



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 26, 2012

**CONTACT:**  
Nick Shields, Navy Pier  
312-595-5136  
[nshields@navypier.com](mailto:nshields@navypier.com)

Lauren M. Heist  
847-868-3653  
[chicagoschoolofcomedy@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoschoolofcomedy@gmail.com)

## **FREE Workshops for the Public at Four Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier**

*Reserve Your Spot Now to Learn Improv from Some of the Best  
Comedy Talent in the Country!*

**CHICAGO** — On **Saturday, Oct. 6**, help Navy Pier celebrate the art form of improvisation as it was developed here in Chicago with a full day of classes, discussion and performances by Chicago's premiere talent.

**From 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**, attendees will have the chance to participate in **free workshops** for the entire family taught by some of Chicago's most well-respected improv training centers including

**ComedySportz, iO, Actors Training Center and The Annoyance Theatre.** Each class is limited to 20 people and registration is first come, first serve. If you have ever wanted to be more confident in front of people, more creative or spontaneous, improv is a great way of freeing yourself up to let go of fear and embrace a sense of play.

Plus, following the workshops, **iO Chicago founder Charna Halpern** will be the guest of honor at a special performance of **Improv Nerd hosted by Jimmy Carrane**, a popular podcast that gives audiences a behind-the-scenes look at a career in comedy. This **free** live taping will take place in Room 205 at 5 p.m.

To register for a free workshop, either:

- Email [fourstarcomedyfest@navypier.com](mailto:fourstarcomedyfest@navypier.com) and provide the names of the individuals who would be attending the workshop, name of the workshop and time of the workshop you'd like to attend. You will receive a confirmation email confirming your place in the workshop.
- Call the Navy Pier Pepsi® Skyline Stage Box Office at 312-595-5022 through Friday, October 5 on Fridays from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Saturdays from 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM and Sundays from 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

### Improv Workshops Schedule

	<b>CLASSROOM 1</b> <b>iO</b> Room 207	<b>CLASSROOM 2</b> <b>The Annoyance Theatre</b> Room 205	<b>CLASSROOM 3</b> <b>ComedySportz</b> Room 203	<b>CLASSROOM 4</b> <b>Actors Training Center</b> Room 201
1-1:50 p.m.	Yes, And... And more!	Creativity Through Improv	Let's Play!	Improv for Kids
2-2:50 p.m.	Yes, And... And more!	Creativity Through Improv	Let's Play!	Improv for Kids
3-3:50 p.m.	Yes, And... And more!	Creativity Through Improv	Let's Play!	Improv for Kids/Teens

### CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

#### ***Yes, And... And more!***

In this class, brought to you by iO, the theater that created the Long Form style of improvisation, you'll learn one of the most fundamental rules of improv: saying yes to everyone's ideas. By saying "yes" instead of "no," see how much more creative you can be!

#### ***Creativity Through Improv***

The Annoyance Theatre, known for their edgy, no-holds-barred improvisation, brings you this class where you'll learn how to invent characters and scenes that tap into your creativity and allow you to go

places you've never imagined.

### ***Let's Play!***

In this class, ComedySportz Chicago will teach you Short Form improv games that you've seen on shows like Whose Line Is It Anyway? Short Form games are usually defined by their rules, and usually last about 3 to 6 minutes each. These games will help you think on your feet and be more spontaneous. At ComedySportz, students are encouraged to embrace creativity through play and to let go of inhibitions by staying in the moment and having fun.

### ***Improv for Kids/Teens***

Improv for Kids/Teens — Do your kids have a knack for creativity and imagination? In this class, the Actors Training Center will teach students how to think on their feet, collaboratively create as an ensemble and explore the fun of saying “Yes, And!” to every idea. Classes will be offered for students in 3rd grade and up. (Please indicate how old your child is when you contact us to reserve your spot).

Then, **from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.**, the Pier's historic Grand Ballroom will be transformed into an intimate cabaret setting to host performances by some of Chicago's most acclaimed improv performers including **Tim Meadows** teaming with former **The Second City Mainstage cast members and iO alumni Brad Morris and Joe Canale** to form ***Uncle's Brother***, one of the funniest troupes you'll ever see improvise. The evening will be **hosted by SNL alum Tim Kazurinsky**.

Tickets to the performance section of **Four Star Comedy Fest at Navy Pier** are available now on Ticketmaster.

For additional details regarding ticket sales please visit: [www.navypier.com/fourstarcomedyfest](http://www.navypier.com/fourstarcomedyfest) or <http://www.facebook.com/#!/TheChicagoSchoolOfComedy>

For information about Navy Pier and Four-Star Comedy Fest, please contact Nick Shields at 312-595-5136 or email [nshields@navypier.com](mailto:nshields@navypier.com). To set up an interview with Jimmy Carrane or Ben Capraro, artistic directors of the Chicago School of Comedy, please email [chicagoschoolofcomedy@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoschoolofcomedy@gmail.com).

###

### **ABOUT CHICAGO SCHOOL OF COMEDY**

Founded in 2012 by Ben Capraro and Jimmy Carrane, Chicago School of Comedy is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of improvisation and the promotion of Chicago as the influential center of American comedy. Jimmy Carrane is the host of the popular podcast Improv Nerd. He teaches the Art of Slow Comedy, and has previously taught at The Second City, iO-Chicago, The Annoyance Theater, Victory Gardens and Stage 773. Ben Capraro is an improviser and recovering attorney. He has studied at The Second City and is the producer of the Improv Nerd podcast.

### **ABOUT NAVY PIER**

A Chicago Landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing nearly nine million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit

facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our website at [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com).