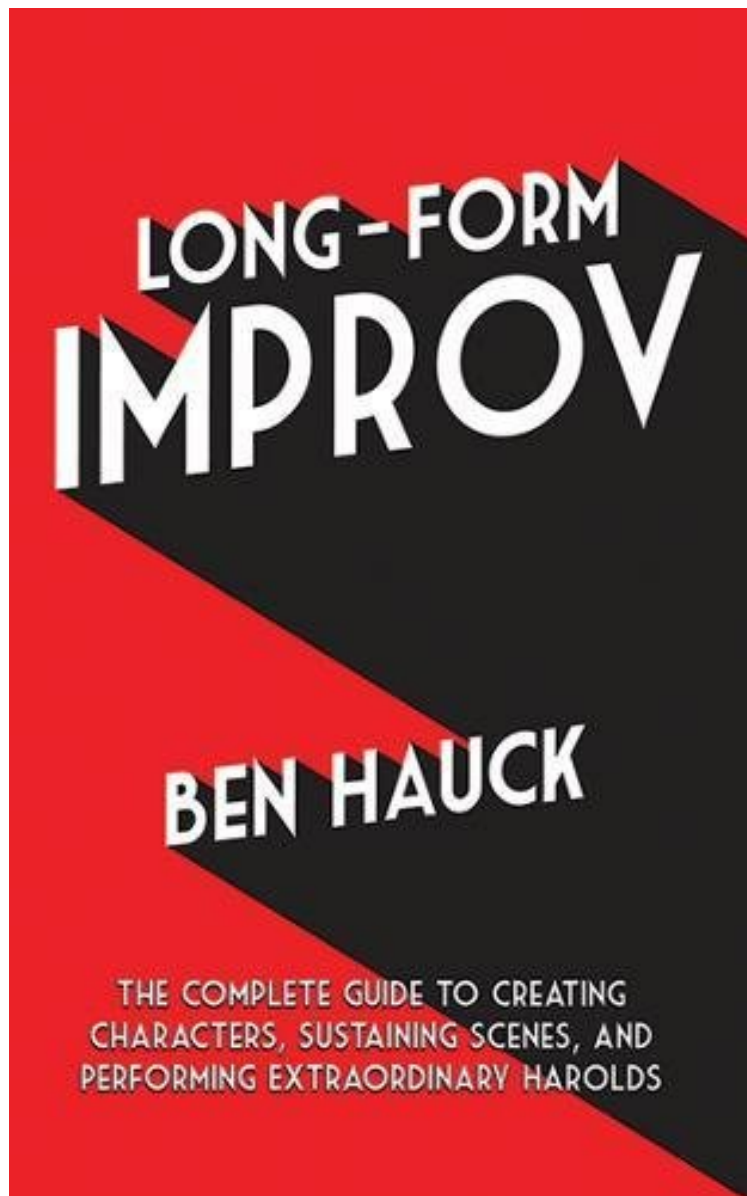


(Mobile library) Long-Form Improv: The Complete Guide to Creating Characters, Sustaining Scenes, and Performing Extraordinary Harolds

# Long-Form Improv: The Complete Guide to Creating Characters, Sustaining Scenes, and Performing Extraordinary Harolds

*Ben Hauck*

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#655990 in Books Allworth Press 2012-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 6.10 x 6.00l, .95  
#File Name: 1581159811288 pages | File size: 19.Mb

**Ben Hauck : Long-Form Improv: The Complete Guide to Creating Characters, Sustaining Scenes, and Performing Extraordinary Harolds** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Long-Form Improv: The Complete Guide to Creating Characters, Sustaining Scenes, and Performing

Extraordinary Harolds:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A book that teaches the subject on the cover? That seems too easy!By Ryan PriceThe opening of this book contains a criticism of the "gold standard" improv books like "Truth in Comedy", as well as some in-person Improv classes for failing to clearly and unambiguously teach the student the subject.My guess is that Ben must be an engineer, computer scientist or mathematician. He takes a cut-and-dried stance early in the book, that moves to practical and anecdotal. He does not dip in to a cadre of celebrity quotes and Del Close eulogies, which is totally fine with me, since 8 out of 10 improv books seem to.If you are looking to start a long-form troupe, and you don't have a reliable mentor, I would pick up this book and "Improv for Actors" by Dan Diggles. If you like punchy, high-comedy, fast-laugh improv, then add the UCB Comedy Manual, with the warning that UCB is laser-focused on "the game". Ben Hauck gives you the tools you need to create a range of different kinds of stories, while Matt Walsh, Matt Besser and Ian Roberts will teach you to find the game as fast as possible, and heighten it. For some people, this style is exactly what they are looking for. For me, I want to create a compelling story first, and see the comedy emerge from players doing something genuine and believable enough that when they say something absurd, it becomes hilarious.That said, this book really helped me when I was looking to teach my group The Harold. If I could recommend only one book it would be Dan Diggles' Improv for Actors, with this being a close second.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Improv Book!By JW HoI recently adopted Ben Haucks Long-Form Improv for my intensive summer course at Yale. My job was much easier than in previous summers because my students read, understood and loved Haucks book. The authors analysis of moves in terms of game theory, clear explanation of conflict and desire and discussion of ideation, relationships, attitude, heightening, endowing and justification all helped my students step off back wall with courage, play the games they discovered together and support each other appropriately. They performed the tightest Harolds I have seen from beginning students and that after only five-and-a-half weeks of daily instruction. I would definitely adopt Long-Form Improv as a textbook again. In fact, I would love to see a whole sequel from this author just on group scenes.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Totally Helpful For ActorsBy Aimee DavisonBen Hauck's book is very methodical and clear in its approach to teaching the fundamentals of long-form improv. What I found most valuable about reading it was that, as an actor, I could easily apply what it teaches about conflict and scene work to my commercial acting work. Reading this book is SO much better than taking vague improv classes that only give you confusing emotional instructions and tips. "Long-form Improv" makes the process and the art clear to improv and commercial actors. If I was a drama teacher, I'd make my class read it and use it as a manual instead of just blathering on about saying "yes" and "committing to your character." :)

Long-Form Improv deftly teaches the wildly popular form of improvisation that is so foundational to the comedy stylings of many of today's top actors and thriving comedians. Crammed with innovative ideas for conceptualizing improvised scenework and finding the game of the scene, this crisply written manual covers techniques for experienced improvisers, curious actors, and even non-actors.A complete long-form improv resource comprising topics like ideation and character creation, improvising scenes for extended periods of time and enhancing themand even performing the most famous expression of long-form improv, the half-hour improvised form known as The Haroldthis astute text is written in a friendly, supportive voice by an experienced improv teacher and professional actor whose own frustration in learning the craft drove an obsession to create a program free of confounding teachings and contradictory concepts. The book's groundbreaking infusion with drama theory and game theory brings new life to the teachings of the craft, breaking down various aspects of long-form improv into short chapters for swift, step-by-step intake of its vital lessons. Students of acting and long-form improv alike should expect Long-Form Improv to bolster their education and fast-track their course to improv greatness.

About the AuthorBen Hauck holds more than twelve years of experience as an internationally known long-form improv teacher, performer, and student, as well as more than twenty years of experience as a professional stage and screen actor. In 2007/2008, he developed and directed an extensive full-scale corporate improv training program exclusively for a multinational consulting firm, teaching the firm's software engineers to perform long-form improv for audiences in New York City, Toronto, and London. From 2002/2006, he was the exclusive coach for the improv comedy group known as Devils Dancebelt.