact the Training Center concerning advanced placement.

Our summer immersions coincide, with the Summer Comedy Camps so parents and kids can take class at the same time. Students who complete immersions should contact the Training Center regarding eligibility for placement in regular 8-week classes.

IMPROV IMMERSIONS

Improv 1: Fundamentals

A detailed look at the principles and processes of improv for beginners, including ensemble work, play, and beginning scenework.

Improv 2: Character & Scenework

Learn many techniques for developing strong characters, including status, point of view, and subtext. Also explore the elements of good scenework, such as beats, environment, and emotional life.

Improv 3: Advanced Scenework

Building upon the foundation of Level 2, students deal with a more mature type of improv that can be harvested for sketch. Focus on topics such as advanced character creation, scene/premise structure, acting, reference level, and using music to find scenes and characters.

Improv 4: Improv into Sketch

Dive into how Second City uses improv to develop sketch material. Explore concepts like satire, using improv sets, re-improvising scenes, and the key elements of a Second City running order.

COMEDY WRITING

Writing 1: Fundamentals & Components of Sketch Comedy

An introduction to sketch comedy techniques including characterization, comic premise, and story structure.

Writing 2: Working with Premises for Sketch Comedy

A further exploration of using comic premises to develop original sketch comedy for students who have completed Writing Immersion 1.

Writing 3: Elements of a Comedy Revue

Students expand their comedy writer's toolkits. From full-cast scenes to monologues, discover the types of sketches that round out a Second City revue.

Writing 4: Advanced Topics in Sketch

Students refine their comedic voice and strengthen their skill in revision while learning premises that break the rules – clothesline scenes, songs, and more.

**I WENT TO SECOND CITY
WHERE YOU LEARNED TO MAKE
THE OTHER ACTOR
LOOK GOOD SO YOU
LOOKED GOOD**

-Bill Murray

SPECIALTY IMMERSIONS

Music Improv Immersion

Explore the fundamentals of improvised song using vocal exercises, rhyming, character-based scenework, and short-form musical games. Take advantage of the style and theatricality of musical theater to strengthen existing improv skills and learn to approach the improvised song with confidence.

Comedic Songwriting

Students immerse themselves in song structure, rhyming, music and discover how to locate and heighten character point of view for comedic effect. Designed for musicians and nonmusicians alike, students will leave the immersion understanding the mechanics of songwriting for musical sketch comedy.

Music Direction Immersion

Learn how to underscore improvised scenes and songs. Students will learn how to collaborate with improvisers to create original songs and musical sketches. Explore sound design, technology and vocal coaching as well as the opportunities available for a music director in the improv comedy world.

Long Form Immersion

Designed for students who have completed Improv Immersions Levels 1 and 2, the Long Form Immersion delves deeper into ensemble work and creating full-length improvised performance. Work on advanced scenic skills, character development and relationship, editing and how to execute and design numerous forms for long-form performance.

Prerequisite: Improv Immersion Level 2, Level B, Improv for Actors 1 or equivalent.

Stand-Up Immersion

Students develop their solo comedic performance by writing and workshoping their own material. By understanding how earlier stand-up comics evolved, students experiment outside their comfort zone and experiment until they discover their own unique style.

Prerequisite: Improv or Writing Immersion Level 1, Improv Level A, Improv for Actors 1, Writing Level 1 or equivalent.

Writing with The Onion Immersion

Second City has partnered with *The Onion* to present this fundamental Immersion outlining *The Onion's* unique system of generating comedy ideas and stories. Students learn how to create winning premises, essays and one-liners, but also find their unique comedic voice and learn to trust it to produce reliably successful humor writing.

Prerequisite: Competency with English composition and grammar.

OTHER IMMERSIONS

Check out secondcity.com for even more immersions with special guest instructors including comedy writing for TV and film, performance workshops with Michael Gellman, solo performance, filmmaking and acting/auditioning.

Prerequisite: Varies depending on the class. Visit secondcity.com for Specialty immersion offerings, dates, and prices.

THREE-DAY INTENSIVES

Choose a schedule of all-improv, all-writing, or a combination of classes. Students receive a Second City or UP Comedy Club show voucher.

Improv Intensive

10AM-4PM • An intensive look at the principles and processes of improv for both beginning and experienced performers.

Writing Intensive

10AM-4PM • An introduction to sketch comedy techniques including characterization, comedic premise, and story structure.

Improv & Writing Intensive

10AM-4PM • Learn principles and processes of improv in the morning leading into an introduction to sketch comedy in the afternoon.

Check out secondcity.com for dates.

Please note: If students are traveling from out of town, we recommend they not finalize travel and lodging arrangements until their registration is confirmed.

A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with Immersion tuition; distribution of these funds is finalized in the Spring before Immersions begin. Please check the website for details.

IMPROV FOR TEACHERS

This three-hour professional development workshop for educators explores the fundamentals of improv and its integration into the curriculum of any subject area.

For more than fifty years, The Second City has utilized improv to create original works for the stage and to teach skills that can be adapted to everyday life such as listening, team building, thinking quickly, brainstorming, social integration, and empathy. Improv is active student-centered learning that supports the development of critical thinking as well as emotional, kinesthetic, visual, audio/oral, musical/math, and spatial intelligences.

The Second City has taught workshops at hundreds of schools and companies throughout the world. The Second City is an approved professional development provider with the Illinois State Board of Education. CPDU credit is available for our workshops.

Day 1: Introduction to Improv

Concepts & Exercises

Through active participation in improv exercises, discover the principal concepts of improv learning.

Day 2: Teaching & Side-Coaching

The Exercises

Explore methods of teaching and side-coaching the exercises, and brainstorm on curriculum integration concepts and techniques.

Day 3: Curriculum Integration

Present and teach a lesson plan that integrates improv into a special subject area.

Resource Guide

All participants receive a copy of *The Second City Guide to Improv in the Classroom*, which outlines the exercises covered, techniques for side-coaching, suggested variations and adaptations, post-exercise discussion questions, and additional resources.

3 hours • 3 weeks

Improv for Literacy

This 3-hour workshop teaches simple classroom exercises designed to build literacy skills such as inferencing and sequencing, as well as expanding vocabulary. (3 CPDUs)

3 hours

Off-Site Workshops

Workshops may be conducted for groups off-site at a school or on-site at The Second City Training Center. Prices listed are for groups of 6-20.

FOR EDUCATORS

Intro to Improv for

Creative Pedagogy

3 hours

Improv for Creative Pedagogy

9 hours

Improv Games & Exercises for

Drama Teachers & Improv Coaches

3 hours

FOR STUDENTS

Introduction to Second City Improv

(Grades 6-12)

The fundamentals of improv as taught and practiced at The Second City, covering the concepts and skills of listening, stage presence, environment, and character through interactive exercises and games.

2 hours

*Cost depends on the number of students. Please contact us for details.

For all workshops, an additional travel charge is necessary for sites located more than 20 miles from North Avenue and Wells Street, Chicago.

Contact Jeff Poole at jpoole@secondcity.com for more information or to set up a private workshop.

PRICING BREAKDOWN

Detailed prices can be found on our website or by calling the Training Center at 312-664-3959. All prices subject to change. Lower rates reflect early registration discounts. Don't delay!

Adult 8-Week Classes	\$305 - \$375
Adult 8-Week, Twice-a-Week Classes	\$620 - \$680
Adult 4-Week Classes (3 hours)	\$165 - \$210
Adult 4-Week Classes (90 min)	\$105 - \$150
Kids 14-Week Classes (2 - 2.5 hours)	\$325 - \$480
Kids 7-Week Classes (50 min)	\$125 - \$155
Kids 7-Week Classes (2 hours)	\$225 - \$275
Adult Immersions (1 week full day)	\$550 - \$575
Adult Immersions (1 week 1/2 day)	\$285 - \$315
Adult Intensives (3 day)	\$299 - \$325
Youth Camps (2 weeks, ages 8 to 18)	\$750 - \$1500
Youth Camps-Post Workshops	\$135 - \$175
Youth Camps (5 days)	\$365 - \$415
Youth Camps (4 days)	\$205 - \$405

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SHOW? SEND A PITCH!

The Second City Training Center has four theaters aimed at providing performance opportunities for TC students, grads, and experienced performers in the improv/sketch comedy community- and we'd love to give everyone a chance to showcase their work!

Shows may be scripted or improvised, and the person submitting the proposal should have a significant role in the production such as actor, director, writer or producer.

Our show pitch form can be found on the Student Performance Opportunities page of our website or by emailing our Production Coordinator, Katie Hildreth at kildreth@secondcity.com.

TUITION POLICIES

- New Students pay a one-time membership fee of \$20.

- Tuition is non-refundable and non-transferrable. In extreme cases, students may apply to the Training Center office to transfer tuition to another time or future term. A transfer fee of \$30 will be charged in such situations.

- Students who enroll in more than one 8-week class in any given term will receive a 15% discount on the second class. (Some restrictions apply).

Payment Plan Info

Payment plans are available. Please visit secondcity.com or call the Training Center office for more information.

LOCATION INFORMATION

The Training Center is located in the Piper's Alley building, 230 W. North Avenue, at North Avenue and Wells Street in the Old Town neighborhood, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Floors.

Parking

The most convenient option is the paid garage attached to Piper's Alley. There are other paid lots in the neighborhood on North Avenue across the street and north on Wells. There is very limited street parking due to permit restrictions in the local residential streets. If you've never been to the neighborhood before, leave plenty of time to park on your first day.

Public Transit

The Sedgwick stop on the Brown Line stops less than two blocks west of the Training Center. The Red Line stops at North/Clybourn, about six blocks west. Several bus routes also serve the area around the Training Center.

The east/west bus routes that stop nearby are the 72 North and 73 Armitage. The north/south routes are 22 Clark, 36 Broadway, 37 Sedgwick, and 156 LaSalle (M-F, limited hours.)

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS OF THE TRAINING CENTER

The benefits of being a student at the Second City Training Center don't stop at in-class instruction! Here are a few of the things we also offer:

- FREE admission to House Team shows with Training Center Student ID

- FREE student tickets to Conservatory, and Improv class performances

- Discounted student tickets to all other shows in the Training Center theaters

- Various free events throughout the year, including panel discussions, special workshops, and improv jams

- A student ID offering discounts to 1959 Kitchen and Bar and local businesses

TRAINING CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

phone:
312-664-3959

email:
chicagotrainingcenter@secondcity.com

TRAINING CENTER STAFF

ARTISTIC TEAM

Becca Barish
 Jeff Bouthiette
 Andy Eninger
 Norm Holly
 Matt Hovde
 Anthony Leblanc
 Anne Libera
 Rachael Mason
 Jack Newell
 Michael Pieper
 Jeff Poole
 Brian Posen

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 Associate Artistic Director
 Comedy Studies & Yearlong Directing Program
 Advanced Improvisation
 Harold Ramis Film School
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 Keri Mack
 Dajuan Pritchett
 Tim Schmidt
 Julianne Schwartz
 Kerry Sheehan
 Jesse Swanson
 Andrew Thorp
 Rawson Vint
 Stephanie Vlcek
 Abby Wagner
 Ellen Williams

HRFS Academic Coordinator
 Producer
 Adult Program & Immersion Coordinator
 Online Content Manager
 Writing Program Coordinator
 Executive Assistant
 Faculty Liaison
 Marketing Manager
 Adult Program Coordinator
 Kids Program Assistant
 Stage Manager
 Stage Manager
 TV, Film & Digital Assistant
 Camp Director
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2017 IMPORTANT DATES

Adult Term Dates (8 weeks)

Term 1 2017
 Jan 8 **January 8 - March 4**
 New student orientation

Term 2 2017
 Mar 5 **March 5 - April 30**
 Apr 16 New student orientation
 Closed for Easter

Term 3 2017
 Apr 30 **May 1 - June 26**
 May 29 New student orientation
 Closed for Memorial Day

Term 4 2017
 Jun 25 **June 27 - August 22**
 Jul 4 New student orientation
 Closed for Independence Day

Term 5 2017
 Aug 27 **August 28 - October 23**
 Sept 4 New student orientation
 Closed for Labor Day

Term 6 2017
 Oct 22 **October 24 - December 22**
 Nov 23-24 New student orientation
 Closed for Thanksgiving

KIDS & TEENS TERM DATES

Winter Term 2017 (7 Weeks) Jan 3 - Feb 19

Spring Term One 2017 (7 Weeks) Feb 20 - Apr 10

Spring Term Two 2017 (7 Weeks) Apr 17 - July 5

Fall Term One 2017 (7 Weeks) Sep 5 - Oct 22

Fall Term Two 2017 (7 Weeks) Oct 23 - Dec 17

KIDS & TEENS CAMPS 2016 & 2017

Winter 2016
 Camp 1 Dec 19 - 23
 Camp 2 Dec 26 - 30

Spring 2017
 Camp 1: March 13-17
 Camp 2: March 20-24
 Camp 3: March 27-31
 Camp 4: April 3-7
 Camp 5: April 10-14

Summer 2017
 Camp 1: June 5-9 (1-week)
 Camp 2: June 12-23
 Camp 3: June 26-July 7 (4th of July)
 Camp 4: July 10-21
 Camp 5: July 24-Aug 4
 Camp 6: Aug 7-18
 Camp 7: Aug 21-25 (1-week)
 Camp 8: Aug 28-Sept 1 (1-week)
 Advanced Camp 1: June 26- July 14

312-664-3959 · SECONDCITY.COM
 230 W. NORTH AVE



COMEDY CAMPS

Ages 8-18

Kids and teens can spend part of their summer at The Second City where they can exercise their creative energies in our improv and comedy writing camps. Our summer programs attract students from all over the world. Learn skills, meet friends, and enjoy Chicago in the summer. Students are grouped by age.

Summer camps are one or two weeks long with classes meeting Monday through Friday each week. At the end of 2-week camps, students present a show for their family and friends on one of the Second City stages. Students are also treated to a special performance by The Second City National Touring Company and an end-of-camp pizza party.

Since 2001, students from throughout the United States and abroad have spent part of their summer at The Second City, one of the world's most recognized comedy theaters. Join us again this year!

Summer camps are also offered at The Second City Training Centers in Toronto and Hollywood. Visit each Training Center's section on the website for details.

Daily Schedule ages 8-11* (9AM-4PM)

Students exercise their sense of play through improv games and exercises that are the foundation of The Second City's unique brand of comedy. Our teachers will work with these new improvisers to help enhance their ability to communicate with others and develop confidence in their own creativity while working as part of an ensemble. The day will be broken into four parts to maximize activities and variety.

Improv

9AM -10:30AM

Explore the fundamentals of improv as taught and performed at The Second City. Develop skills like creative thinking, self-confidence, listening, brainstorming, team building, empathy, and communication, while having loads of fun and laughs.

Writing and Storytelling

10:50AM - 12:20PM

Learn basic scene structure, the art of storytelling, and character development through the study classic Second City scenes and other written materials.

Clowning and Physical Comedy

12:50PM - 2:20PM

Clowning is 50% physicality, 50% silliness, and 100% fun. Yes, that doesn't make sense, but when it comes to clowning and comedy, it doesn't need to! Kids will have the freedom of movement and self-expression in this class, while also learning about slapstick comedy and how to theatrically control their gestures.

Theater Arts and Crafts

2:30PM -4PM

A fun guided-play experience for students to work on projects with classmates, design and create props and costumes, some of which will be used in their final productions. Everyday is an exciting new activity!

Post-Camp Games and Movies

4PM-5PM

After a day of improv and sketch comedy, it's time to relax and enjoy each other's company! Students are allowed to watch a movie or join in a Connect Four Tournament.

Daily Schedule ages 12-18* (9AM-4PM)

Improv

9AM -11:30AM

Explore the fundamentals of improv as taught and performed at The Second City. Develop skills like creative thinking, self-confidence, listening, brainstorming, team building, empathy, and communication, while having loads of fun and laughs.

Sketch

12PM - 2:30PM

Learn the basics of sketch comedy scenes - the building blocks of any Second City show. Study classic Second City scenes, use improv to develop scenes, and create original sketches.

Stand-Up/Storytelling

2:45PM-4PM

Come develop your personal style as a stand-up comedian or storyteller as we focus on developing material, stage presence, and delivery. Students may present their material in an optional open mic on the final Friday of camp.

*Classes are further grouped by age within this section.

2017 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

Camp 1: June 5-9 (1-week)
Camp 2: June 12-23
Camp 3: June 26-July 7 (4th of July)
Camp 4: July 10-21
Camp 5: July 24-Aug 4
Camp 6: Aug 7-18
Camp 7: Aug 21-25 (1-week)
Camp 8: Aug 28-Sept 1 (1-week)
Advanced Camp 1: July 10-28

*1-week session, no class performance
We also offer Winter and Spring Break Camps. Check our website or call for more details.

Winter Break Camp 2016

December 19 - 23, 2016
December 26 - 30, 2016

Spring Break Camp 2017

March 13-17
March 20-24
March 27-31
April 3-7
April 10-14
April 17-21

For more information, visit our website, call the Training Center, or contact us at youthprogram@secondcity.com.

The Second City Advanced Comedy Camp (Ages 15-18)

The Second City Advanced Comedy Camp is a fully comprehensive program that dives deep into the skills required to present a Second City-style revue. Curriculum includes training in advanced scenework and long form improv as well as additional lessons in clowning, stand-up, and music improv. Advanced Camp students will also receive a special jacket as a souvenir of their summer with The Second City.

Prerequisites: Students must submit a résumé and headshot as well as a short essay to be considered for this program to youthprogram@secondcity.com. Students will need to have completed at least two 14-week terms of improv training at The Second City or at least two sessions in our summer camp program. Check the website for application deadlines.

Performances: Students will present their stand-up material on the second Friday of the program, and a one-act sketch revue on the final day.

3 weeks • 9AM - 4PM

On-Camera Acting Techniques

(ages 13-18)

Learn on-camera commercial, TV and film acting techniques from working on-camera actors. In addition to weekly on-camera acting training, the class will cover the basics of resumes, agents, casting directors, and callbacks.

Prerequisite: Teen Improv or Acting.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Stand-Up

(ages 11-18)

Develop personal style as a stand-up comedian as we focus on developing material, stage presence, and delivery.

Class culminates with a brief classroom demonstration.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Intro to Improv

(ages 14-18)

Learn the fundamentals of improv through exercises that focus on saying "Yes, And", listening, and ensemble. For any student 9th grade and above.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Advanced Improv

(ages 14-18)

Learn the fundamentals of a strong improvised scene using improv techniques learned in Intro to Improv.

Prerequisite: Intro Improv.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Dramatic Improv

(ages 15-18)

Had enough of playing for laughs? Looking to stretch your dramatic scenework? This advanced class helps students take their improvising to the next level and open the door for those serious dramatic scenes many improvisers crave to do. This class is intended for experienced students looking to continue growing as improvisers.

Prerequisite: Advanced Improv.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Intro to Long Form

(ages 14-18)

Dive into the world of long form improv and explore over a dozen of the most commonly utilized and proven long form structures to create 30-minute shows based on one suggestion.

Prerequisite: Advanced Improv.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Relationship Through Character

(ages 11-14)

Improv is exploring relationship through character. This advanced class takes improvising to the next level and opens the door for those character and relationship scenes many improvisers crave to do. This class is intended for experienced students looking to continue growing as improvisers.

Prerequisites: Improv X or Intro to Improv.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Advanced Long Form

(ages 14-18)

Ready for the next step in long form? This class focuses on scenic work and developing strong scenes through committed characters, being emotionally invested and connecting with your scene partner.

Prerequisite: Intro to Long Form.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Intro to Digital

(ages 14-18)

Learn the fundamentals of digital comedy production including filming, basic editing, and distributions methods. For any student 9th grade and above.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Intro to Sketch Writing

(ages 14-18)

Learn the basics of sketch comedy scenes, the building blocks of any Second City show. For any student 9th grade and above.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Advanced Sketch Writing

(ages 14-18)

Learn to create different types of advanced written material including parody and satire.

2 hours • 7 weeks

FREE! Teen Jam & Open Mic!

Come join us at the Teen Jam & Open Mic on Saturdays in the DeMaat Theater from 6:10PM to 6:50PM. All students 18 and under are invited to come join a current faculty member as host, and try out some improv and stand-up routines.

YOU ARE PURE POTENTIAL

-Martin de Maat





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↪ **FLIP CATALOG OVER FOR KIDS & TEEN PROGRAMS**

KIDS & TEEN PROGRAM

Whether a child is a class clown, an aspiring actor, or a little shy, they'll love taking a class at The Second City! Our various programming for children and teens, ages 4 to 18, help build confidence, listening and communication skills, and of course, are non-stop fun! Fundamental skills learned with us can be applied to all aspects of life, and will stick with students for years to come. Seasonal camps in the winter, spring and summer align with school breaks, giving kids a great daytime activity.

ImaginAction (ages 4-8)

This fun-filled class is designed to involve your child in the basic improv games used at The Second City. This class helps free up children's creativity and gets them accustomed to working and sharing in a group environment.

50 minutes • 7 weeks

Improv X (ages 9-12)

Experience improv games and exercises that are the foundation of The Second City's brand of comedy. This class enhances kids' ability to communicate with others, develop confidence in their own creativity, as well as teach students to respect the ideas of others.

50 minutes • 7 weeks

Curtain Up! (ages 9-12)

Students create original, imaginative stories through fun games and exercises, and then bring those tales to life on the stage!

50 minutes • 7 weeks

Clown & Physical Comedy (ages 9-12)

Clowning is 50% physicality, 50% silliness, and 100% fun. Sure, that doesn't make sense, but when it comes to clowning and comedy, it doesn't need to! Kids will have freedom of movement and self-expression in this class, while also learning about slapstick comedy and how to theatrically control their gestures. It's all about maintaining control while retaining musicality in a performance. This class is great for aspiring actors and clowns, or kids who need an outlet for all their extra energy!

50 minutes • 7 weeks

Teen & Youth Ensembles (ages 11-18)

This intensive performance-oriented class explores working within an ensemble, scenic improv, and performance games. Class culminates with four performances of sketches developed through improv in a Training Center theater.

Prerequisites:

Youth Ensemble - Audition Required; students must have completed at least three sessions of ImprovX or Teen Improv.

Teen Ensemble - Audition Required; students must have completed Advanced Improv and Intro Sketch Writing.

2.5 hours • 14 weeks

Acting (ages 9-10, 11-13)

Learn the basic skills of acting. Monologues, scenes and exercises are used to examine techniques as actor uses to establish a character. In this course, students discover skills found in the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of the human condition. Exercises include movement, sense memory, personalization, objective, beat work and beginning text analysis. Learn about auditioning as well as working in the business.

50 minutes • 7 weeks (ages 9-10)

2 hours • 7 weeks (ages 11-13)

Intro to Acting (ages 14-18)

Learn basic skills of acting through monologues and scenes from The Second City archives. For any student 9th grade and above.

2 hours • 7 weeks

Advanced Acting (ages 14-18)

Learn advanced acting skills through scene study from the scenes in The Second City archives.

Prerequisite: Intro to Acting.

2 hours • 7 weeks

The Second City
TRAINING CENTER

FLIP
FOR ADULT
PROGRAMS!

LAUGH
& LEARN

2016-2017 KID & TEEN
COURSE CATALOG

