

Sessions 1 – 3: Baseline Technique and Alignment

We begin Bizprov at TAI by showing up and connecting with each other. Rhythm, eye contact, shared breathing, simple storytelling and co-telling, and physical communication get participants trusting one another, so that the group begins to see itself as an ensemble of learners. Pairs and groups create a strong basis of offers and acceptance and test it in role-playing scenarios. We distinguish agreement from acceptance and learn to avoid the traps of asking questions and saying “no.” We will look at how this may show up in “real life” and how we can effectively accept and match offers to create synergy.

Sessions 4 – 7: Engagement, Courage & Leadership

We use exercises designed to challenge our on-stage, “in the hot seat” concentration and focus. As improvisers we will develop our moments of initiation and points of focus in bold, risky ways and play outside the box, beyond our normal turf and parameters. We play to eliminate doubt and tentativeness, to make it happen right now, boldly declaring “of course!” without squelching creativity or surprises. The exercises are organized around getting and giving instant information, exploiting it powerfully, and being present and fully energized at each stage. We treat a monologue or speech as an improvisational turning point for communicating strong perspectives.

Sessions 8 – 9: Mastery and Adaptability

Participants will learn how to improvise a stage show together. The group will master give-and-take, sharing focus, discovering and choosing what happens where and when (...and then what happens), as stories and improvised scenes unfold. They will learn to lead and follow; ask for help from a position of strength; make broad connections for each other; play with the politics involved; deal with curveballs; and find strong ending points. We engage the audience and develop savvy improvisational performance strategy and maneuverability.

Sessions 10 – 12: Applicability Lab

The final modules of Bizprov are several weeks of improvising creatively around real-world scenarios (from work or life). The suggestions for these explorations will come from class participants. We will likely play with negotiation, difficult conversations, managing (up or down), work/life balance, back/front office issues, messaging, and the politics of meetings. We’ll jump forward and backward in time, explore repercussions and results, play out alternate possible resolutions to situations, and investigate “what if’s” of all sorts.