

## **Masterclass Descriptions, 8/2018**

*The Beat Goes On* – If you've ever wondered how two or three actors can play out a 40-minute set in one continuous location then this is workshop you've been looking for. Discover how awareness and "present-ness" keeps a scene going while you were thinking it was "ending." By being aware of how much you fuel you still have in the scene you can keep playing an intriguing, full and exciting scene indefinitely. A scene only ends when you think it does. So stop thinking, start feeling and keep going!

*Everyday's Everyone's Birthday, or GIFTS, GIFTS, GIFTS* – Be the "Santa of Nowtown," delivering scenic gifts every moment. There are gems you're missing, and this is the workshop that will help you find them. Learn to see them, use them, and offer them to your partner. It's your birthday and your favorite holiday all rolled into one scene. Your imagination will lead you to surprises, inspiration and powerful, solid scenes.

*Expose your UnderWhere* – Every object you need in a scene is already there, you just have to "see" it. There's no need to "put something somewhere," because everything you need you have. This workshop'll connect you to everything that's already there, freeing you from thinking, encouraging you to see, helping you explore relationships and create characters in ways you've never done before.

*Exposition is Your Friend!* – Getting bogged down in the "who, what and where"? How much info is too much info? When have you had enough so you can "start" the fun part of the scene? It's all in recognizing the feelings exposition offers you. Become aware of the feeling of being present, and you will suddenly know where you go next.

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*Get Specifics* — Open up your scenes by adding the specifics to your world, adding flavors and exotic elements to your scenic menu. Play your scenes like a great jazz musician riffing on a jazz standard! Your mind will soar, your characters will be exciting to play, and your scenes will have a vibrancy that you never imagined.

*Group Scenes Reduced* – A group scene doesn't have to be a confusing clusterfunk. Get off the wall and get yourself into that scene! *Group Scenes Reduced* will show how the art of the three-person (+!) scene is simple once it's broken down, leading you to stronger, challenging, surprising, and clear long-form scenes. Start it out right, heighten it, move it forward, and *keep* it moving. Join the crowd!

*Guided Performance* —Performing in a show with by David Razowsky is a special event. His focus, openness, and vivid imagination takes the players to places they've never been to before. David will join the cast of his workshops in an hour-long performance, showing the actors how his methodology works on stage.

(NOTE: This workshop is designed to follow at least two workshops, all with the same cast of actors. The purpose of the *Guided Performance* is to get the actor up on her feet working the muscles we've built over the time we've been together.)

*Hear the Now: The Opening Line Isn't Spoken* — Learn to hear what your partner's offering you before they even open their mouths. The answers are all in the Tempo of their movements and their Spatial Relationship to you. It's all about trusting yourself, having confidence in your awareness, and the excitement knowing what you don't realize is what improv is all about.

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*Hold Back on the Facts! The Art of Surprise* - Do you dare to just connect? Are you courageous enough to just let the relationship start then decide the details later...when you need to! Holding back surprises the audience...because it surprises YOU!

*Improvising as an Actor* – Improvisation director/teacher/actor David Razowsky feels that “all improvisation is acting,” and has seen great changes when an “improviser” starts to think and act as an “actor who improvises.” This **one- or two-day workshop** is focused on getting the actor to become comfortable organically developing a character within a given set of circumstances. Actors will be taught how to effortlessly create instant relationships, compelling points of view, strong character choices, and exciting and natural scenarios. Actors who have worked with Razowsky calls his approach “compelling,” “gratifying,” “simple,” and “exciting.” Once you’re exposed to this, you won’t let go.

*Instant Characters* – Building strong characters starts the moment your foot hits the floor, not the moment you start “thinking.” This workshop will focus on the organic unfolding of character based on that first step. Characters are richer, instantly fleshed out and exciting, all leading to playing people you’ve never inhabited, in scenes you’ve never before played. More being...less thinking!

*Let it Go---You’ll be so Happy You Did!* – Are you making decisions of where the scene’s supposed to go without letting it go where it wants to go? Start your scenes strongly, certainly and surprisingly. If you think you know where your scene’s going...you’re probably missing out on some great experiences!

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Operation Cooperation — Are you helping your partner smoothly fly through the scene, or are you not aware? If you're there to be your partner's "Hype Man," you're the perfect partner. The finest of scenes start with two actors working with one mind...the scene's mind! Make the stage your "cooperating room!"

Pro-(Positive)Choices – A toolbox contains more than a hammer, so shouldn't your scenes contain more than anger and conflict? Find creative freedom when positive emotional choices drive your scenes. Guide your scenes forward without a need to conjure up an argument, defend your side of the story, or your need to have your ego intact at the scene's end. It's not about winning or losing---it's about keeping the scene alive.

Revelations! – A scene doesn't change unless someone in it changes. Makes sense, huh? How do you know you've changed, and how can you spot an emotional change? Get in touch with that inner alert that tells you it's time to take the next step in the action. Why invent when you have everything you need right in your gut? Heck, it's practically a life lesson!

The Scene at the End of The Game of The Scene Are you abandoning your scene once your "game" is over because you've been taught that there's nothing worth pursuing once the game's done? Hey, THAT'S WHERE THE FUN LIVES! Play the game, then stay for the wonderful surprises that come

Shape/Gesture/Tempo: Viewpoints Elements in Action – Whether you're an old pro using Viewpoints, or just you just wanna be mindful of these, using Shape, Gesture and Tempo creates instant character, dynamic and scenes without you adding anything but your awareness (which you're already bringing!). No previous Viewpoints classes needed for you to take this workshop and begin your new way of feeling/being/acting/living!

*Sharpen your Point of View* – Most scenes go off track because we're not aware of our character's or our partner's character's point-of-view. The very first exchanges of your scene tell you all you need to know about who you are and where to go, every single time. This workshop, hailed as "Vital...an eye-opener..." exposes you to what you're feeling, what your focus is, and what you get to give attention to. This workshop will change the way you look at scenes!

*Strong Entrances, Strong Choices* — Be aware of all that's happening at the top of your scene and you'll be aware of the power you have in your character. It starts as all things do: at the beginning!

*Two Acting as One, A Duos Workshop* — There are more duos performing on stages all over the world than ever before. Some are even household names! How do you get to the point where you and your partner are listening on a "deep tissue level," silently, secretly, seamlessly working as one? *Two Acting as One, A Duos Workshop* is a masterclass intensive that focuses on identifying a duo's unique voice/strength/style, culminating in an evening's performance. This workshop is open to 8 duos, and takes place over a weekend.

*Viewpoints Elements* – While teaching for Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre School, Second City veteran David Razowsky was exposed to--and inspired by--the power of Anne Bogart and Tina Landau's Viewpoints training, and immediately saw how the tools of Viewpoints play in improv theatre. Razowsky's **two-day master class** will focus the actor to spontaneously respond through compulsion rather than what choice is "right or wrong." The actor will learn the power of working from impulse and true-play in the present moment. Prepare to see your craft in a new light, prepare to see with new eyes, and prepare to be rejuvenated!

*A Day Dedicated to "You"!* The focus of this master class is to get the actor to set aside all of the unnecessary elements of improv training and replace them with a life-changing awareness of "You being on stage with you."

The most important person on stage is YOU. YOU get to notice what happens, YOU get to be aware of what's inspiring you, YOU get to follow what energizes you, and YOU get to celebrate the surprises that YOU create.

With the full-day *YOU* masterclass you'll enter the world of personal awareness and presentness, of the excitement of knowing what to do the moment the moment arrives! YOU are in charge, and this workshop will be a study of--and a practice of--you connecting to you. YOU are the boss of YOU.

The "YOU" "takeaways" will include:

--Owning calm self-awareness at the beginning of your scenes immediately leading you to strong points-of-view.

--Letting go, moving on. The beat feels like it's over...now what? You will always know what's the "now" about your scene.

This will all lead up to you being a strong, confident, courageous actor, producing scenes that will most surprise... you.



### **David Razowsky's approach to improvisation:**

"I have a simple approach to improvising: Your present awareness is the only thing you need to create compelling, smart, truthful, and surprising scenes. Period. No games, no preconceived premises, no ideas, no ego. All that matters is now. The actor's level of improvisation experience doesn't matter, for all you need to bring to my workshop is your present presence. All you'll leave with is your joy and excitement and confidence. And after all, what more do you need?"

**David Razowsky** is the former artistic director of the Second City Hollywood and the host of the award-winning podcast *ADD Comedy with Dave Razowsky*. His teaching and performing has taken him to Australia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Canada, Norway, The Netherlands, the UK, and New Zealand, where he recorded "*Life: The Process is the Product*," a TEDx Talk. As an actor at The Second City David worked with Martin Short, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Amy Poehler among others. He's directed The Second City Mainstage, The Second City Hollywood, The Second City Detroit, and The Second City National Touring Company. He's a consultant for Dreamworks, a teacher for Steppenwolf Theater, adjunct faculty for California State University, and directed two productions for Amsterdam's Boom Chicago Theatre. David's a member of the Reduced Shakespeare Company and performed in their Kennedy Center run of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*. Visit [www.davidrazowsky.com](http://www.davidrazowsky.com) for more David.