

GII 2017 Symposium Presenters

(in alphabetical order)

Giovanni Alva is the artistic mind behind Latinx Improv. His roots go back to San Diego where he created Underground Improv. He's an advocate for multilingual/multicultural improv. Studied under Mark Pentilescu at SWC where he got his AA and later at Humboldt State University where he got his BA in theater arts performance. Giovanni is currently in the theater scene in Portland working with Milagro and his new company Latinx Improv. He's currently writing an episodic play for Action/Adventure Theater which he will also direct.

Lauren Burns, Groundlings Main Company Member (<http://www.groundlings.com/>). Lauren's recent credits include: Go On, Whitney, Two Broke Girls, and Weeds. Lauren has appeared in numerous commercials, independent films, and has performed with UCB and Killing My Lobster. She co-created a web-series called Today in the Park at MSN.com for moms because she is one. She attended the Stella Adler Conservatory in the big apple. Lauren loves the Groundlings and she loves you too.

Hervé Charton, Ph.D., is a French theater artist, actor, who also directs, writes and teaches. He co-founded the LACSE (trans. "creative, friendly, and committed actors laboratory") in Lyon where improvisation is used to deal with political and social issues, with specific audiences, in places such as prisons, high schools, reception centers for asylum seekers, etc. He also leads the theater company Théâtre Persistant (<http://www.theatre-persistant.fr/>). In 2013 Hervé defended his dissertation at the Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3 on Alain Knapp and Theatrical free-improvisation. This pioneering work — since improvisation is barely an academic topic in France — has elevated Hervé to the level of improv specialist in L'Hexagone. The publication of his work is forthcoming (Classiques Garnier). Hervé has taught acting, improvisation, and theatre studies in Paris and Lyon and, since 2015, he has increasingly worked more closely with the Physical Theater Academy Dimitri, Switzerland.

Sergio Costolo, Ph.D., is a native of Italy, Sergio Costola taught theatre history and dramatic literature at UCLA and at Loyola Marymount University before his arrival at Southwestern in 2003. His area of specialization is theatre history and historiography, with a particular emphasis on medieval and renaissance theatre. His main teaching areas include theatre history, dramaturgy, intercultural theatre, and critical methods. Costola has written various book reviews and articles, and presented papers at numerous conferences.

Oliver Crick (Britain): "Olly" Crick has taught at several conservatoire drama schools in Britain, including RADA, LAMDA and FOOLTIME, the UK's first circus school. He has performed as a street performer, juggler and Commedia actor. Olly has co-published two books on Commedia dell'Arte: Troupes and Groups with John Rudlin (2004) and The Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte with Judith Chaffee (2015). He is currently in his final year of PhD studies at Edge Hill University, examining the aesthetics and dramaturgy of contemporary (neo) Commedia dell'Arte.

Katie Dawson, Assistant Professor and Director of the Drama for Schools program at The University of Texas at Austin. She is a nationally and internationally recognized consultant in drama-based pedagogy and creative learning. As a teaching artist, Katie has facilitated trainings, presented workshops, and given interactive keynotes at sites across the world. Her scholarship has appeared in numerous US and international journals. Her 2015 book, *The Reflexive Teaching Artist: Collective Wisdom from the Drama/Theatre Field*, received the 2015 Distinguished Book Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education. Her second book, *Drama-Based Pedagogy: Activating Learning across the Curriculum* will be published in 2017. Katie was the recipient of the 2013 Creative Drama Award and the 2006 Winifred Ward Scholar Award from AATE. She has won multiple teaching awards from UT, where she currently serves as a Provost Teaching Fellow. Prior to her work in academia, Katie worked professionally as an actor, youth theatre director, classroom teacher and museum theatre educator.

Randy Dixon is regarded as one of the most experienced improvisational artists in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. In 1983, he was a founding member of Unexpected Productions (Seattle) and has served as the company's Artistic Director since 1988. Randy also founded and directs The Orcas Island Project, an international performance group consisting of 15 performers from 12 countries. He has taught, directed and performed improvisational theater in Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Italy, Germany, Austria, Holland, and all over the U.S. and Canada. Outside of his improvisational work, Randy served on the editorial board for The Salt Journal a journal of Myth, Religion, Psychology and Ideas. His book, *Being Present: Spontaneous Storytelling and the Art of Improvisation* has been published in German, Slovene, soon in Swedish, and Japanese. Randy has B.F.A. in Drama from Seattle University and a Master's Degree in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in Jungian Depth Psychology.

Theresa Robbins Dudeck, Ph.D. (co-founder of the Global Improvisation Initiative), is an improvisation trainer, facilitator and speaker, as well as a theatre scholar-artist. Theresa is considered one of the foremost practitioners of the work of impro theatre pioneer Keith Johnstone. She wrote the critically-acclaimed *Keith Johnstone: A Critical Biography* (Bloomsbury 2013), and serves as Johnstone's Literary Executor. She co-edited *Applied Improvisation: Leading, Collaborating, and Creating Beyond the Theatre* (Methuen Drama 2018), the first anthology of case studies that shows the range of applied improvisation work happening around the world. Theresa is currently teaching at Portland State University and co-directing a documentary on Johnstone. For more on Theresa, please visit her website: <https://www.theimprofessor.com/>

Moriah Flagler is an MFA Candidate in Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities at The University of Texas at Austin. Before moving to Austin, Moriah spent two years teaching English as a second language in Quepos, Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica, she began an improvisational theatre troupe for adolescents that toured and led community workshops, exposing many people to improvisational theatre for the first time. Moriah has been improvising since 2000 when she helped form a short form troupe at her high school. She was a member of Not Burnt Out, Just Unscrewed in Tucson for many years and is currently taking classes with ColdTowne Theatre in Austin. Moriah's research interests include the use of drama-based pedagogy with emergent bilingual youth, devising and storytelling as opportunities for youth agency, and professional development practices that encourage dramatic inquiry as ethical education.

Danilo Forlini (Brazil): Educator and Socio-Pedagogical Coordinator at IFSP – São Paulo Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology – Câmpus Araraquara. Danilo has a Masters in School Education, he graduated in Social Sciences at UNESP, and is a specialist in socio-educational Psychodrama. In his master's thesis, he wrote about citizenship and political education in scholarly environments. Danilo also works as a socio-pedagogical coordinator and directs improvisation projects at school. He began his studies in improvisation three years ago and has been teaching improv since 2015.

The Groundlings Theatre and School is the pre-eminent training ground for improv and sketch comedy in the country. The Groundlings has been the springboard for countless bright careers since 1974, when the theatre was founded by Gary Austin and settled on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles (<http://www.groundlings.com/>).

Gary Hirsch is the Co-founder of On Your Feet (www.oyf.com). For the past 19 years On Your Feet has primarily worked with business organizations exploring how improv impacts communication, leadership, idea generation, brand building, organizational development, and collaboration...all while having a ridiculously good time! OYF's clients include Intel, Disney, Nike, Apple, P&G, Daimler, The British Ministry of Defense, a small band of Northern Californian Buddhist monks.

Improbable is led by Phelim McDermott and Lee Simpson, and uses improvisation to create spectacular shows, support and nurture artists and the arts sector, and facilitate social change. Improbable believes that art is for everyone and that our society needs a cultural shift that puts creativity at the heart of everyday life. The company creates an astonishing breadth of work, from small-scale improvised shows (like *Animo* and *The Still*) to enormous outdoor spectacles (like *Sticky*), modern operas (like *Satyagraha* and *Akhnaten*) to devised studio pieces (like *Opening Skinner's Box*), and takes this work around the UK and often the world. Alongside this, Improbable's Devoted & Disgruntled programme brings the arts community together to identify and work on shared issues; and its Participation programme takes improvisation to people and communities who have had little contact with the arts before. Improbable is currently developing an International Institute of Improvisation - the iii! - that serves as a hub for improvisational practice across the world, and furthers the development of improvisation as a tool for artistic and social engagement. Improbable was founded in 1996 and is based in London.

Keith Johnstone is a pioneer in the field of improvisational theatre and has been teaching all over the world for over five decades. Once considered the most radical playwright at the Royal Court Theatre (RCT), during his tenure (1956-1966), he was also an integral member of the famous Writers' Group which included trailblazing playwrights like Ann Jellicoe, Arnold Wesker, John Arden, Wole Soyinka, and Edward Bond. He ran the RCT Studio for professional actors (1963-1966) where he developed most of his Impro System of training. He toured all over Europe with his celebrated impro troupe The Theatre Machine, influencing everyone working in comedy at the time. Johnstone taught at RADA (1966-1972) and was invited to direct and teach at prestigious theatres and schools of theatre around the world (Barba's International School of Theatre Anthropology, Odense Teater, Odsherred Teaterskole, Stockholms Stadsteater). He continued an international professional career while a full professor at University of Calgary (1975-1995) and founding artistic director (1977-1998) of the Loose Moose Theatre Company. He is the creator of Theatresports™, The Lifegame, and other popular improvised formats licensed to companies worldwide.

Dr. Katzman received his BA at Stanford University, his MD at UC San Diego and completed his psychiatry residency at UCLA where he was on faculty for four years before moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine where he is Vice Chair for Clinical Services and Academic Affairs. Prior to this, he was the Director of Behavioral Health Care at the New Mexico VA Medical Center specializing in treating veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Dr. Katzman has taught human attachment and psychodynamic psychotherapy for twenty years to psychiatry residents and therapists throughout the nation. He is currently the Chair of the Education Committee of the American Association of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry (AAPDP). Dr. Katzman has an enduring history with improvisational theater spanning twenty-five years. This includes training at The Second City in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Theater Sports, and The Box Theater in Albuquerque. He has applied improvisational theater techniques to patient care, first at UCLA through the Imagination Workshop and later in the PTSD treatment program at the West Los Angeles VA medical center. He has worked with both seasoned psychotherapists and trainees teaching improvisational theater techniques to enhance the collaborative relationship formed in psychotherapy. He lectures widely to academic audiences on this topic. He has begun work with the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science - a national group working with esteemed scientists, physicians, actors, and journalists using the skills from improvisational theater to help them to communicate their ideas to the public. Dr. Katzman's love for narrative also led to the publication of a novel, *The Storymaker*, based on the premises of human attachment, loss, love, and grief. This work was recognized as an Amazon Breakthrough Novel Quarterfinalist.

Kelly Leonard, Creative Advisor, The Second City: Kelly Leonard has served in a variety of executive and creative positions at The Second City for nearly 30 years. His book, "Yes And: Lessons from The Second City," was released to critical acclaim in 2015 by Harper Collins. He has produced original revues with Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Seth Meyers, Steve Carell, Keegan Michael Key, Amy Sedaris and a host of others. He is the host of "Getting to Yes, And," a podcast for The Second City and WGN Radio. He has spoken at the Aspen Ideas Festival, TEDxBroadway and The Wharton School of Business.

Ming Yang Li (China): Li was born in 1990 in P. R. China. He is currently a teacher and a director (of martial arts shows) in Martial Arts and Traditional Culture Department, School of Physical Education, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China. From 2009 to 2013, Li received five gold medals in the National University Students Championship of Martial Arts in China. Li and his martial arts team were representatives of Chinese university martial arts; and via Confucius Institutes, they performed martial arts in various countries, such as Spain and Portugal in 2010, USA in 2014, and South Korea in 2016.

Anne Libera, Director of Comedy Studies and coordinator for the B.A. degree in Comedy Writing and Performance at Columbia College Chicago, a unique collaboration with The Second City and the first degree of its kind in the United States. She has worked with The Second City since 1986 and served as Executive Artistic Director of The Second City Training Centers. Her book, *The Second City Almanac of Improvisation* is published by Northwestern University Press. She directed multiple original revues and touring productions for The Second City in Chicago, Europe, and at sea on NCL. Other directing credits include Stephen Colbert's one-man show *Describing a Circle*.

Gunter Lösel, Ph.D. (Switzerland): Director of Performative Practice, Zurich University of the Arts and Artistic Director of Improtheater Bremen in Germany (<http://www.improtheater-bremen.de/>). He has published several books on improvisational theatre and a PhD dissertation on the performativity of improvisation: *Das Spiel mit dem Chaos – Performativität und Systemcharakter des Improvisationstheaters* (2013), Bielefeld: transcript-Verlag.

Patricia Ryan Madson, Professor Emerita at Stanford University and author of *IMPROV WISDOM: Don't Prepare, Just Show Up* (2005) which combines Keith Johnstone's theories and exercises with Dr. David K. Reynolds' ideas in the field of psychology to help others pay attention and respond spontaneously to the present moment. At Stanford, where Madson began teaching in 1977, she served as the head of the undergraduate acting division and developed the improvisation program. She founded the Stanford Improvisers (SImps) and taught beginning and advanced level courses in improvisation for undergraduate as well as adults in Stanford's Continuing Studies Program (<http://www.improvwisdom.com/>).

Gabe Mercado (Philippines): Gabe founded SPIT (<http://www.spitmanila.com/>) in Manila in 2002 after training with Paul Sills at the Wisconsin Theater Game Center in Door County, Wisconsin. SPIT has had over 1,000 performances all over the world including shows at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival, New York Improv Festival, Chicago Improv Festival, Beijing Improv Festival, Shanghai Improv Festival, Hong Kong Improv Festival and Amsterdam Improv Festival. He has been serving as a board member of the Applied Improvisation network since 2014. He is founder and executive director of Third World Improv, the only institution in the Philippines dedicated to improv instruction and is the founder of the Manila Improv Festival.

Rebecca Northan (Canada): Rebecca is a professional actor, director, playwright and improviser. She began her improv training at the Loose Moose Theatre Company in 1988. She is the creator of the hit-show, "Blind Date" (co-produced with Broadway producer Kevin McCollum), which has played across Canada, the US, and the West-end of London. Rebecca's company, Spontaneous Theatre, is also responsible for: "Legend Has It," a fantasy-adventure where an audience member saves the world, which premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects' Playwrights Festival in 2016, and then went on to have its US premier at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, as well as two shows in development, *An Undiscovered Shakespeare* (with the Stratford Festival of Canada), and "Undercover" (with Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, and Vertigo Theatre in Calgary). Rebecca has been teaching improvisation for 20 years, and is in the process of establishing an improv ensemble in Toronto (www.spontaneoustheatre.ca).

Wanjiku Nyachae (Britain): A Gestalt Psychotherapist, Coach and Organisational Consultant in private practice in UK and Europe. She is accredited by UKCP and registered by BACP. With Jon Trevor, he facilitates workshops for Psychotherapists and Counsellors using the tools of Applied Improvisation and the theory of Gestalt to sharpen genuine presence and contact between client and therapist.

Dan O'Connor is a Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed, nationally recognized Impro Theatre (www.improtheatre.com), home of LA Theatresports and their "UnScripted" full-length play formats (e.g., Chekhov UnScripted, Jane Austen UnScripted, The Western UnScripted, Shakespeare UnScripted, Sondheim UnScripted, etc.), many directed/co-directed by Dan. Collectively, these shows have been performed at The Broad Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Laguna Playhouse, North Coast Repertory, Falcon Theatre, New Vic Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, South Coast Repertory, among others. Dan is also co-founder of the long-running, successful BATS Improv in San Francisco. Dan has numerous film and television acting, directing, and writing credits (www.danoconnor.net). He has also taught at USC, Duke, Pepperdine, UC Santa Barbara, and UT Austin, and facilitates applied improv and creative workshops at Dreamworks, Disney Animation, Cirque du Soleil, to name a few. Dan is a graduate of the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London and a member of SAG-AFTRA, DGA, AEA and WGA.

Beth Milles is an Associate Professor in the Department of Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University. Recent directing work includes DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE (Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, RI), THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (Trinity Rep) and LAZARUS DISPOSED (Perishable Theatre). Other work includes writer/director Tim Robbins and Adam Simon's CARNAGE for The Actor's Gang in Los Angeles. Other recent work includes a new adaptation of Moliere's THE BOURGEOIS GENTLEMAN with her students at Cornell University in collaboration with composer Lewis Flinn, and Carson Kreitzer's FLESH AND THE DESERT for the Summer Play Festival in New York City. Other work includes the world premiere of NERO: ANOTHER GOLDEN ROME at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco developed in collaboration with playwright Steven Sater and composer Duncan Sheik. She directed the West Coast premiere of Carson Kreitzer's SELF DEFENSE at The Actor's Gang Theatre in Los Angeles (3 LA Weekly Awards), Julia Sweeney's "GOD SAID HA" on Broadway at the Lyceum Theatre, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, A CERTAIN LABOR DAY, written by and starring Carroll O' Connor at The Union Square Theatre in San Francisco. Beth adapted and directed THE IMAGINARY INVALID at the Actors Gang Theater in LA which toured at The Rushmore Festival (4 LA Ovation Awards including Best Adaptation).

Nikole Pascetta, Ph.D. (Canada): An alumnus (1990-1992) of the Jacques Lecoq Theatre School in Paris, France, Nikole holds a Ph.D. in Theatre Education and MA in Interdisciplinary Studies (York University). Lecoq's physically based training is the creative foundation of her 'making meaning through movement' performance research. Recent publications on the cross-disciplinary use of Neutral Mask and Commedia dell'Arte include UBCO's Working Papers in Linguistics, The Routledge Companion to Jacques Lecoq and an upcoming chapter titled "Jacques Lecoq and This Theatre Called my Body," an autoethnography on collective creation, social awareness and thematic storytelling.

Daniel Passer has been a Lead Clown and Comedy Conceptor for Cirque du Soleil and Dragone Entertainment for the last decade. With Cirque and Dragone, Daniel was in the original casts of "Le Reve", "Banana Schpeel" and "Zarkana" which toured Radio City Music Hall, The Beacon Theatre, Madrid's Stadium and occupied the Kremlin Theater longer than any other spectacle besides the Communist Party. Film credits include: "Boy Choir", "Danny Roan: First Time Director", "Music From Another Room" and "Almost Heroes." Daniel is a founding member of the international clown troupes "Your New Best Friends", "Gods of Sex" and "The Rotten Plantains". He teaches at several prestigious Universities and Theatres in the U.S. and Internationally and creates original works – most recently "A Big Mess" at the A.R.T. Institute and "Back Door" at CalArts. Currently, Daniel serves as Faculty of the Theater Program at CalArts and leads his own Clown and Commedia Workshops in New York and Los Angeles.

Edi Patterson, Groundlings Main Company Member (<http://www.groundlings.com/>). Edi recurs on *Black-ish*, and she was recently a series regular on FX's *Partners* with Kelsey Grammer and Martin Lawrence. Other TV credits include *The League*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Californication*, *Weeds*, *The Exes*, and guest-writing for *Saturday Night Live*. She also stars in the upcoming dark comedy/horror film *You're Killing Me*. Edi's also a member of Impro Theatre (<http://improtheatre.com/>) and she's 1/2 of the improv duo "Mitch & Edi Making Love" with Mitch Silpa.

Brad Robertson is the former Director of the Business Outreach Program at Portland State University, where he taught for 6 years. The tallest member of On Your Feet (www.oyf.com), Brad is great at reaching things. He is happy to tell you about home exchange, simplicity and how owning a snow cone business as a youth can have life-long consequences.

James Ruby is Associate Professor in the Department of Human Services & Counseling at California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Ruby holds a PhD in Research Methodology and Human Development from Loyola University of Chicago, a MA in Community and Family Counseling from Northeastern Illinois University, and a BA in from Western Kentucky University. He is a Nationally Certified Counselor, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and holds a Pupil Personnel Services credential as a School Counselor. Prior to coming to higher education, he worked in the therapeutic day school, community mental health, and private practice environments. His research interests include the use of arts-based experiences in counseling, undocumented immigrant student challenges, and effective counselor education practices. Dr. Ruby resides in southern California with his wife, Nanci, who teaches in the Theatre Department at Chapman University. Together, they are the proud parents of two sons.

Nanci Carol Ruby, MFA: Faculty member of Chapman University's Department of Theatre. She has taught at The Theatre School of DePaul University, Northeastern Illinois University, and California State University, Fullerton. At Chapman, she co-directs the Senior BFA Showcase with film director, John Badham, and recently directed *God Sees Dog* for Chapman's mainstage season. Nanci Carol has directed, acted, and collaborated with many theatres across the nation including The American Theatre Company (*Working*, *Three Penny Opera*), Apple Tree Theatre (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Spitfire Grill*), Center Stage Theatre (*The Waiting Room*), Lexington Shakespeare Festival (*Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*), Lexington Children's Theatre (*Rumpelstiltskin*, *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*), Centerlight Theatre for the Deaf (*Godspell*, *Blithe Spirit*), Kentucky Opera (*Aida*, *The Golden Cockerel*), and Light Opera Works (*Wonderful Town*, *Ruddigore*). Together with her husband, Dr. James Ruby, Nanci Carol has created a course for the California State University, Fullerton, Department of Human Services called "Integrating Acting and Psychodrama Techniques into Human Services."

Annie Sertich, Groundlings Main Company Member (<http://www.groundlings.com/>). Annie currently plays CJ Cantwell on HBO's *Silicon Valley*, and will appear in CBS's "Life in Pieces" as Titianna. Annie also lends her voice to ABC which includes promos for "The Bachelor (Hot)" and just filmed an independent dark comedy pilot. Other recent credits: "Shameless" (Reoccurring), "Mike Tyson's Mysteries," "Benched," "I Didn't Do It," "The Bounce Back" (Feature), "Dr. Brown" (Pilot), "Table 58," "The Tonight Show" (regular correspondent for 2 years.), "Playing House," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "2 Broke Girls," "The Guild" (web), "The Office." As a writer, her experience ranges from scripts she sold to Disney and Nickelodeon and to Ridiculousness on MTV. Her one woman play based on her memoir and directed by Groundlings Alum Michaela Watkins, *How To Not Kill Yourself for 30 Days...and the Next 330* is enjoying sold out runs here in LA, in NY, and will be heading to London and Edinburgh in 2017. A television show based on it is in development.

Patti Stiles (Australia): Patti is an actor, improviser, director, instructor, and playwright who has been working professionally in theatre since 1983. She served her theatre apprenticeship at the world renowned Loose Moose Theatre and was trained by Keith Johnstone. Her understanding and interpretation of Johnstone's work and philosophy, combined with a wealth of experience on the world stage, has made her a "must have" teacher. Patti has taught and performed in all corners of the world for impro companies, theatre schools, and in the corporate arena. The Canadian press has given her the titles of "Impro Doyen" and "Queen of Improvisation"! For more information, please visit her website: <http://pattistiles.com/>

Aretha Sills is the granddaughter of Viola Spolin. She studied theater games for many years with her father, director Paul Sills (creator/director of The Second City and Story Theater), and has conducted workshops at Paul Sills' Wisconsin Theater Game Center, Bard College, Stella Adler Studio of Acting, Sarah Lawrence College, and Northwestern University. She is the Associate Director of Sills/Spolin Theater Works. Aretha was nominated for an INNY Award for Best Improvisation Instructor and was the keynote speaker at the California Educational Theatre Association conference.

Koray Bülent Tarhan (Turkey): Koray is one of the founders of the first improv group in Turkey (www.istanbulimpro.com) formed in 2000 and author of the first handbook on improv in Turkish, *Dogaclama Icin Elkitabı* (2013). Koray works as an actor, musician, and project coordinator at Istanbulimpro and also applies improvisation in business, education, and social projects. He works with children, teenagers, and adults in different foundations and organizations. Koray authors improlog.blogspot.com, is the coordinator of Istanbul International Improv Festival, and a member of the Applied Improvisation Network (since 2009) which has invited him to present and/or lead workshops at several international conferences. He has also participated as an actor and workshop leader for improv festivals in Amsterdam, Berlin, Chicago, Beijing, and Ljubljana. Koray is a graduate from Ankara University Theater Department (2001).

Barbara Tint, Ph.D.: Professor of Conflict Resolution at Portland State University, facilitator, organizational trainer, licensed psychotherapist, and an improviser. She has been involved in facilitating trainings using the techniques of Applied Improvisation since 2009 and has conducted workshops all over the world. She uses Applied Improvisation in training about Power and Status, Resilience for Climate Change Adaptation, Conflict Resolution, Organizational Leadership, Intercultural Relations and Gender Relations. She is Co-President of the Applied Improvisation Network (AIN), an international group of practitioners using Improv for a variety of non-performance based purposes. Of all the modalities Barbara has worked with in her years as a therapist, professor, facilitator and student of life, she is convinced that Improv is the most transformational and joyful modality on the planet.

Jon Trevor (Britain): A trainer, facilitator, Improviser, Improvisation tutor and Applied Improvisation practitioner. He founded and runs Box of Frogs Improv in Birmingham UK, and performs with several troupes. He runs Let's Talk, a training company specialising in all aspects of interpersonal communication, and Improv Initiative, a company that takes the tools of Applied Improvisation into the corporate world. He is on the Board of the Applied Improvisation Network (AIN).

Joel Veenstra, M.F.A. (co-founder of the Global Improvisation Initiative), teaches improvisation, stage management, and production at the University of California, Irvine. He promotes the intraconnection of all of these areas in his work as well as in life itself. He is currently exploring applied applications of improvisation with UC Irvine's Program in Nursing Science and teaching improvisation applications at The Paul Merage School of Business. Veenstra produces improvisation investigations, including UC Irvine's annual Coup de Comedy Festival, a free 4-day comedy celebration for the community with over 30 performances and workshops, and Improv Legends: Ideas, Insights, Icons, a series of documentary shorts exploring the art of improvisational theater. Veenstra also has studied and performed extensively with luminaries such as Paul Sills and Keith Johnstone and at The Second City, Hollywood.

Yan Wang “Angie” was born in 1986 in P. R. China. She is a doctoral student in College of Educational Studies, Chapman University, with an emphasis on Culture and Curriculum Studies. Yan is a member of Paulo Freire Democratic Project at Chapman University, and a member of the Center for Critical Pedagogy Research at Northeast Normal University, Chang Chun, China. She has been practicing martial arts for over 2 years and she is absolutely passionate about it. Yan’s current research interest is incorporating improvisation and other forms of theatrical practices into academic classroom at higher education level.