



## Workshops

### **1. Re-Action!**

**Put the essence of acting into your improv.**

Two of the fundamental principles of professional acting (which we tend to forget when we are improvising) are *action* and *reaction*:

Action means how we affect and move our partner emotionally;

reaction means how we become emotionally affected and changed by our partners.

By focusing on attentive, intentional action and emotional reaction, the relationship between characters immediately deepens and we automatically create compelling, deep and surprising scenes that are absolutely fascinating to watch and super-fun to play.

In this workshop we will learn the meaning of affective actions, the keys for authentically portraying every emotion (big or small) and what happens when we combine the two.

This workshop is a ticket to the wild and fun roller-coaster of re/acting that will get you creating the most vital scenes you have ever played.

workshop length: 6 hours

The workshop is suitable for: intermediate- advanced level students

### **2. The Gender Laboratory**

**Research shows that an average woman speaks approximately 20,000 words a day, while a man speaks only 7000.**

Since childhood, we are programmed by society to think of gender in a certain way – boys should wear blue and be powerful, while girls should wear pink and be gentle. As we progress in time, we start breaking these patterns. But they are more profound than we think.

In order to break them completely, we must know the history of gender roles and challenge ourselves not to take the beliefs we were raised on for granted. This workshop aims to do exactly that.

We will dive into gender theory and history before challenging ourselves to play the opposite sex on stage without judgment. We will then challenge ourselves to play scenes without ANY gender presumptions at all.

The laboratory's goal is to make us see the world through different gender glasses.

The workshop is suitable for improvisers of all levels. Workshop length: 4-5 hours.

\*The workshop works best with an equal number of men and women (all genders are invited).



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### 3. Character arc in a long form

**This workshop is for improvisers who find themselves playing the main character (or any character) in a long form, and are unsure of how to develop the character's arc and move the story forward.**

When improvising longforms, we often focus much of our attention on the plot, trying to create the story from without. Another way of telling a story is from within, by following character arcs: What is happening to the character? What are their choices, actions, highs and lows, strengths and flaws? Stories told from the perspective of the character arc have a strong internal driving force and shine a light on human nature, in all its splendor and imperfection. For us as improvisers, this is both a great challenge and an exhilarating ride.

In this workshop, we will learn how to create compelling character arcs that will move and surprise our audiences, empower us to dare into stronger and more interesting characters and choices and leave everyone asking for more.

The workshop is suitable for advanced and professional level students and can also be modified to suit intermediate students.

Workshop length: 6-12 hours.

It can also be offered as a 2-3 day intensive, followed by a performance of a unique format based on this approach (45-60 minutes with a cast of 6-8 players).

### 4. Hang Your Judge

**We all know the “inner judge” that sits on our shoulder. While making a serious face, it constantly tells us we aren't smart, funny or original. It makes us doubt ourselves and feel that we are not good enough. A thing that couldn't be farther from the truth.**

During my years as an improviser, I have found out that one of my greatest tasks is to understand how to handle my inner judge. I have developed a set of tools for different kinds of situations that tend to wake my inner judge up. These are tools that help me turn my inner judge into an ally rather than an obstacle.

In this workshop we will get to know more about our inner judge, where it comes from and why it is so loud. Using highly practical tools, we will learn how to silence our inner judge when needed - and when it is important to pay attention to what they have to say.



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The purpose of this workshop is to help you get out of your head, trust yourself and be more free in your improv.

The workshop is suitable for all levels.

Workshop length: 3 hours.

### **5. Own The Stage**

**"Be present with your presence."**

Do you feel like you're moving around too much on stage? Do you not move enough and feel stiff? Have you even felt that you don't know what to do with your body on stage at all?

Moving onstage is like moving in a force field. Every movement creates something. Every little change affects everything. A strong stage presence is like a magnet for the audience and for your partners.

Using techniques from acting, Butoh (dance theatre developed in Japan) and other forms of motion, this workshop strives to get rid of your fears and uncertainties so that you become powerful and comfortable with your stage presence. Once you're comfortable, you'll start enjoying yourself and feeling free to play with your diverse skills.

The workshop is suitable for beginner and intermediate level students.

Workshop length: 3 hours.

### **6. Intimacy in improv**

**This workshop is all about creating honest, close, intimate, loving, passionate, truthful and heartbreaking moments in our scene work.**

For me, intimacy is the ability to be truly myself, guard-down and fully authentic with someone else. This means that there are two levels of intimacy on stage– between the improvisers and between the characters. In order to achieve the second, we must establish the first.

In this workshop, we will slowly dive into the intimacy zone. We will start by getting to know our partners and open the door for them to know us as well. As we learn how to trust ourselves and



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our partners with our physical and emotional boundaries on stage, we will find the way and learn tools to feel completely comfortable and safe with our partners on stage. Then, we will bring this work into our scenes and discover the full range of intimate situations that can happen between characters while also exploring how far and deep we can and want to go.

This type of work is not about touch (although touch can happen, if it is comfortable for both sides). It is about creating those scenes where you can cut the tension with a knife while the audience is mesmerized, holding their breath.

workshop length : 6h

The workshop is suitable for advanced level students.

### **7. Teachers' lounge – Train the trainers**

**It is never about the teacher, yet the teacher enables everything.**

Our job as teachers is beautiful and complicated. Our duty as teachers (in my eyes) is to show our students the way, inspire them, get them from point A to point B, empower them and push their boundaries.

I have been teaching for the past eight years and I believe that a teacher needs to be an expert in people. In my eyes, an amazing teacher is one who, in addition to being super professional, can see their students with X-ray vision and know how to empower and motivate each one in their own special way.

In this workshop, we will take a closer look at our teacher's persona: what is our individual superpower and how to leverage it, what our obstacles and fears are and how we can approach and overcome them. We will also address the technicalities: how to approach and build a class/workshop/course, what we need to ask ourselves as teachers before approaching any teaching task and how (the hell) do we give effective feedback.

What makes this workshop special is that it provides a safe, fun and supportive space for sharing and learning from each other's experience on how to handle the tough situations and the tough students that we encounter.

The teachers' lounge is our place for really exploring our teaching role, sharpen our teacher persona and expand our toolkit as teachers.

This workshop is suitable for 6-14 teachers with at least one year of teaching experience.

Workshop length: 6-9 hours.



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### **8. Characters inside-out**

#### **How can we create real-life, rounded characters?**

There are two main approaches to creating a character: the ***Outside In*** approach focuses on the character's physical attributes, and uses these to understand who they are on the inside (if we stop only at the physical attributes, voice etc.. we are risking in playing a shallow and stereotypic characters); the second approach - ***Inside Out*** - focuses on personality traits, wishes, hopes and fears as the foundation of the character's appearance, voice and physicality.

When we learn how to create characters from the inside out, we realize that we do not have to change our voice, body, face and accent in order to create different characters. This approach helps us go deeper and build profound and genuine characters, bringing real-life people to the stage. It is a deep, fully-rounded method.

This workshop is suitable for beginner and advanced level students.

Workshop length: 3 hours.

### **9. Onstage Honesty**

#### **The key to amazing improv is honesty – You can be funny or dramatic, comedic or tragic, but to make it really work – you need to be honest.**

This workshop is based on simple logic: to be better improvisers, we need to learn how to act. In order to act, we need to learn to connect with real emotions. To connect with and display true emotions, we must learn to be honest and genuine on stage.

This workshop is a true actor's delight. It is suitable for both intermediate and advanced students.

Workshop length: 3 hours.

### **10. Coaching**

#### **Even the best improvisers occasionally need an external eye for professional evaluation.**



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We are always excited to develop our skill-sets. Especially when it takes place in a professional and super-fun atmosphere, with lots of laughter and freedom of expression. The coaching workshop helps individual improvisers and improv groups expand and perfect their skills. I tailor the workshop to specific needs, creating an empowering space for mutual professional analysis. My goal is to blend precision and playfulness that creates onstage truth.

This workshop is suitable for beginner and advanced improvisers. Materials can be sent in advance for coach preparation.

Coaching session is 3 hours minimum. Sessions can be ordered individually or as a coaching series.

## **Hila Di Castro – short Bio**

Hila Di Castro is an actress, improviser and teacher based in Israel.

She is a co-founder, member and co-artistic director of the trio MOMENTUM – one of the leading improv groups in Israel. MOMENTUM is teaching and performing internationally with their unique format “No Edit”.

Hila tours the world performing and teaching acting and improv, individually or with her groups, as festival instructor or private calling. She has been performing and teaching in more than 10 countries. (including: Finland, Estonia, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Italy, Canada, Sweden and more...) bringing her unique, inspiring, personal style and improv philosophy.

She is a co-founder and artistic director of “20,000 Words”, an improv performance and workshops that teaches and advocates gender equality throughout Israel.



## **Hila Di Castro –Long Bio**

Hila Di Castro is an actress, improviser and teacher based in Israel.

Upon discovering the world of improvisation in 2005, she has performed with several improv groups (including an all-woman ensemble).

She has been the co-artistic director and a member of LAMABATI, one of Israel's outstanding groups. She developed several original formats with which the group performed throughout Israel and in festivals all over the world.

She is a co-founder, member and co-artistic director of the trio MOMENTUM – one of the leading improv groups in Israel. MOMENTUM is teaching and performing internationally with their unique format “No Edit”.

Hila tours the world performing and teaching acting and improv, individually or with her groups, as festival instructor or private calling. She has been performing and teaching in more than 10 countries. (including: Finland, Estonia, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Italy, Canada, Sweden and more...) bringing her unique, inspiring, personal style and improv philosophy.

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