



# impro festival

## SCENES THAT MATTER – PATTI STILES

16 hours, level: advanced

Language: English, Italian translation

Max: 16 students

salento 2016

**Please note: this workshop uses subject material and language that may be confronting and difficult for some people.**

**Workshop description:** *We live in a complex, complicated and extraordinary world. Humans are capable of the most amazing heroic and horrific actions. What one person may see as rational and necessary another sees as an act of prejudice or violence. Our values, views, morality and beliefs colour our interpretation. Improvisational theatre can provoke the audience to question their own beliefs by shining a light on stories from a different point of view. Where the unimaginable becomes understandable and the wrong may seem right. Improvisers are often afraid to engage in the stories that reflect life around us. This workshop challenges participants to play scenes based on the dark and light sides of humanity.*

**Patti's comments:** *This workshop is quite an interesting one especially for people who have only thought of improvisation as comedic or have only played in a comedic style. It does focus on some difficult material like rape, abuse, serial killers. However the scenes are crafted in a way where we can raise issues and ask questions without being insensitive. It is useful if the students have a strong base of scene work skills.*

**Bio:** Patti has an infectious enthusiasm for improvisation. Patti's work as a performer and coach is anchored in the philosophy and discipline of improvisation technique. Trained first hand by groundbreaking "Impro" teacher, Keith Johnstone at the Loose Moose Theatre Company, Patti not only knows "how", but understands "why", which is the difference between being taught a few games and learning to improvise. Patti's body of work as an actor, director and corporate trainer is as large as it is varied. Her generosity, dedication to her work and attention to detail have won the trust and admiration of professionals worldwide. She has worked in Canada, the USA, England, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, France, Portugal, Greece, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore and Australia for numerous improvisation companies, theatre schools and in the corporate arena. This serious work is matched by a lively and varied performing career. In addition to a string of theatre, film, radio and television credits, Patti is a core member of the famous Canadian improvisational company "Die Nasty" – the live improvised soap opera. Her performance credentials also include being a three time National Theatresports™ Champion, three-time Celebrity Theatresports™ champion and many, many other global titles, all carried with characteristic cheeky irreverence. She is the Director of Die Nasty AU, Co-Director of Impro Melbourne and Secret Impro Theatre and past Artistic Director of Rapid Fire Theatre. Patti also provided the seed of inspiration behind the birth of the London Company, Spontaneity Shop, and has been interviewed for two improvisation books, *Something Like A Drug* and *The Improv Handbook*, which is dedicated to her in recognition of her mentorship. She also writes an occasional improvisation blog which has been translated into three languages. Patti is known for her narrative skills, and her playful, supporting nature. She ignites a spark of enthusiasm and joy in students, fellow performers and audiences wherever she appears. Her personal motto says it all: "Inspire!"

