

Student Days

at Scarborough Renaissance Festival®

2020 Improv Competition

Rules and Registration

Goals:

- ❖ To enhance improvisational acting, public speaking, and better listening skills by students.
- ❖ Increase exposure to new ideas and perspectives.
- ❖ Promote development of presentation skills.

Improv Acting Themes & Guidelines:

Improv is unscripted theatre, made up on the spot, often from suggestions by the audience.

In the renaissance, conversation and storytelling were major forms of entertainment, affordable to all. The person with a sharp wit and a quick tongue was valued both as an entertainer and as an advisor. Will Somers was King Henry VIII's "fool". This meant that Will Somers was given free rein to say as he wished without fear of punishment. King Henry valued Will's quick wit, astute assessments, opinions, and friendship.

Improv is a fun way to sharpen our minds. Being able to think quickly on the fly is just as valuable today as it was in the renaissance.

Our competition this year centers on a well-known Improv elimination game called "Try That on for Size".

Try That on for Size:

This is an association game, where two people at a time go head to head. Two teams line up on the stage. A coin is tossed and the winning team will receive the prompt from the host.

The host will mime an action, such as hammering a nail. This is the prompt. The first player on each team will step forward. The first player on the coin-toss-winning team will perform the action, and say, "I'm hammering a nail. Try that on for size."

The second person does the exact same action, but says they are doing something completely different that makes sense with the action, such as "I'm swatting flies. Try that on for size".

Then it goes back to the first person with the same action ("I'm fishing impatiently. Try that on for size"). This goes back and forth until one of these first two players cannot come up with something for that action. They are then eliminated and a new person comes and takes their place and a new action is chosen by the host.

Elimination will happen when a player is unable to come up with a new justification for the action or a justification is repeated. Play continues until all players on a team have been eliminated.

Extra time may be awarded at the judges' discretion for those who stay within a 16th century theme. "I'm fulling wool. Try that on for size" or "I'm threshing grain. Try that on for size" will buy an extra 2 seconds for that player for the next time they are up to deliver a line, increasing their response time to 10 seconds.

Mistakes:

- The player fails to come up with a new justification for the action in 8 seconds.
- The player repeats a justification.
- The player uses a variation on a repetition. In the example above, if "I'm fishing impatiently" is used, "I'm fly fishing" may not be used and will count as a repetition.

Teams must consist of 6 players. The game is played between two teams from different schools. Your team will compete against other students from other schools, not amongst yourselves.

Judges will keep track of how many players are left on each winning team to determine playoff brackets. These numbers will also determine winners in the event of ties.

The winning team will move forward to the next heat. Number of heats will be determined by the number of schools participating. There will be a 1st and 2nd place award with an honorable mention for the 3rd and 4th runners up. Awards will be presented to the winners at the Royal Awards Ceremony held during Student Days at 1:00pm on the Crown Stage.

Registration Information:

- ❖ Intent to compete by completing the enclosed registration form must be received by the deadline of **April 1, 2020**.
- ❖ Students entering in the Improv Competition must be present at Student Days on **April 28, 2020** to win.
- ❖ The student's school **must be registered and paid** to attend Student Days at Scarborough Renaissance Festival® no later than **April 1, 2020**.

Judging & Awards:

- ❖ Judging will consist of approved educators, performers, and staff members of Scarborough Renaissance Festival®. All judges' decisions are final.
- ❖ Students will compete against students of all ages. The Improv competition is not split up by level, age, or grade.
- ❖ Judging will take place during the competition on **April 28, 2020**.
- ❖ Schools participating in this competition must check in at the Wedding Garden inside the Front Gate upon arrival at Student Days on **April 28, 2020 by 9:30am**. This is necessary for the school to be eligible to participate in the competition.
- ❖ Awards will be given to the first & second place as well as two Honorable Mentions for third & fourth place finalists. Awards will be presented to the winners at the Royal Awards Ceremony held during Student Days at 1:00pm on the Crown Stage.
- ❖ Two complimentary Scarborough Renaissance Festival® tickets will be awarded to all competition participants.

Disclaimer:

- ❖ Commercial photography and filming activities are conducted at Scarborough Renaissance Festival®. You may appear in the resulting pictures or films that may be used in connection with advertising, news reporting, entertainment or other activities. Entry into the park and/or purchase of an admission ticket constitutes your consent for Scarborough Renaissance Festival® to use the pictures and films.

All Entries Should Be Mailed To:

Scarborough Renaissance Festival®

P.O. Box 538

Waxahachie, TX 75168

Attn: Student Days Improv Competition

Or emailed electronically to StudentDays@rffestival.com.



Improvisational Acting Competition
Registration Form
(Please Print)

**Form declaring intent to compete must be received by April 1, 2020.
No Late Entries will be accepted. No Exceptions!**

Students Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____