
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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For Immediate Release

Improv Comedy at AVPA

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There's no better way to recover from a rough week than laughing. And laughs abound at Trainwreck Theatre, the Improv Comedy group at Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA). This funny group of high school students will present two nights of audience-participation improv on Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. Performances will be in the Sony Pictures Theatre (SPoT) behind the Robert Frost Auditorium at 4401 Elenda. Admission is \$7 general or \$5 ASB, although patrons who present their ticket from Friday night's show on Saturday can see the second show for only a dollar.



Improv Comedy at Culver City High School started more than nine years ago when Doyle Hanks started a team for ComedySportz, an improv competition with an interactive audience that pits one team of comedic athletes against another, where the winners get the most laughs. The students became addicted to performing comedy, but wanted to focus more on the troupe aspect of improvisational comedy performances rather than the competition around ComedySportz, and Trainwreck Theatre was born.

Over twenty students with various levels of experience spend a good part of every Saturday attending classes where they work to learn the craft of improvisational acting and comedy. The laughs they get from the live performances they do every month or so

during the school year are their reward. During the performance, the students perform three to five minute scenes based on audience suggestions, with often hilarious results.



Darryl Hovis, Artistic Director for the AVPA and the Creative Director for the Theatre program, has seen many students come alive during improv in new and different ways than he sees them either in his classes or in theatre performances. "There's no question that improv helps both the comedic timing of these young actors as well as increasing their sense of confidence and their ability to think quickly on stage. Plus, they can be pretty funny."

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information, go to www.avpa.org or contact Executive Director, Tony Spano, at 310-842-4200 x6094 or x6009.



**Photo
Caption:**
Members of
Trainwreck
Theatre
"improvising"