



SCHOOL OF DRAMA
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

BEGINNINGS: FIRST BREATH

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JET CITY IMPROV

Directed by
Andrew McMasters &
Mary Lindsey McMasters



December 2 - 6, 2015
Hutchinson Hall Cabaret

BEGINNINGS: FIRST BREATH

directed by **ANDREW MCMASTERS[^] & MARY LINDSEY MCMASTERS[^]**

[^]Alumnus/Alumna of UW Drama

Stage Manager
Max Kerwien

Running Crew
Melody Donais
Grace Ai Nguyen

Photographer
Mike Hipple

Special Thanks: Jennifer Cargill, Robyn Hunt, Steve Pearson, Erin Plischke, The Cast of Jet City Improv, Heidi Oveson, Laura Turner, UW Student Technology Fee, and the educators of YTN.

ENSEMBLE

Anaïs Gralpois
Alyssa Karounos

Kirby McDermott
Patrick McDermott

Hannah Probst
Simon Tran

Barrett Vandiver
Annie Willis

The show will run approximately 45-60 minutes, with no intermission. There will be a 10-15 minute post-show discussion after each performance (subject to change).

ABOUT JET CITY IMPROV

Jet City Improv was founded in 1992 by Andrew McMasters and Mike Christensen as Seattle's own improvised comedy show: more games, more comedy, no points or rules. As the show gained popularity, so too did their desire to spread the power of improv to the community in new ways. Their mission: To educate, enlighten, and entertain audiences through the art of improvisation.

They produce a steady flow of five to eight performances every weekend, six to eight world premieres every season, and a brand new show every night. They also host a 40-week improv training curriculum (known as the Jet City Improv Academy) and do outreach work that provides free performances and workshops to homeless and incarcerated youth in Seattle, and physically ill children around the state of Washington at a variety of summer camps. Learn more at jetcityimprov.org.



Beginnings: First Breath is one of many collaborations between the School of Drama and the greater Seattle theatre community taking place during the 2015–16 season. By partnering with organizations and individual artists—including many alumni—the School is able to provide a leading-edge public education, connecting students to their local and global communities. The occasion of our 75th Anniversary served as an impetus for this initiative—a celebration of the contributions our faculty and alumni have made to the theatre field—and is one the School hopes to carry on into our next 75 years. If you are interested in learning more, please get in touch!

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Andrew McMasters and Mary Lindsey McMasters met at the UW back in 1997 during a performance of *All Powers Necessary and Convenient*. They have worked together on various projects at Jet City Improv (JCI) including “Austen Translation” and “Upside Downton.” Their new project, “Solid Is The New Stripes” opens in the spring. Andrew is a graduate of the Professional Actor Training Program ('95) and the co-founder and Artistic Director of JCI. He has been a leader in the improv community in Seattle for the last 20 years, creating national festivals as well as community events.

Mary Lindsey McMasters is also a UW alum (BA, 2000) and has worked in L.A. and Seattle. She currently coordinates the educational programming at JCI.

DIRECTORS' NOTE

Many people come to see an improvised show and ask “What part of the show is scripted?” The answer: None of it. Every word you hear, every interaction between characters, every conversation, every look and every action is new to this performance. If you attend tomorrow’s show, you will realize this is true. Each performance incorporates suggestions from the audience, and creates the show live, before your very eyes. To do this, the actors need to be playwrights, directors and actors all at the same time: they craft the story - with the audience as a co-creator - in real time. Tomorrow’s audience will provide a different suggestion, and the process starts over again.

So this is not the usual form of theater. It is ‘on demand’ theater. It’s created by the audience and for the audience on that particular night.

For years, people have regarded Improv as ‘just comedy.’ In the last 15 years, many companies across the country have been creating fully staged improvised performances. The recent articles in *American Theater Magazine* profile a few companies and their work (November 2014 issue, “Long Form Improv goes the distance”). Here in Seattle, Jet City Improv has been one of the leaders in this movement—creating full length unscripted plays at our theater in the University District (5510 University Way NE) every two months.

Thanks for going on this journey with us. Come back tomorrow night.

UPCOMING IN WINTER QUARTER

The Tale of the Heike

by Phillip Kan Gotanda & Yussef El Guindi
New play workshop in partnership w/ ACT Theatre
Jan 22–24, Penthouse Theatre

Lost & Founded: Bathhouse Theatre

Free reading series
Jan 25, 7:30 PM, Meany Studio Theatre

BA Slot (Show TBA)

produced by the BA Council
Jan 28–31, Cabaret Theatre

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

presented by the UW Musical Theater Program
music & lyrics by William Finn; book by Rachel Sheinkin; conceived by Rebecca Feldman
directed by Brandon Ivie
musical direction by Jordyn Meeker
Jan 27 thru Feb 7, Jones Playhouse

Lost & Founded: NW Asian American Theatre

Free reading series
Feb 8, 7:30 PM, Meany Studio Theatre

Revisiting the New-ness of "New Drama"

Performing Arts Lecture, Free
Feb 16, 7:30 PM, Jones Playhouse

CONTACT US

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AUDIENCE SURVEY

Let us know what you thought! Take our brief survey at <http://bit.ly/beginnings-survey>

JET CITY IMPROV HOLIDAY SHOW

Jet City Improv's annual holiday show, *Uncle Mike Ruins Christmas* runs through Dec 19.

Tickets and info: <http://www.jetcityimprov.org/shows/uncle-mike-ruins-christmas/>



The University of Washington School of Drama develops innovative and courageous artists and scholars poised to be the creative leaders of tomorrow. Our dynamic, award-winning faculty is dedicated to enabling each student to reach their full potential and our alumni are advancing the artistic conversation through innovative and diverse work across the globe.

We offer MFA degrees in acting, design, and directing, a four-year undergraduate liberal arts education in Drama or Musical Theatre, and a PhD in theatre history and criticism.

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