

FANS 粉丝

Great Moments in Year 2011...



It is 7:30 on a Tuesday evening and Liu Xin is whipping up a storm inside a high collared home in Fanglei Hutong, Beijing. She is joined by more than 30 people standing in a circle. They do imitations of each other using halfheartedly exaggerated gestures. After this warm up, it's time for what they have gathered to do — improvisational (improv) acting. Three people come to the center of the circle, one acting as a TV host, one as a relationship expert, and the third as a translator for the expert. "My first question is 'What's the essence of love?'" the host asks. Following the expert's reflexive explanation, the translator produces a second before saying, "This man says and the other man says", provoking much laughter from the audience.

MARCH
Covered by China Daily

Message from Editor

What an eventful year 2011 has been! For us at Acewood, we've achieved a few milestones: from our dear Angela appearing on popular talk show hosted by "Chinese Oprah" to hosting our first ever improv theatre classes to taking our improv teambuilding training to Singapore and Jakarta! We were just in Dubai to consolidate an exciting opportunity which we'll be announcing for 2012. So stay tuned and happy holidays!

Beijing Xiaoli



APRIL
People's Republic of Improv's fantastic show at Penghao Theatre during Improv Festival



JUNE
Improv Team-building Training in Singapore



AUGUST
Improv Training for
Miss World China Beauty Pageant



SEPTEMBER
Improv Community
featured on "Her Village"



OCTOBER
Tia and Tha Knutz at the
Red Bull New Energy Music Scheme



NOVEMBER
Hosting our first ever
Chinese Improv Knight Class



DECEMBER
Improv Team-building Training in Jakarta

FAN'S CORNER



“See I’ve brought you a very healthy habit. Now you are all bringing home-made food to the office,” said Eric proudly while taking his baked mutton chop out of the oven and invited us for a dinner at the office before the improv class.

[Eric](#) is a Shanghainese, born in Tianjin yet grew up in New York. A computer science major, he accidentally found his passion for public speaking and performance when hosting a friend’s marriage. He fell in love with improv theatre and developed his own dating training. The constantly changing environment shaped Eric’s belief that one can abandon all stereotypes and be anyone.

During the improv class, Eric put lots of efforts into creating a trusting and safe environment for his students. He believes only positive encouragement can lead to positive teamwork among the students. “It’s like a sandwich, acknowledging their progress first, giving suggestions and then more encouragements. Teachers’ critique is very critical in improv classes, or the students won’t dare to try any more,” says Eric.

Eric often tells his students to “believe what you say is right”. He thinks that Chinese are too used to worrying about being right or wrong rather than acknowledging what they are feeling. For example in the gift giving game, the sender tends to give very specific information and the receiver often tries to guess exactly what the sender wants. “We can be more confident in the scene and naturally go with the flow and say what

comes to our mind.”

As for differences between improv and traditional theatre Eric believes improv’s emphasis is more on actors enjoying and be inspired by the moment together and creating on-the-spot together while traditional theatre is all about honing your acting skills..

“There are two ways of learning: learning by doing and learning by practice. I prefer to improvise and love the concept of ‘carpe diem’ (seize the day). The creativity won’t be in control and it’s more fun.” Pulling his huge luggage, Eric said temporary goodbye to life in the hutongs and returned to Shanghai. “Now, where shall I travel this Spring Festival?” he ponders.

NEWSBITES

Opening the Line of Communication

By using more portable and affordable means, Damian Cruse, a postdoctoral fellow at Western’s Brain and Mind Institute, plans to bring his research to the bedside. And for those locked in a vegetative state, it could mean an opportunity to once again communicate with family and friends. [\(read more...\)](#)

Duolingo



After re-purposing CAPTCHA so each human-typed response helps digitize books, Luis von Ahn wondered how else to use small contributions by many on the Internet for greater good. At TEDxCMU, he shares how his ambitious new project, [Duolingo](#), will help millions learn a new language while translating the Web quickly and accurately -- all for free. [\(see TED video\)](#)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.

Charles Darwin

ACEWOOD CALENDAR

- **Improv Workshop is Back**
Our popular free improv workshop is back! See you at 7:30 pm every Tuesday at Acewood Studio.
- **PRI’ s New Year Show**
The New Year Show of People’s Republic of Improv is coming soon in January. Watch this space!

LAST MONTH...

- **Improv Knight Class**



We’ve just finished the ever first Chinese Improv Class. Yeah! After a one month course, students did a wonderful graduation show on Dec. 13. They shared their thoughts on the blogs. [Click to read more.](#) In one month, students bonded well. We’ll never forget Li Yan’s “sister” in every scene, passionate Stephany, calm Haijing, warm-hearted Guning, humorous David, engaging Wuyou, easy going Hai’ou, Wenhua’s resolute tone, intelligent Waiting and Xiru’s dancing at the after party. It was a great night with the improv knights. Yes, we’ll always make our partners look good!

- **Challenging Suggestions on Homosexuality**

On December 9, PRI was invited by “Beijing Gender Health Education Center” to perform for a Media Gala at Penghao Theatre. Actors said ‘Yes, and...’ to all suggestions from the audience and did a great job. It was a good way to learn the culture of another sector of society.