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IMPROVISATIONAL THEATRE CLASSES COME TO THE GRAND STRAND

*Theatre of the Republic has partnered with Carolina Improv Company
to offer improv classes for adults, starting February 2.*

January 7, 2009, Myrtle Beach, S.C. — In an effort to provide a theatre performance curriculum, Theatre of the Republic is offering improvisational (improv) theatre classes for adults, in addition to an adult musical theatre movement class, starting February 2 and January 14 respectively. Space is limited for both classes and participants must be 18 years or older. To register, call the theatre directly at 843-488-0821. For more information about improv, visit www.carolinaimprov.com.

For those unfamiliar with the art of improv, the quickest way to explain it is to equate to the television show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” in which actors instantly invent unrehearsed skits, games or songs, relying only on their quick wit and improvisational skills. Improv classes are not just for actors because they provide the tools for anyone interested in learning how to think quick on their feet, be spontaneous, be more creative, become more flexible and much more.

Carolina Improv Company (CIC) instructor Gina Trimarco, a Chicago native, studied improv at Second City, where many actors got their start, such as Tina Fey, Mike Myers, Stephen Colbert, George Wendt, Chris Farley, Bill Murray, Bonnie Hunt and John and Jim Belushi. What started out as a hobby for Gina, turned into a foundation for every day life. “The primary tool of improv is re-learning how to say ‘yes’ to whatever presents itself to you in life. When you say ‘yes’ life becomes more interesting and less restrictive. Just watch how children behave. Anything is possible to a child. We forget that as adults,” says Trimarco. “This concept can be applied to anything in life,” she continues. Improv training during Trimarco’s college years helped her land a career in television and film production and ultimately as a marketing director for entertainment companies.

Improv 101 explores the basics of comedy improvisation: team building, trust, speed, status, active listening and agreement (saying “yes and ...”). Students learn to be fearless and have fun on stage and in life using what they learn in class. Classes are approximately two hours per week on Monday nights for six weeks starting February 2 and ending March 9. A graduation show for friends and family will follow. This class is for anyone willing to learn new skills in a safe, non-judgemental and team-oriented environment. It’s not about being funny, but funny often happens. The six-week class costs \$150 for approximately 12 hours of training.

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CIC also offers corporate workshops to help organizations improve their abilities to connect with others, solve unexpected problems in the moment, and create better ways of working. Improvisational skills are vital in business, especially in the age of virtual teams and lightning fast change. Improvisers can create something out of nothing, which is important for creating new ideas, fostering relationships and adjusting to change. These skills can apply to all industries and job categories and is especially perfect for anyone in customer service or leadership positions.

Theatre of the Republic (TOR) is also excited to announce an Adult Musical Theatre Movement class, an eight week course beginning January 14 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. The cost is \$75 per month. Basic jazz and musical theatre styles fo dance will be emphasized. The instructor, Sandra Adams, is also TOR's resident choreographer. She has been a dance instructor and choreographer for more than 30 years. As a child, Sandra trained in Marion, SC and later at USC in Columbia, SC. After college, she furthered her training at The Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Sandra has choreographed many musicals throughout the low country.

About Carolina Improv Company

In need for a refresher improv class to re-energize her, Gina Trimarco searched and searched for a place to take classes. When she discovered that improv did not exist in Myrtle Beach, someone suggested that she teach classes instead and Carolina Improv Company was born in September 2008. Originally from Chicago, Gina studied improv at the famed Second City while her career in entertainment marketing blossomed. Carolina Improv Company offers improv classes to adults and teambuilding and public speaking training to groups and organizations. In the future Carolina Improv Company will offer improv comedy shows to locals and tourists. For more information, visit www.carolinaimprov.com or call 1.843.597.6393.

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