

CTWR 407 Creating the Comedic Character . Because of Covid we will not meet in person to do Improv as usual. Instead we will meet on Zoom and focus primarily on in-class writing, using free-write and improv exercises to expand and enrich each writer's ability. The syllabus is based on Method Writing exercises from Viola Spolin and The Groundlings Theater character-based comedy where the individual connects to the universal, embraces the specific, rejoices in the details of mundane daily life, where character creates story. You will write from 'you', and expand outward into characters-- like concentric rings of a tree, using what you know friends, family, observation and imagination. This is not satire, rather humanistic comedy; celebrating what we know about people. All you need is pen and paper. Expect to read some of your work each class. You will write about yourself. If that scares you but you want to try it - this will be great for you. If you are already a "writer" the rules of improv will make your writing richer. If you are struggling to get your screenplay finished, feel tapped out, have writers block--want to write for the fun and have accidents of genius- this class is for you! Think of it as a brain massage each Monday morning. As there will be little to no homework, perfect attendance, willingness, and commitment are essential, if not imperative.