

HOW TO PLAY SOME GREAT THEATER GAMES – Many of these games appear weekly in the EIGHT IS NEVER ENOUGH shows. Examples at www.youtube.com/eightimprov or www.eightimprov.biz

AUTHORS – A fun version of conducted story, a type of game where actors share the duties of telling a story, while a conductor decides who talks when. When the conductor switches speakers, that actor picks up immediately mid sentence, sometimes mid-word. In authors, each actor takes on the persona of a favorite writer. Sometimes it is funny if one actor takes on a poet, Children’s Author, published celebrity, non-fiction, magazine/newspaper/journal, or other gimmick.

SWITCH Two actors perform a scene. When ever MC yells switch, the actors switch up the word, phrase, sentence, or physical activity that just occurred.

WORLD’S WORST Players present the “World’s Worst” Person OR thing to say at Job, Event, Location etc. This is a fast paced high-energy game. Each character is presented in 5-10 seconds.

ONE to FIVE Two Players perform a one-minute scene. The scene then repeats at 30-seconds, 15-seconds, 10-seconds, 5-seconds, maintaining the basic structure of the original. **PERFORMANCE NOTE** – build a real arc. Beginning, Middle, End. Make 3-4 major physical shifts, stage crosses etc. The scene becomes like a collapsing outline getting closer and closer to just the important points.

COLUMNS or HUMAN MAD LIBS™ The MC calls two audience volunteers to the stage. They sit on the DS corners. The Actors perform a scene, using the “Columns” to fill in the blanks. Actor should repeat the word or phrase and then justify it into the scene.

FREEZE TAG – Two actors start a scene. The focus is on connecting and acting through physical movement. The MC calls freeze. Another actor tags into the scene and replaces one of the first actor’s exact physical position. A new scene is started, inspired by the physical/spatial relationship of the new acting pair.

MIRACLE EAR – Two actors are performing an interview. One is the special guest author of a book. A third actor interprets the interview via fake sign language. The interviewer needs to start the scene, ask a few questions and then find a wrap. Details are key.

FREEZE FRAME / HUMAN SLIDE SHOW – Actors and audience volunteers create a series of posed pictures, often utilizing a black out in between each. 1-2 actors narrate the slide show.

SOUND EFFECTS VERSION ONE – One actor provides sound effects. Another actor mimes a scene.

SOUND EFFECTS VERSION TWO – Two actors perform a scene. Two audience volunteers provide sound effects.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE – Two actors perform a scene in gibberish. Two other actors translate the scene.

FOREIGN OPERA – Add the element of music to FOREIGN LANGUAGE

FILM & THEATER STYLES – MC gets a number of styles from audience. Two actors start a scene. Each time MC yells “FREEZE” a new style is introduced.

SONG STYLES – Actors create songs on the spot. Popular versions Blues, Tango, Hoe Down, March, Oldies Ballad, Rap, R&B and more

MADRIGAL - A cappella vocal. Each actor gets a news headline. Mix up the sports, pop culture and politics. Each topic is introduced as a vocal line as a conductor indicates for a new actor to sing. After each topic has been introduced the actor may mix up the headlines creating fake news and new vocals.

SHORT – FORM IMPROV - Typically a 3-5 minute form resembling a sketch or song. All of the above are versions of short form improv games.

LONG-FORM IMPROV – Often looking like short or one act plays, actors create entire narrative works based on one suggestion.