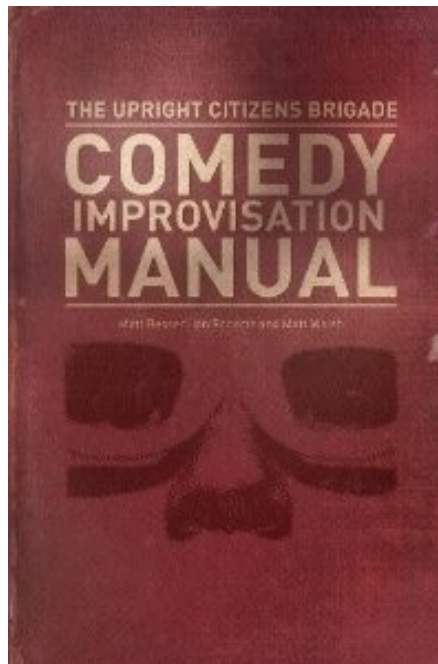




The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual

Matt Besser , Ian Roberts , Matt Walsh

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual

Matt Besser , Ian Roberts , Matt Walsh

The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual Matt Besser , Ian Roberts , Matt Walsh
The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual is a comprehensive guide to the UCB style of long form comedy improvisation. Written by UCB founding members Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, and Matt Walsh, the manual covers everything from the basics of two person scene work (with a heavy emphasis on finding "the game" of the scene), to the complexities of working within an ensemble to perform long form structures, such as "The Harold" and "The Movie". A practical "how to" book, the guide provides exercises throughout to help the reader master each new concept and technique introduced. While the manual is written to be understood by beginners with no previous exposure to improvisational comedy, experienced improvisors will find it to be an excellent resource for honing their skills, clarifying concepts, and generally taking their work to a higher level.

The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual Details

Date : Published 2013 by The Comedy Council of Nicea LLC

ISBN : 9780989387804

Author : Matt Besser , Ian Roberts , Matt Walsh

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Humor, Comedy, Nonfiction, Plays, Theatre

 [Download The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manua ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Man ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual Matt Besser , Ian Roberts , Matt Walsh

From Reader Review The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual for online ebook

Rina says

I bought this book as a requirement for Improv101 at UCB. Lives up to its name as a manual—it reads well but is not meant to be consumed cover to cover, rather, it should be explored and re-explored over time.

Colin says

It's slightly hard to rate this, because in order to rate it properly, I would have to be an expert at improv, and then wouldn't need? want? to read this book.

On the other hand, I have done a fair amount of improv, and the philosophy and teaching in this book align with what has increasingly come to be my view of how improv should be done, and includes a lot of exercises that will be useful and practical to help with teaching and development as an improviser.

The book's layout is not perfect. There tends to be rather more extraneous design work than there needs to be, which can make the textblock unattractively narrow. Additionally, at least one paragraph in the book was in a different font to the others, which was frankly bizarre.

Of the books of improv I have read, this has been my favourite. I would add the caveat that it does aim to teach probably the most difficult form of improv, so it may put off beginners.

Fab Mackojc says

An excellent book on improvisational comedy. One I'd recommend to anyone looking to reinforce what they're learning in improv classes and to better understand how to play in the UCB "game" style. Great explanation of the basics but also covers a wide range of topics related to the art form.

Alexandra Davis says

Read for the improv 101 class I'm taking at the UCB, it's such an interesting read, very helpful, and doesn't feel textbook like at all. The cartoons and diagrams we're s'cute :)

Carmen says

It's weird trying to boil something like improv down to a science, but these folks do it well. Highly recommended to any performers and artists, especially those pursuing careers in the field.

Keith Moser says

Took me six & a half weeks but I finally finished this... More of a review to (eventually) follow...

[This "more of a review" is being written over a year after reading the book--totally forgot to come back and write it]

Picked this book up at UCB during the Del Close Marathon last year a few weeks before it was officially released. Of course, DCM15 wasn't meant to read improv manuals, it was meant to watch a ton of improv. So I started the manual as I sat in line for shows, but didn't get far as 50+ hours of improv was too much of a distraction for me.

But I did read the novel over the next month and a half and found it interesting. I've since completed UCB 101, 201 & 301 but at the time I was in between 101 & 201. I knew about Game and the Harold and bunch of other topics taught in this Manual, but I still hadn't learned the Movie and it's always good to read and relearn the basics.

This is probably the best improv teaching book that I've read. There are great illustrations and all the basics are described with plenty of examples. Matt Besser, Matt Walsh, & Ian Roberts created a fantastic curriculum here and they don't ever get distracted with nostalgic stories of days gone by or petty arguments about which school of improv is the best. Obviously, they think the UCB style is best because it's worked for them for so long, and the present how they understand and teach it.

Noah Marcus says

Before I had the confidence to start taking classes, I took a very studious approach to improv comedy. I consulted as much 'text' on performing because I ironically wanted to be as prepared as possible before stepping foot in an improvisational 101 class. This book is a monster of a manual, able to pull the curtain of this seemingly 'magical' artform. Matt Besser, Matt Walsh, and Ian Roberts doing an absolutely terrific job at making some of the most abstract concepts completely digestible. I cannot recommend this book more to someone who wants to learn more about the technical side of improv. All of this being said, this book will only get you about 10% of the way there: go out and get on stage.

Todd H. McCauley says

To be honest, this was no easy read. It had its interesting sections but it was also confusing in sections. I'm glad I read it once, I would not like to read it again.

Rob Williams says

The Upright Citizens Brigade is the top improv school in America. Period. Many other great institutions have had their heyday (Second City, IO, The Groundlings), but if you want to know improv now you should study long form, and you should study with the masters. This book was years in the making and gives a detailed explanation of their take on the art. Buy it, and then, if you are lucky enough to live nearby, go take

some classes and put your ego on the line. Also read Truth in Comedy and the Second City Almanac.

Jason Luna says

This book is only really for people who are performing improv or are coaching improv. It's far too repetitive and drill based to really work for a casual fan of UCB or improv in general.

That being said, it's a very thoughtful and helpful book that works through all the steps of performing improv comedy. As a performer going through training simultaneously, I thought it did a good job capturing the process and inspiring thought in me of the improv.

A must have for any performer.

Dan Richter says

Ein Impro-Handbuch, das endlich die Comedy-Technik der prägenden New Yorker Upright Citizens Brigade offenbart.

Sehr klar, sehr einfach, sehr intelligent.

Schöne Illustrationen.

Ist auf jeden Fall sein Geld wert.

Noah Talon says

A must-read for anyone attempting comedic improv of any kind and especially longform. This tome is densely packed full of critical strategies, guidelines, and techniques by which to achieve the highest levels of improv fluency.

I found the book works best if you already have some experience with improv and/or are currently practicing several times a week. Otherwise, give it a quick glance, pull the exercises, practice with friends, and then really dive in. Enjoy!

Joshua says

Good use of multiple examples to illustrate different elements of performance. I especially appreciated the breakdowns of heightening vs exploring in scenes.

Nitpick unrelated to content: hopefully future editions will be printed on paper with coated surface that is less reflective. That is some shiny shiny paper that is hard to read under overhead lights of any kind.

Marie Fouhey says

Amy Poehler suggested reading this book in her memoir "Yes Please" which I liked. I didn't realize there were "rules" for creating improvisational comedy, but this book provides techniques that the authors suggest for successful improv. They also repeatedly stress that improvisation is a group effort and its important to listen to your fellow performers. They offer examples of both good and bad attempts to use their techniques. The good examples are really funny. I think you have to be a sort of genius to excel at this.

Lizzie says

Everything you could ever want in an improv textbook. Great design, straightforward language, helpful examples and diagrams. A must have for your comedy library.
