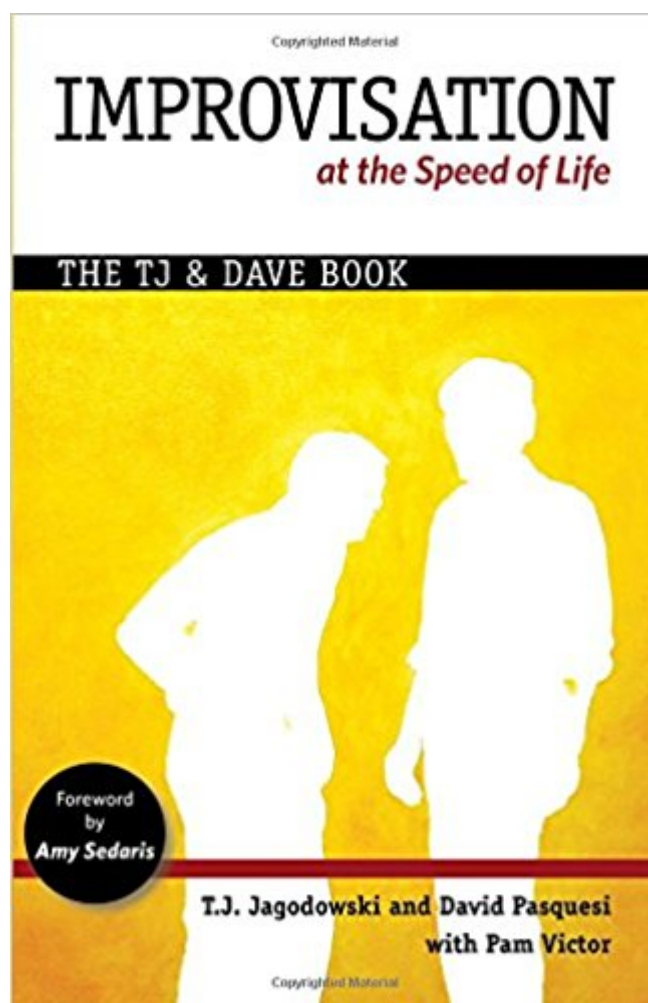


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# Improvisation At The Speed Of Life: The TJ And Dave Book



## Synopsis

T.J. and David are internationally known, award-winning, master improvisers from Chicago's legendary scene. This in-depth look at the techniques, principles, theory and ideas behind what they do is both authoritative and entertaining. Since their early years playing the iO (formerly Improv Olympic) and the Second City mainstage theater (where David won a Joseph Jefferson award for best actor in a revue), TJ and Dave have been performing for over fifty years combined - fifteen as a team. David worked with improvisation guru Del Close, in development of the The Harold, the preeminent longform theatrical structure, and both are multi-award winning actors. Steven Colbert says, "One of these guys is the best improviser in the world. And the other one is better." Forward by Amy Sedaris. Other endoresements: The New York Times says they are "the premier improv duo working today," while Time Out New York wrote of their long-running TJ and Dave show: "BRILLIANT, HEARTBREAKING, MIND-BLOWING, INSPIRING! The best 50 minutes of improv comedy we've ever seen ....DRINK THEIR KOOL-AID."

## Book Information

Paperback: 225 pages

Publisher: Solo Roma, Inc (April 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0977309339

ISBN-13: 978-0977309337

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,070 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Stagecraft #106 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Comedy #647 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Satire

## Customer Reviews

TJ Jagodowski began improvising in the mid-1990s. He has been a member of The Second City as well as a performer and teacher at iO (formerly ImprovOlympic) and The Annoyance theaters. TV and film credits include Sonic ads, Stranger Than Fiction, The Ice Harvest, The Great and Powerful Oz, Prison Break, and Get Hard. TJ is co-founder and co-artistic director of Chicago's Mission Theater. David Pasquesi has been improvising since the early 1980s. He studied with Del Close for years and was on one of the original Harold teams at ImprovOlympic (now iO). David

wrote and performed four reviews at The Second City (Chicago) where he received a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Actor in a Review. He has played Steppenwolf and the Goodman theaters, and his many film and TV credits include VEEP, Strangers with Candy, Boss, Angels and Deamons, and the Ice Harvest. He is co-founder and co-director of The Mission Theater in Chicago. Pam is the founding member of the Ha-Ha's, and produced The Happier Valley Comedy Show in western Massachusetts. Pam performs Geeking Out with: The Talk Show, a live version of the written interview series, at comedy festivals throughout the land. Pam writes mostly humorous, mostly true essays and reviews of books, movies, and tea on her blog "My Nephew is a Poodle."

What an amazing book. TJDave are two guys who love improv- have really worked hone their craft in this particular path of the art- They don't consider themselves gurus or Masters "they don't proselytize - or say that this way it's better than our way" But to me they are two guys who are shining a lantern down a path that I want to go down and making it easier for me to see my way and eventually make my own choices on how I may or may not stay on that exact path. Pam Victor performed an improv miracle by wrangling these two great guys into putting their thoughts into this wonderful book! Her introductions, comments and conversations with her co- authors lends a cohesive thread that makes the book so enjoyable and readable. The multiple points of view that are in this book show that there are many paths "and many types of training that can lead us to improv- and that none of those ways are right or wrong, but they led these two guys to where they are today. And the world of Improv is all the richer because of what these two are doing! So yeah, I kind of liked the book.

I'm halfway through the book, which for me, is a feat in and of itself. I'm not a strong reader and it takes me weeks to complete a book. But, I'm pouring through this one. Enjoying every sentence and paragraph. If you are an improviser, put this in your arsenal. If you are not an improviser and are looking for a book that discusses how to be a better listener, supporter, and how to invest yourself into something or someone besides yourself, then you will want to read this. A great resource for the improv community!!

If you've ever wondered how these guys do their magic, you should read it. A must for anyone doing two person. Unlike any other improv book. Very insightful on the psychological aspect of improv. Refreshing because they don't adhere to a lot of the principles other books teach. Reads like a good novel. And it's as long as one. Great stuff. Smart.

A must read for anyone who is interested in improv beyond "Whose Line Is It Anyway." I've been improvising for over 25 years and have read dozens of books on improv. This is one of the very best I've ever read. It's a book that I know that I'll go back to throughout the years and read it over and over just to find another nugget I missed or forgot about. Just about the best \$20 I ever spent on improv. If you're serious about improv you'll love it.

I'm fairly new to improvising and I hadn't heard much about TJ and Dave until my improv teacher recommended this book. I had to stop reading it before bed because it was so engaging. It was truly a joy to read. I've read it twice and I know I'll continue to revisit this book for years to come. TJ and Dave offer insight that applies to much more than performing...they teach you how to be a better human. I've devoured every bit of TJ and Dave content I could find online. I highly recommend their series on Vimeo. Cannot wait to make it to one of their shows!

Such a good book - if you are an improviser read this. It's really focused on their style and there are other ways to do great improv, but if you like the TJ and Dave style and what to know how it works, then read this.

I love this book!! - It has all the insight you could ever want or need from a 'how to' book but it is so much more than that. It's an engaging read as a regular book front to back. The conversations reflect on human nature while helping you transition that knowledge to the stage. It also introduces new terms and mechanics which I believe will become the new short hand for discussing improv (I love the concepts of 'Heat' and 'Weight'). TJ & Dave are amazing of course but full credit to Pam for surfacing their comedic nuances for all of us to enjoy :)

Great book for improv. I have taken a few classes and this is a great companion resource. I found that I was crystal clear on the ideas presented once I finished each chapter. I can't wait to see TJ & Dave in Chicago when they return from their summer hiatus. Thanks lads!

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