

AXS ENTERTAINMENT / ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / PERFORMING ARTS

See also: [theater](#), [improv](#), [plays](#), [tennessee williams](#)

Masterful Impro Theatre returns to Falcon with 'Tennessee Williams UnScripted'

May 26, 2016

12:50 PM MST

Masters of acting on the fly with grace and flair, Impro Theatre returns to the Falcon Theatre to present completely improvised two-act plays in the style of celebrated American Gothic author and playwright [Tennessee Williams](#) (March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983). Previously, the rotating ensemble of gifted thespians performed one-of-a-kind productions for each show of "Twilight Zone UnScripted," "The Western UnScripted" and "Sondheim UnScripted" at the Falcon. "Tennessee Williams UnScripted" opens Friday, June 17, 2016 and will undoubtedly take audiences on a trip to Williams' south where the weather can be sweltering, the characters steamy and layered, and the humor wicked and delicious as a mint julep.

Impro Theatre's Producing Artistic Director and ensemble member Dan O'Connor answered a few questions about the troupe's origins, their process and their canon of styles.

Question. When, where and who was with you when Impro's UnScripted was conceived? How did it happen and evolve?

Answer. Impro Theatre was created 10 years (It's our 10th Anniversary!) by members of LA Theatresports. After years of doing thousands of improv comedy shows we decided to challenge the ensemble by using our background as stage actors, drama school grads and writers to do something daring and new and formally created IT in 2006.

We had experimented with "Shakespeare UnScripted" our first UnScripted show in 1999 at the Globe Theatre in West Hollywood. The cast was as big as 16 people during the first run and really felt like a play with sets and costumes and live music. It was kind of the culmination of some of the style work we had done in the early 90s with Forrest Brakeman's Triple Play format which was a play, a movie and a musical done with three styles i.e. Tennessee Williams, Steven Spielberg and Stephen Sondheim done in three three-act plays over the course of an evening. Three first acts of 10 minutes each, three second acts at around eight minutes each with an intermission and then a second half of three 10-minute third acts.

In those shows we did everything from improvising Brendan Beehan and Gabriel Garcia Marquez to making up a musical in the style of the Weavers! All of this genre work in the 90s led us to wanting to really up the production value and create the UnScripted shows.

Q. When did Impro begin performing "Tennessee Williams UnScripted?" Where was it in the queue? I believe "Jane Austen UnScripted" was first, if not, which was the first?

A. Shakespeare was the first UnScripted but Jane Austen was the first Impro Theatre UnScripted show. I think the order was Jane, Shakespeare, Dickens, Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Film Noir, Sondheim, Twilight Zone, Western, and this past year Fairy Tale UnScripted.

Q. What are the specific challenges and joys of performing Tennessee Williams UnScripted?

A. He was a terrific writer and his work is inspiring. Brian Lohmann is the director and he has done a wonderful job of exploring the poetry and passion of the characters and grounding the cast in Williams-esque locations and environments. It is a joyful show to do because the characters can be so rich and so much fun to play. Creating new characters every night is great as it means we are always exploring and finding new people to play. The comedy that bubbles up is contagious.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to tell me and my readers?

We are damn excited to share the show with folks. It is funny and touching and raucous and reflective. They get to see a different show every night. It is, in short, a wonderful evening in the theatre.

"Tennessee Williams UnScripted" previews **June 10 8pm, June 11 4pm & 8pm, June 12 4pm**; opens 8 p.m. Friday, June 17 and performs 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through July 31. Tickets are \$31.50-\$34 previews, **\$54.00-\$59.00 Opening Night & Reception**; \$41.50-\$44.00 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and \$29 students with valid I.D. Call 818-955-8101 or visit www.falcontheatre.com.

The Falcon Theatre is located at 4252 Riverside Drive in Burbank.

Sponsored Content on Examiner



The Future of Our Water Supply Will Rethink How You Drink

By BASF

Big cities around the world are facing enormous challenges as new residents stream into these metropolitan areas every day on the wave of global urbanization. But the existing infrastructure for water and sewage is often already at its limits. How ca

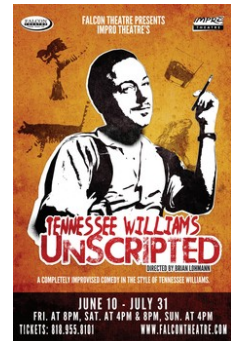


Photo with permission from Falcon Theatre



Candyce Columbus
LA Theater Examiner

