



The San Francisco Improv Festival
621 Natoma Street, SF CA 94103
(415) 863-1076 (Phone and Fax)
improvalliance@gmail.com
www.sfimprovfestival.com

For Immediate Release
The San Francisco Improv Festival
Contact: Shaun Landry
Phone 415-863-1076
Email: improvalliance@gmail.com or shaunlandry@gmail.com

For Immediate Release: Calendar Listing:

- **When:** 8:00Pm Thursday – Saturday starting June 14 – July 28th
- **What:** Improv, Comedy, Theater
- **Who:** The San Francisco Improv Festival 2007
- **Where:** The Garage 975 Howard Street, SF CA 94103
- **Price:** \$20.00 Students, Seniors and TBA Members \$12.00
- **Public info:** (415) 863-1076 and <http://www.sfimprovfestival.com>
- **Contact:** Shaun Landry 415-863-1076 improvalliance@gmail.com

The San Francisco Improv Festival returns for its fourth year with a full lineup of improvisational comedy including special celebrity guests Emo Phillips and MadTV's Ike Barinholtz. The festival also includes seven solid weeks of the best improvisational teachers from The Bay and Nationally. For the full lineup go to www.sfimprovfestival.com Produced by The San Francisco Improv Alliance www.improvalliance.org. Sponsored by The Onion Newspaper and Pyramid Beer.

For Immediate Release: Radio PSA:

: 60 PSA

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For Immediate Release
The San Francisco Improv Festival 2007 the fourth annual festival breaks the rule of three with seven weeks of improv comedy.

The San Francisco Improv Festival 2007 is back for its fourth year with incredible improvisation from some of the finest local, national and international comedy ensembles to The Bay Area!

This year is bigger and brighter! Including special guest performers including Ike Barinholtz from MadTV with Susan and Messing from Chicago's Annoyance and Let's Go to Prison (Messing with Ike) and Comedy legend Emo Phillips improvising with Chicago's prestigious Bassprov (Joe Bill and Mark Sutton from The Annoyance and The Second City Chicago)

This years SFIF also expands out it master class series to cover the entire seven weeks with professional classes in improv comedy from not only the most highly regarded national instructors, but this year local favorites!

Started in 2004 by Shaun Landry the first festival has hosted close to a hundred improvisational ensembles from every style: Shortform, Longform, Solo, Two Person, Improv Jams, Genre based improv, Musicals, Game Shows...you name it? SFIF has had it here in San Francisco. The Festival has been host to Premier ensembles from around the country and internationally including The Second City Los Angeles, The Annoyance Theater Chicago, BATS Improv, Dad's Garage Atlanta, I Eat Pandas New York, Slap Happy from Toronto Canada and many, many others

This year the festival is showcasing more out of town ensembles as well as representation from the finest improv ensembles in the Bay Area. This year, the festival also ushers in the brand new theater space "The Improv Arena" in the heart of South of Market!

"One would assume I would have lost my mind at this point to put up another seven week festival" Laughs 41 year old Festival producer and local improviser Landry, " But I could not be more excited. Still. After four years, great ensembles and liver damage. I'm honored to have Emo (Phillips) and Ike (Barinholtz) to grace the SFIF stage. It should be one hell of a good seven weeks for Bay Area Audiences.

Highlights of this year festival includes appearances by **Opening Weekend with Emo Phillips with Bassprov Chicago and San Francisco's favorite 3 For All; Messing with Ike (Ike Barinholtz from MadTV and Susan Messing) with Oui Be Negroes; Razowsky and Clifford returning with San Francisco Un-Scripted Theater, Imp from New York with SF's Revolving Madness, Improvising with Pride Weekend (as part of Gay Pride SF) and This year's producer pick: The Comedy Jesus Show!**

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The Entire Line-Up of the San Francisco Improv Festival Includes:

Bassprov with Emo Phillips & 3 For All San Francisco	Opening Weekend June 14-16 8:00PM
Improv Cabaret (Orlando) Me Likey (Toronto) Julie Potter (SF)	June 21-23 8:00PM Gay Pride Weekend
Messing with Ike (Chicago/LA) Oui Be Negroes (SF)	June 28 – June 30 1 8:00PM
Storytellers Unplugged (SF) Comedy Jesus Show (LA) Velvet Tom (LA)	July 5-7 8:00PM
Revolving Madness (SF) Imp (New York)	July 12-14 8:00PM
Big Yellow Bus (Chicago) String Theory (Vancouver) 4 in 1 (SF)	July 19-21 8:00PM
The Transactors (Chapel Hill NC) Un-Scripted Theater (SF) Razowsky & Clifford (SF)	Closing Weekend July 26-28 8:00PM

Dates: June 14 – July 28
The Improv Arena 975 Howard Street
All shows start at 8pm Doors Open at 7pm.
\$20.00. \$12.00 TBA/Seniors/Students/Improv Alliance Members. \$10.00 Groups over 10.

For Reservations call (415) 863-1076, buy online at www.sfimprovfestival.com or www.brownpapertickets.com or through the TBA Tix Booth in Union Square

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For Immediate Release **SFIF Week One June 14-16: Special Guest Emo Phillips with Bassprov and 3 For All!**



Emo Phillips (Los Angeles)

Seen in the film "UHF." Stand-Up TV Comedy credits include a half hour "Comedy Experiment" on Cinemax, a half hour Showtime Special, an hour-long concert on HBO, seven appearances "Late Night with David Letterman" and a recent debut on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Emo has also been "cartoonified" on Comedy Central's "Doctor Katz" and on "Weird" Al Yankovic's Saturday morning show. Many consider him, including Jay Leno, to be one of the best joke writers in America. In a poll commissioned by GQ Magazine, three of his jokes were judged by his peers to be among the top 75 of all time. The San Francisco Improv Festival is honored to have him host our opening weekend.



Bassprov (Chicago)

Solving Life's Problems, One Beer at a Time. The two-person ensemble of Mark Sutton and Joe Bill (original company members of The Annoyance theater Chicago) brings this festival favorite to San Francisco! Critically acclaimed at every major improv festival in the country (including Chicago, Miami, Toronto, Los Angeles, Seattle, Atlanta and winners of the Bass Red Triangle Jury Awards) Emo Phillips joins them in the boat!



3 For All (San Francisco)

3 For All: No Scripts. No Audience. No Editing. No Kidding. San Francisco Most loved three-man ensemble featuring Rafe Chase, Stephen Kearin and Tim Orr. Piano by Joshua Raoul Brody.

"Masters of the art of improvisation...Very few people do it better than 3 FOR ALL." - Spark, KQED TV

"Brings to mind a masterful band of jazz musicians, sustained by quick wits, mutual chemistry and some fancy footwork...with serious chops and exceptional charisma, these Etch-A-Sketch artists are truly something else. And that means every night." - Robert Avila, San Francisco Bay Guardian. "What sets the guys in 3 FOR ALL apart from normal improv actors is a sense of style...they develop smooth, hilarious skits...brilliant." - Michael Scott Moore, SF Weekly. For More Information on 3 For All please go to the [3 For All Website](#)

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For Immediate Release
SFIF Week Two June 21-23: Improvising With Pride Weekend San Francisco



Improv Cabaret with Mark Baratelli (Orlando)

Improv Cabaret is a one-man musical cabaret. However, unlike a traditional cabaret act, Mark Baratelli improvises the entire thing, manufacturing plotline, monologues and lyrics just a millisecond before they tumble out of his mouth; and he does so without pause, to hysterical ends.

Mark is a master storyteller with what the Orlando Sentinel called a "warped imagination" and "Baratelli's humor runs in odd and quite wonderful directions." He is an excellent singer, whose comic timing and malleable face are the dessert topping in a most original show.

Improv Cabaret, performed with live musical accompaniment, has to be seen to be believed, and many people come back to see a second or third show, as you can be assured that no two shows are alike.



Me Likey (Toronto Canada)

Two women. One Suggestion. No holds barred. The Me Likey Fun Hour is a fast and furious improv show featuring two women who are absolutely fearless* (*fear of accidentally exposing a boob on stage excepted)

Jan Caruana and Rica Eckersley Trained at Theatresports Toronto and The Second City Toronto. These two comedienne have worked together in dozens of shows – Andrew Lloyd Whatever: The Improvised Musical, Hairy Patter and the Improvised Stone and Unckey Darryl's House of Sketchola, just to name a few.

Me Likey! have performed at The Chicago Improv Festival 2006 and performed as part of the opening night showcase of the 2006 Toronto Improv Festival



Host: Julie Potter (San Francisco)

Julie Potter is a rapper, comedian, and entertainer. In just a few short years she has made a name for her self. Julie was a resident company member at Lila Theatre and most recently just finished The Razowsky Project directed by David Razowsky, the artistic director of Second City, Los Angeles. Currently Julie is recording her debut rap/comedy album entitled EXODUS, which is scheduled for release in March 2007. In addition Julie was selected to be apart of the HOMOREVOLUTION TOUR. This is the first tour dedicated to purely Queer Hip-Hop artists and will be the subject of a new documentary. www.juliefuckingpotter.com

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For Immediate Release SFIF Week Three June 28-30: Barinholtz, Messing and Negroes Weekend



Messing with Ike (Chicago/Los Angles)

Messing with Ike is an uncensored joyride from hell. It's been performed for three years at the Second City unhinged series, iO, The LA Improv Festival, and The Chicago Improv Festival.

Susan Messing has been seen in the movie *Let's Go To Prison* and is a founding member of the Annoyance Theater, Chicago. **Ike Barinholtz** is a mainstay on the comedy series *MADTV*.



OUI BE NEGROES (San Francisco)

The San Francisco Improv Festival is pleased to bring back for the second year in a row the original African American Sketch and Improv Ensemble OUI BE NEGROES.

The Negroes, (originally from Chicago and now residing for its seventh year in San Francisco) brings its brand of social and political improvisational theater. They have performed nationally and internationally and can be read in the improv resource "Whose Improv Is It Anyway...Beyond the Second City" on Minorities and Women in Improv. The cast features **Nkechi, Marcus Sams, Hans Summers and Shaun Landry.**

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For Immediate Release SFIF Week Four July 5-7: Improv Storyteller's Weekend



Storytellers Unplugged – San Francisco

Featuring Kurt Bodden (Scratch Theatre, BATS Alumni), Tim Ereneta (Storyteller and BATS Alumni), Ruth Halpern (Storyteller), Shaun Landry (Oui Be Negroes), and special guest Christopher Gray (from Tonal Chaos). Storytellers Unplugged showcases improvised solo character pieces plus stories told by two and three people for an evening of witty, poignant, and surprising improvisational theater.



The Comedy Jesus Show – Los Angeles

Comedy's Answer To the Religious Right, Jesus H. Christ is back as a comedian, and the "H" is for Hilarious! Join The Holy Ghost as He hosts a fast paced multimedia show of Jesus improv: impromptu Q & A with the Messiah Himself.

A bit sacrilegious, a bit spiritual, totally funny. The Comedy Jesus Show just returned from a successful run in Montreal, and sold out shows at The Dublin Fringe Festival in Ireland.

Jesus is back. And the truth is funny. This show is not recommended for evangelicals, even the ones on crystal meth.

For more, info go to www.comedyjesus.com or add Him on your MySpace at: www.myspace.com/comedyjesus



Host: Velvet Tom (Los Angeles)

Velvet Tom is a hard drinkin' hard lovin' B-List Lounge Singer with an A-list libido. He has one juicy ass voice that'll make your panties melt off...right through your jeans. With the help of his musical director and back up singers, The Velveetahs, he'll turn any ordinary night out into a night of love, and smarm.

He once called the producer of SFIF and her husband "The Vic Damone and Diahann Carroll of Improv". This is the only reason he is hosting at SFIF07.

His alias of Tom Farnan has been seen at Comedysportz Chicago, WNEP Chicago and IO West Los Angeles.

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SFIF Week Five July 12-14: Improv Coast-to-Coast Weekend



Revolving Madness – San Francisco

Revolving Madness returns for the second year in a row from the sold out SFIF06 houses! Revolving is dedicated to performing not only their unique style of improvisation, but to producing their own original works as well as new and classical material that reflects on their training, personality and ideals. Long-form improvisation with no script, no structure and no suggestions — just plain madness.

Revolving Madness has played to rave reviews at The Toronto Improv Festival two years in a row at the San Francisco Fringe Festival and shows in Los Angeles and New York. The San Francisco Improv

Festival is pleased to have them again! <http://www.revolvingmadness.com>



Imp – New York

Imp has been performing nationally since 2002, combining the inspirations of Commedia dell'Arte, Cirque du Soleil, Jacques Tati and Bill Irwin into their improvisation.

In the course of a show, they play out several vignettes using as few words as possible, if any, instead communicating with action and emotion and expression and physicality, bringing audience members into the mix whenever possible. Imp always holds to its basic tenets of what makes a story and its characters engaging and how the body can be used more concisely to convey those ideas. Imp features Asaf Ronen (author of the book Directing Improv) and Karen Wight.

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For Immediate Release **SFIF Week Six July 19-21: Genre Improv Weekend**



Big Yellow Bus (Chicago)

The Big Yellow Bus, the hit show at The Playground Theater Chicago showcases The Playground's best improvisers along with special guests since November of 2004.

This dynamic show has had alumni from The Second City, The Annoyance, Boom! Chicago and Chicago's Comedysportz play. The Bus Ride has also included special guests from Los Angeles, New York and even Hawaii. The cast features Andy Carey, Kat Gotsick, Lauren Lapkus, Lisa Linke, Roger Payton and Sammy Tamimi.



String Theory – (Vancouver, Canada)

Five improvisers, one guitar, a spontaneous onslaught of short form scenes and songs which, initially, lull you into a false sense of security, until you come to the startling realization that you are knee deep in an, occasionally, epic rock opera.

String Theory is a format, which is not only unique and exciting in its narrative and thematic structure but, more importantly, ultimately satisfying for both the audience.



4 In 1 (San Francisco)

4 in 1 is dedicated to the pursuit of high-quality improv, genre story telling, and strong acting - while making it all seamless and fun. They have been performing their one act improv genre since October of 2005.

The cast of Jason Leal, Vincenta Licata, Toni Mazzuca and Ken Robertson has played individually with many of San Francisco's premier improv troupes (Un-Scripted Theatre, BATS Improv, How We First Met), and been privileged to work with guest instructors from 3 For All, True Fiction Magazine, World Cup Comedy, BATS Improv, Tonal Chaos, and the Sexy Lilliputians.

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Razowsky and Clifford (Los Angeles)

RAZOWSKY AND CLIFFORD is a two-person improv show that relishes in the purist form of improv—starting with nothing. Well, almost nothing, an audience member decides where to place two chairs for the first scene and they're off and running. They utilize a form that follows the random placement of two chairs. Dave Razowsky and Carrie Clifford are both actors and writers living in Los Angeles. These improv veterans began their improv training in Chicago performing at Second City, ImprovOlympic and The Annoyance. Razowsky has written and performed in ten Second City Chicago revues, as well as having directed Second City Mainstage's No, Seriously, We're All Gonna Die. He is now the Artistic Director of Second City, Los Angeles and Clifford

performs there with The Group. Razowsky & Clifford perform regularly at IO West in Los Angeles.



The Transactors (Chapel Hill, NC)

Transactors Improv is the South's oldest active improvisational theater. Since 1983 the company has entertained and enlightened hundreds of thousands of people of all ages and developed a national reputation for artistic excellence and innovation. Emotion, physicality, character, narrative, teamwork, and fun form the foundation of Transactors, whose motto is: If you laugh we're doing comedy; if you don't we're doing drama.



Un-Scripted Theater (San Francisco)

The Un-Scripted Theater Company was founded in 2002. Since then, the Un-Scripted Theater Company has performed hundreds of shows all over the Bay Area, including shows across California and the United States.

Un-Scripted Theater Company performs both Shortform and Longform improv shows. Their shows are rooted in the idea that if someone can perform something scripted (like a play, movie, or musical) then it can also be improvised as well.

The SFIF is pleased to have Un-Scripted back for a third year.

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