



Champaign, IL 61821

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**About** Zoo Improv is a not-for-profit organization comprised of a diverse group of actors who love improvisation. Our ensemble includes certified teachers in theatre and music, professionally trained performers, and improvisers. Each of our performances is versatile, unique, and tailored to the audience.

**Mission** Zoo Improv is organized for artistic and educational purposes, more specifically to explore and experiment with various forms of improvisational theater through study, rehearsal, workshop, and performance; to maintain an open environment of participation by all members; to encourage an active interest in the art form in the community at large; with a focus on maximizing growth and artistic merit.

**Education** Members of Zoo Improv have received training from the following institutions and centers: University of Illinois, University of Maryland, North Park University, Dell'Arte School for Physical Theater, Educator training at Illinois High School Theatre Festival, the American High School Theatre Festival and the International Thespian Festival. Additionally, the ensemble has received training from Nathan Jansen (iO Chicago), Jet Eveleth (iO Chicago, Chicago Improv Festival artist associate), Mark Sutton (CIF Artistic Director), Jonathon Pitts (CIF Producer), and Micah Philbrook and Sally Anderson (pH Productions).

### **Performance Background and Other Experience**

- **Regular performances**

- Iron Post – *Fall 2007 to present*
- Verde Gallery – *Fall 2005 to Spring 2007*
- Indigo Artist Co op – *June 2009 to present*
- Cowboy Monkey – *Bi-monthly, Summer 2009; returning in the Fall of 2009*

- **Festivals:**

- Host and Organizers of the Champaign-Urbana Improv Festival, *March 2009*
- Chicago Improv Festival Apprentice Team, *June 2008*
- Performances at the Urbana Sweetcorn Festival, Mollypalooza, Boneyard Arts Festival, Urbana Street Theatre Festival, Taste of Champaign, and the Illinois State Fair

- **Interactive events:**

- Boltini Lounge *Repeal Day Celebration* – Provided ambient performers to interact with patrons to create a 1930's speakeasy environment and provide surprise police "raid" on the bar
- *K Kouch* for Krannert Center for the Performing Arts – facilitating conversations with people about the arts
- *Dance Breaks and Dance Parties* – commissioned by KCPA, 40 North/88 West, and the Urbana Business Association to organize volunteers and participate in spontaneous 10-minute dance parties on multiple dates in various locations throughout the C-U area

- **Marketing:**

- The Fireswallow Project - provided "Guerilla Improv" performances as commissioned by Spinlight Studios and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
- 40 North/88 West Marketing for the Boneyard Arts Festival - provided improvised events in public spaces

- **Corporate Parties and Conferences:** Carle Foundation Cardiac Rehabilitation Group holiday party; Champaign-Urbana Movie Makers Association Annual Mixer; Human Kinetics holiday party; Boltini Lounge Employee holiday party; Taylor Studios Employee Appreciation Party, Nurse Practitioners' Conference, Schaumburg IL; Illinois Tourism Bureau

- **Educational Workshops:** provided introductory and intermediate improvisational theatre training to youth at Operation Snowball; Central High School Theatre Group; Zoo Improv Teen Improvisers Summer Camp

- **Private Parties:** provided entertainment at a wide range of private events including birthday, retirement, and engagement parties