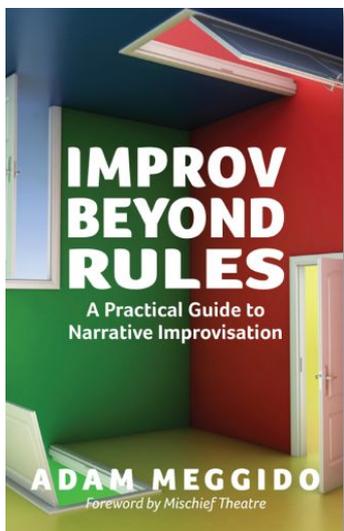


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Free your creativity with this exciting new guide to improvisation



Improv Beyond Rules

A Practical Guide to Narrative Improvisation

by Adam Meggido

An inspiring, hands-on guide to narrative improvisation, by the co-creator and director of the Olivier Award-winning improv show *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical*

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Improvisation is a craft that anyone can learn. When freed from endless rules and rigid approaches and allowed to relax, react instinctively and work seamlessly as a group, improvisers can spontaneously create performances that thrill audiences with their liveness.

Drawing on the author's extensive experience teaching and performing around the world, *Improv Beyond Rules* is a fresh and exciting re-examination of the whole field of improvisation.

Starting with the fundamental principles that work for all forms of improvised performance – and the common traps improvisers fall into – it goes on to explore the elements of narrative improvisation, where performers create a story without any predetermined structure:

- **The Moment:** How to be authentically 'in the moment' by listening and responding to your fellow performers, accepting their suggestions (not necessarily by always saying 'yes') and committing to whatever happens next.
- **The Scene:** How to connect moments together to build a compelling scene and keep it moving forward; why there's no such thing as a mistake; understanding and working with audiences.
- **The Story:** How to link scenes to build story and plot; what kids can teach us about storytelling; utilising dramatic structure; developing and playing different types of characters; key principles of staging.

Packed with dozens of games and exercises, *Improv Beyond Rules* will give you the tools to build your confidence, empower your performance, and unlock your creativity. Written for improvisers with any level of experience, this book is also the perfect starting point for directors, teachers, actors or anyone eager to learn how improvisation can benefit both rehearsal and performance.

'Adam transforms the seemingly impossible into something exceptionally practical with his trademark patience, charm and clarity' Mischief Theatre, from their Foreword

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About the author



Adam Meggido is a writer, director, performer and composer. He studied Drama and Theatre Arts at Birmingham University and gained a postgraduate diploma in acting from the Webber Douglas Academy, although he cites his years with Claude Chagrin and Ken Campbell as the most important parts of his training.

Adam is the co-creator and director of *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical*, which won the 2016 Olivier Award for Best Entertainment and Family. *Showstopper!* has also enjoyed a BBC Radio 4 series, twelve sell-out years to date at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, numerous UK tours, and performances all over the world.

He created and directs the annual *London Fifty-Hour Improvathon* and holds the (unofficial) world record for directing continuous longform improvisation (55 hours in Toronto, December 2013). Other projects in improvisation include *The School of Night* (Shakespeare's Globe, Royal National Theatre, Royal Court Theatre), *Rhapsodes* and *The Society of Strange* (Theatre503, Wilton's Music Hall, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and performances in Norway, Italy and Canada). He also co-created, and performed in, eight online improvisations with ventriloquist and filmmaker Nina Conti, entitled *Nina Conti: In Therapy*.

As a theatre director his credits include *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (nominated for a Best New Comedy Olivier Award), and *Magic Goes Wrong*. He was consultant director on *Mischief Movie Night* (also Olivier-nominated for Best New Comedy) and *Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel* (Chortle Comedy Award winners).

His musical *Burlesque* won four Off-West End Theatre Awards including Best New Musical 2012. He also co-composed music and wrote lyrics for *The Tailor Made Man* (Arts Theatre 2013) and is the author of twelve plays.

Adam is an associate director of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and was the Head of Foundation at LAMDA 2007–16 where he has been teaching since 2004.

'Adam isn't just an excellent improviser, he's also an excellent teacher of improvisation. Many people who are truly brilliant in their field lack the skill of being able to pass on their genius, and of course there are many great teachers who communicate theory very well, but Adam is a rare combination of both.' Mischief Theatre, from their Foreword

For further information and review copies, contact Jon Barton, Marketing Manager, jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk or 020 8749 4953

NICK HERN BOOKS • The Glasshouse, 49a Goldhawk Road, London W12 8QP
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