

**Tuesday 28 October**

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**6:30 PM - Here's a Thing: NZIF Edition**  
**NZIF Ensemble led by Jennifer O'Sullivan**  
**Wellington**

What happens when a crack team of the New Zealand Improv Festival's guests join forces for one night only? Magic.

After a standing ovation worth season during NZ Fringe 2014, top performers from across the festival come together for an opening night treat - improv shenanigans in Here's A Thing: NZIF Edition. Anything goes (and it usually goes pretty great).

Cast to be confirmed - watch the NZ Improv Festival facebook page for details!

"It could well be a recipe for chaos if they were not all highly accomplished improvisers" - NZIF, Theatreview

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**8:00 PM - Bingo Board of Doom**  
**Spark**  
**Melbourne**

A fast-paced display of improvised comedy featuring the well-lubricated brains of Spark. Random plot twists, audience suggestions and a mischievous MC create havoc for the improvisers as they strive to keep their story lines intact. Picture if you will, a big board with 20 nerve racking plot twists. Now imagine numbered balls are being pulled, at random, out of the bingo barrel. Every time a ball is pulled our improvisers must immediately incorporate the corresponding plot twist into the scene.

Spark featured in NZIF 2014 and are based in Melbourne. They have been making stuff for audiences for about 20 years. They love Wellington.

"The beauty is the speed and surety of the improv, the witty one-liners flowing thick and fast, and satisfying re-incorporations with nothing left by the wayside. " - Theatreview

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**9:30 PM - Harold**  
**PlayShop**  
**Wellington**

Who said Theatresports? The Harold is an improvised three-act play, and the ultimate test for any improviser. Created in Chicago by master comedy teacher Del Close, Harold is the signature show of theatre company iO (Improv Olympic), whose students – Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert and Mike Myers, to name a few – continue to stoke the comedy fires of Saturday Night Live and Hollywood movies.

Directed by iO alumnus Lori Leigh (This Fair Verona, Revelations) PlayShop is putting up an elite team of players to tackle one of improv's most challenging formats. Rock up, throw in your suggestions, and kick us off for an hour of white-knuckled comedy never before attempted at the New Zealand Improv Festival.

PlayShop constitutes a new generation of Wellington performers, drawing from a pool of Toi Whakaari, Long Cloud Youth Theatre, and Victoria University grads and students, all with a vested interest in theatre. As such, PlayShop is characterised by intelligence, energy, solid stagecraft, theatricality and emotional honesty. We believe the skills and philosophies of performance can be used to create exciting, risky, accessible theatre of all types.

**Wednesday 29 October**

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**6:30 PM - The Map**

**Body in Space**

**Nelson**

Your ideas create a map, and from this geographical genesis, characters emerge. Watch the story of the map... unfold!

You, the audience member, will get to offer up ideas as to what The Map, the setting of our play, will look like. This topographical masterpiece will evolve into 2D life before your very eyes using the latest in graphics technology, the O.H.P. From here, several stories emerge, characters separated by station and aspiration but linked by location. Longitude, latitude and laughter combine in a multi-faceted tale, bound to get your compass spinning.

Body in Space is an improv troupe based in Nelson. For three years they have presented a monthly show called The Deep End at the Theatre Royal. The company is directed by ex-Court Jester Daniel Allan and they train together weekly.

"Strange, crazy, clever and belly-splitting funny." - The Nelson Mail

"Genuinely touching...it's only when you think back over what was created 'in the moments' that you realise what small miracles have occurred." - Theatreview

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**8:00 PM - Panto**

**Wellington Improv Troupe**

**Wellington**

Wellington Improv Troupe brings a fresh new take to the classic fairy tale format.

This show has all the elements of a traditional pantomime: a dame, a love story, tight tights and an all-singing, all-dancing cast. And you, our audience, will provide the turning points of the story, as well as the usual "oohs" and "he's behind you" audience interaction. The louder, the better!

The Wellington Improvisation Troupe (WIT) is Wellington's not-for-profit, community-based improvisational theatre group. Theatre is made up on the spot by some of Wellington's leading improvisers and courageous newcomers alike, based on suggestions from the audience. WIT players share a love of storytelling and work together as a team to inspire the audience. WIT theatre is sometimes serious, often hilarious and always totally unpredictable.

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**9:30 PM - Le Franglais Improv Comedy Show**

**Belgium / NZ / Canada**

Le Franglais Improv Comedy Show is the only bilingual spectacle 100% improvisé: vous ne savez pas ce que vous allez voir. We don't know what we'll play.

The show is performed in two different languages, French and English, but there is no need to be completely bilingual to enjoy it. The languages are sometimes mixed, sometimes they're used as handles to the stories. The specificities of the other tongue/culture are the main ingredients to a show that is made to play with the clichés and the differences that bring the languages.

Performed by Robbie Ellis, Marc Sautelet, Anton Van Helden, and guests.

**Thursday 30 October**

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**6:30 PM - In the Parlour**  
**Bonnet Productions with NZIF Guests**  
**Melbourne**

It's 1851 and in the small English country town of Cottesloe, two charming spinster sisters Tilly and Flora Georgeson are in their parlour with much to occupy them. The latest fabric to be viewed at the haberdashery, bonnets to be trimmed, gossip to be shared and cold drafts to be avoided. And then, there is the daily excitement of the post...and unexpected visitors! A comedy of manners inspired by Jane Austen and Elizabeth Gaskell (Cranford). Tilly and Flora will delight you. This is improvised theatre at its finest.

After successful seasons in the Melbourne Short & Sweet Theatre Festival 2012 and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2013 this is the first international showing of this crowd pleasing favourite. A show you can safely bring your grandmother or children along to see – this is pure G Rated family friendly fun.

Anna Renzenbrink and Jenny Lovell worked together in the Impro Melbourne Ensemble for over ten years before creating the characters of Tilly and Flora. The show was born from by their mutual passion for period romance and BBC bonnet dramas. Over the last three years they have loved developing these characters through various productions and are excited to give them an international outing for the first time here in NZ.

Anna Renzenbrink and Jenny Lovell are pleased to announce they will be joined by guests: Lori Dungey, Auckland; Benjamin Crowley, Canberra and Mary Little, Wellington for the NZIF.

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**8:00 PM - Oliver Twisted: An Improvised Dickens**  
**ConArtists**  
**Auckland**

YOU'LL WANT SOME MORE...

Following the huge success of Austen Found and Enid Untold ConArtists are back to deliver Great Improvisations as they invent a brand new Dickensian theatrical on the spot. Mrs Plodswallop or perhaps Mr Smigglesquelch will bring Victorian England alive, complete with urchins, prostitutes and gruel. You'll be wanting some more as it'll be the best of times....and the best of times.

ConArtists have been entertaining Kiwis since 1987 and show no signs of slowing down. The company members have performed improv all over the world, have represented their country with

Theatresports™ and also extensively toured New Zealand. Cast members have been featured in Gloss, Lord of the Rings, Good Morning, Shortland St, Outrageous Fortune, Xena, Hercules, Spartacus, 7 Days and Would I Lie to You. SO they're quite good.

"A marvellous time is had by all. Jane Austen would turn in her grave with delight! ... Rollicking fun!"  
Austen Found, Rip It Up Adelaide February 2010

"Theatre Sports meets Enid Blyton, with a dash of rabid patriotism and a dollop of uranium in this jolly old lark from the ConArtists." Theatre review 2011 - Enid Untold

"an engaging entertainment full of fun and frivolity." Austen Found: The Undiscovered Musicals of Jane Austen, NZ Herald, October 2010

Starring Penny Ashton, Lori Dungey, Clare Kelso, Peter Muller, Marc Sautet, Lindsey Brown and Madeleine Lynch.

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### **9:30PM - Plus One**

**ImproVisa**

**Mexico**

Plus One is an austere show. Designed to improvise in a relaxed environment, just for the pleasure of doing so, without worries about the ticket office, time, competition, procedures or cumbersome preparations.

The full show is 99% improvised scenes - there are no games, there is no musician, there are no long explanations neither long presentations.

Daniel Haddad and Piolo Juvera are ImproVisa, a Mexican company dedicated to Improvisational theater (or "improv" as an affectionate name – and, boy! We are affectionate to it!) We believe there's no better training than watch, learn and practice improv. That being said, our mission is to spread good improv around the globe, artisanal handmade improv, made consciously, made with the heart.

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### **11:00 PM - The Good God Singalong**

**NZIF Ensemble led by GEAR Productions**

**Wellington**

The Reverend Bernie presents the spiritual successor to last year's "Vance Fontaine's Big Band Jam". Without rehearsal performers from the festival turn up to perform songs as soloists, choir members or conductors or all of the above. All under the watchful eye of Reverend Bernie.

Anything could happen, magic and disaster. All with audience sing-a-long ability.

GEAR Productions have been producing improv comedy for the past few years - including the shows "Vance Fontaine in Command Performance" and "Vance Fontaine for Lovers" as well as "Thom and Greg's Tales of Adventure". Greg is an experienced improviser, having worked professionally in NZ and overseas since 1990.

Friday 31 October - Halloween Special

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**6:30 PM - Ghost Conference**

**The Maldon Project**

**Wgtn/Can/Melb**

Set in the Lounge Bar of a hotel, four ghosts from different eras meet for a drink in the hotel where they died. These career ghosts discuss life, love and opportunities lost of those still living and those long gone. It's true what they say- it's easier to confide in a stranger than a friend and it's even easier after a few wines.

Bringing together for the first time a quartet of highly engaging, intelligent and charming improvisers - this piece will showcase rich character driven story-telling.

Ghost Conference is a brand new fully improvised one-act play performed by Christine Brooks (Wellington), Anna Renzenbrink (Melbourne), Catherine Crowley and Ben Crowley (Canberra). They all meet yearly at an Improvisation Festival in Canberra.

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**8:00 PM - Duos**

**NZIF Ensemble led by Jason Geary**

**Melbourne**

Hosted and directed by Jason Geary (Melbourne) Duos is improv without a safety net. Three pairs of improvisors will have fifteen minutes of stage time a piece, no restrictions. What they decide to bring to the stage is up to them. They may attempt a two person musical. You might see a play in the style of Beckett. You may experience bold new character comedy. How about a two person sit com? One thing is for sure. With only one other improvisor to rely on your, going to see three pairs at the top of their game.

Duos will be the result of a collaboration of locals and guests during the festival, giving established and new duos from across the globe the chance to hit the stage with their own kind of inspired magic. It may be funny. It may be dramatic. Buy your ticket safe in the knowledge it'll be a world premiere.

Jason has been improvising for 20 years; in that time he has performed all over the world, from Australia through Asia, the USA to the stages Europe. His format 'How about this?' has been adopted and played internationally. He has been twice part of the National Theatre Sports Championship winning team and was awarded best and fairest of the National Championships 2010.

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**9:30 PM - Monster of the Week**  
**NZIF Ensemble led by Katherine Weaver**  
**Melbourne**

Based on serial 'Monster of the Week' shows (think Supernatural, Buffy and Fringe), two paranormal investigators track and battle a terrifying new monster to save the world. This show is a bold, ambitious attempt at weaving thrilling story threads into a completely improvised horror play.

Katherine Weaver has been training, performing and teaching improvisation with Impro Melbourne for over 10 years. She also recently taught and performed at the ITI-Conference on Theatresports™ and Improvisation in Würzburg Germany. She loves sharing her passion, energy and knowledge for improvisation with her students, peers and the community.

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**11:00 PM - Sylvestro's Spooky Cabaret Burlesque**  
**NZIF Ensemble led by Matt Powell**  
**Chch/Wgtn/Melb**

An evening of music, dance, story, and spectacle, as the sinister Sylvestro (last seen in 2014 Fringe hit SKETCH-UAL HEALING) assembles a motley assortment of festival favourites and local talent. Performers include Wellington burlesque sensation Miss Fanciforia Foxglove, musical mad scientist Robbie Ellis, Christchurch cabaret nightmare Gary Starlight, and festival queen Jennifer O'Sullivan, who by this point may be an ACTUAL ZOMBIE. Grab something dark at the bar and settle in for a Hallowe'en to remember.

Matt Powell is an experienced improviser, director, and actor with Christchurch's Court Jesters, and has developed several show formats including Loose Cannons (NZIF 2013) and Space Patrol 5 (NZIF 2014). He also runs a daily improv blog: [improobserver.tumblr.com](http://improobserver.tumblr.com)

**Saturday 1 November**

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**6:30 PM - Space Patrol 5**

**The Court Jesters**

**Christchurch**

Join Captain Stella Forstar and the intrepid crew of Space Patrol 5 on a voyage of exploration and discovery to the furthest reaches of the galaxy... and beyond! Christchurch's Court Jesters encounter alien civilisations and mysterious scientific phenomena, while dealing with the interpersonal tensions that naturally crop up between workmates who also live together. Space battles! Alien treachery! Poor decisions! Short skirts! Science! Engineering! SPACE PATROL 5!

(Please come early: we need help building the spaceship.)

Based at the Court Theatre in Christchurch, The Court Jesters have been running Scared Scriptless, Australasia's longest-running comedy show, for over 20 years. Alumni include Cal Wilson, Court Theatre Artistic Director Ross Gumbley, Javier Jarquin, and the late Kevin Smith, and members of The Court Jesters have gone on to found or co-found Snort (Auckland), Playshop (Wellington), and Body In Space (Nelson). A company of around 20 Jesters perform two late-night improv shows a week (Friday night short-form comedy and Saturday night themed long-form) and provide corporate entertainment, improv training, and other acting services throughout New Zealand.

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**8:00 PM - Taking off the Bird Suit**

**NZIF Ensemble led by Christine Brooks**

**Wellington**

Taking off the Bird Suit returns to Wellington, bringing some of New Zealand Improv Festival's most talented improvisers to BATS Theatre. Exploring roles beyond the maiden, the mother, and the crone, these amazing women will present touching and hilarious spontaneous theatre. Hi-jinks and laughs a-plenty are guaranteed with this cast of smart, funny women.

"All in all, Taking off the Bird Suit is thoroughly and consistently entertaining and, most importantly, hilarious." - Word on the Street

Christine Brooks creates, performs and teaches improvised theatre in Wellington, New Zealand. She is former Creative Director of the Wellington Improvisation Troupe (WIT) and was Artistic Director of the 2013 New Zealand Improv Festival.

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**9:30 PM - Zombies?**

**NZIF Ensemble led by GEAR Productions**

**Wellington**

Ten improvisors. Hordes of zombies. It's improv survivor and being voted off means messy, gory death. The gruesome finale to NZIF 2014! Bring a torch...

GEAR Productions have been producing improv comedy for the past few years - including the shows "Vance Fontaine in Command Performance" and "Vance Fontaine for Lovers" as well as "Thom and Greg's Tales of Adventure". Greg is an experienced improviser, having worked professionally in NZ and overseas since 1990.