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# **BROKE GRAVY**

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**Improv & Storytelling Options**

We love **improv**.

We love **storytelling**.

We love **conversations**.

And we believe that we can use any of the above to spark important discussions, build long-lasting partnerships, and serve communities all across the globe—and laugh while doing it.

This can be a simple show, it can be a multi-day workshops series, it can be both!

What does your community need? Let's chat, we'd love to help.

Chris, Eric, and Leon  
**Broke Gravy**

# Who is Broke Gravy?



# Broke Gravy

## Portland's Dopest Improv Comedy

We use improv comedy and storytelling to discover truth between the blurry lines of the daily grind.

As three black men living in America, we utilize our unique voices to spark thoughtful conversations on and off comedy stages.

Through an open and honest dialogue, we exchange our experiences with those of our audience—exploring deeper perspectives on comedy, relationships, and humanity.

## Chris Williams

East Lansing, MI



A shy kid born and raised in Michigan, Chris eventually gave voice to his imagination, and has spent the last 15 years living and playing in Portland. The beauty of the Pacific Northwest may have won his heart but it's his community of amazing people that keeps him there.

**Eric Simons**  
Saint Paul, MN

The first time Eric was exposed to improv was in high school—not as a performer, but a spectator of Central High School's student team. He was mesmerized by what they did on stage, but when his father asked if he'd ever be interested in something like that, Eric couldn't imagine it.



## Leon Anderson

Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Leon Anderson has lived in all corners of the US; but having been raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida he still considers himself something of a beach kid -- social, laid back and consistently in the moment. He left home and moved to Los Angeles for college, and this is where his love of speech and debate found its home in the world of improv comedy.



**Also, we're funny AF.**



**What do we do?**

## Storytelling

- Partnering with local performers and organizations to share their truth.
- Focus on working with historically underrepresented communities (people of color, women, people who aren't defined by a binary gender, LGBTQIA+, and more).
- We don't ask anyone to do anything we wouldn't do—so we share personal stories, both on- and off-stage.

## Improvisation

- We create stories that engage and connect with audiences from diverse backgrounds—from truth to stage.
- Deconstruct information to explore it from new and evolving perspectives.
- Produce, perform, and curate shows for audiences of any size and any type.
- We want you to have as much fun in the audience as we are having on stage. And there is nowhere we'd rather be.

**What's that secret sauce?**

## **We believe:**

“ Through story and improvisation, we as individuals can express experiences that are uniquely our own—and do so within old and new communities that are safe, creative and productive.

## **How we do it:**

- We leverage your intimate knowledge of your community to craft workshops and shows tailored to your current needs.
- We will highlight and elevate the voices of your communities, especially the historically voiceless.
- We create cross-generational opportunities to connect and learn from each other through deconstruction of ideas, performance, and respectful dialogue.

**Shows customized for you.**

# **Remix Your Life** [ 30 mins - 1.5 hours ]

## **Basic Format:**

We'll interview a member (or two) in the audience. Using the information, emotions, and overall vibe of the conversation, we create snapshots of a world that isn't a recreation of what has already happened, but a mosaic of life's hills, valleys, and all the flavor in-between.

## **Featured Guests:**

This format features members of our audience... We know it may sound scary, but don't worry you're in great hands. We value those who have taken the time to come to our show, and believe in treating them with the utmost respect and courtesy.

# Whatchu Wanna Know [ 30 mins - 1.5 hours ]

## Basic Format:

The flip side of “Remix...” This is your opportunity to get to know the three members of Broke Gravy more intimately. A Q&A session where your community can (respectfully) ask us anything—and we’ll be 100% candid. From our answers, we’ll weave together a tapestry of scenes that range from the absurd to the absurdly authentic. Bring your top-shelf questions, we don’t have time for our favorite colors (we all love green anyway).

# **The Barbershop** [ 1 - 2 hours ]

## **Basic Format:**

Our most inclusive format, a free-flowing discussion between us and the community. Topics can be predetermined, or we can simply see where the day takes us. Scenes can erupt at any point and conversations can twist and turn unexpectedly. All we ask is for your vulnerability, we'll bring ours.

## **Potential Guests:**

Respected members of your community, such as:

- Local celebrities / community leaders
- Writers
- Athletes
- Politicians
- Educators

Basically anybody who has a point of view and is ready to open up about it.



# Bring Your Truth [ 1 - 2 hours ]

## Basic Format:

This storytelling show includes members of the community doing short (3-7 minutes) stories around a common theme. There are options to also have us tell stories or even to have people volunteer to speak off-the-cuff and on-the-spot.

We believe story comes in many forms. Prose to poetry, monologue and readings to movement and visual art.

## Potential Guests:

- Storytellers
- Poets
- Dancers
- Musicians
- Community Elders
- Children learning the art of story

**Workshops curated for you.**

# **Your Very Own Story** [ 2 - 3 hours ]

## **Personal Storytelling**

A story is not a rant or a sermon, nor a stand-up set or a Ted Talk. A story is an invitation. It's a verbal meal meant to be shared, but sometimes it feels like the same perspectives are being served over and over again. We'll help you unlock your individual style and complexity to life through story. We have a variety of exercises and techniques to support the way you speak, your history, your background, and how you see the world. Through exploration and vulnerability we will help you find your truth and how to bring your true voice to the stage.

### **Intended Audience:**

- Humans
- Actors
- Writers

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Story analysis
- Public speaking
- Self exploration

# Not Always Black and White [ 2 - 3 hours ]

## Working from your personal story

News Flash! Improv is not known for its diversity. But that's all changing, and the tools we teach have applications in and outside of the theater. As we work to represent more of our global tapestry, let's work to explore different perspectives. We each carry with us a unique story and history—and through this workshop, we'll tap into what makes us different in order to create rich, multi-dimensional characters. Let's be truthfully influenced by our current environment and flavored by our culture, heritage, geography, and past. What connects us is often surprising.

### Intended Audience:

- Communication-heavy professions
- Storytellers, improvisers and actors
- Cross generational experiences

### Lessons Learned:

- Communication and connection
- Listening and abstracting themes
- Honesty and vulnerability
- Monologues

# **The 101** [ 2 - 3 hours ]

## **Improv basics**

Whatever our medium, we all seek to engage our audience in a story. Why not make it a story that's never been created? We'll touch on the basic fundamentals of improv comedy and storytelling: communication, character, relationship, and environment. Practice thinking on your feet, listing with purpose, and collaborating to create something together that couldn't be made on your own.

### **Intended Audience:**

- Business teams
- Beginner improvisers and actors
- Groups and organizations of all ages

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Agreement and communication
- Character, relationship and environment
- Crafting a scene

# **Bring Your Backpack** [ 2 - 3 hours ]

## Object and space work

Whether you call it mime, space work, object work or something completely different, it makes a world of difference in a scene. People are designed to understand and connect with their physical reality. Interaction crosses language and culture barriers, and allows the performer to share an experience words cannot express.

This workshop will work solo, in pairs and together as groups to translate our everyday experiences with physical objects into your work. Boost the reality of your object work and engage with each other in a shared reality.

### **Intended Audience:**

- Cross generational experiences
- Creative professionals, artists, and writers
- Stage and improv actors

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Focus and attention to detail
- Relationship to environment
- Object permanence

# **i2i (Improv to...) Series** [ 8 total hours ]

Practical application of improvisation

i2i is a three part series that harnesses the tools and vocabulary of improv comedy, and applies them to your business team. Each part provides value for all levels of your organization. These can occur on one long day; however, it is recommended over multiple days to allow time for it to sink in.

## **Part 1: Improv to Innovation (2 hours)**

This segment uses the tools and vocabulary of improv comedy to help professionals maximize output and creative problem solving at all stages of the product life cycle.

## **Part 2: Improv to Inspiration (2 hours)**

Presentation skills are vitally important throughout all levels of any organization. This segment uses the tools and vocabulary of improv comedy to help craft world class inspirational presentations and demonstrations.

## **Part 3: Improv to... Improv (4 hours)**

This is the really fun part. An Improv 101 workshop led by skilled and experienced improvisers. This segment is on your feet, hands on, and active. And is both a mental and interpersonal work out. As we exercise the tools and vocabulary of improv in a safe and supportive environment.

These offerings are simply a jumping off point. We'd love to talk more about how we can work together to best support your community and it's needs. We're always excited to see how we can use a little Broke Gravy magic to spark vital discussions.



# Thanks!



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