



# Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City

*Amy E. Seham*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City

Amy E. Seham

## Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City Amy E. Seham

On both sides of the stage improv-comedy's popularity has increased exponentially throughout the 1980s and '90s and into the new millennium. Presto! An original song is created out of thin air. With nothing but a suggestion from the audience, daring young improvisers working without a net or a script create hilarious characters, sketches, and songs. Thrilled by the danger, the immediacy, and the virtuosity of improv-comedy, spectators laugh and cheer.

American improv-comedy burst onto the scene in the 1950s with Chicago's the Compass Players (best known for the brilliant comedy duo Mike Nichols and Elaine May) and the Second City, which launched the careers of many popular comedians, including Gilda Radner, John Belushi, and Mike Myers. Chicago continues to be a mecca for young performers who travel from faraway places to study improv. At the same time, the techniques of Chicago improv have infiltrated classrooms, workshops, rehearsals, and comedy clubs across North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Japan. Improv's influence is increasingly evident in contemporary films and in interactive entertainment on the internet.

Drawing on the experiences of working improvisers, *Whose Improv Is It Anyway?* provides a never-before-published account of developments beyond Second City's mainstream approach to the genre. This fascinating history chronicles the origins of "the Harold," a sophisticated new "long-form" style of improv developed in the '80s at ImprovOlympic, and details the importance and pitfalls of ComedySports. Here also is a backstage glimpse at the Annoyance Theatre, best known on the national scene for its production of *The Real Live Brady Bunch*. Readers will get the scoop on the recent work of players who, feeling excluded by early improv's "white guys in ties," created such independent groups as the Free Associates and the African American troupe Oui Be Negroes.

There is far more to the art of improv than may be suggested by the sketches on Saturday Night Live or the games on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* This history, an insider's look at the evolution of improv-comedy in Chicago, reveals the struggles, the laughter, and the ideals of mutual support, freedom, and openness that have inspired many performers. It explores the power games, the gender inequities, and the racial tensions that can emerge in improvised performance, and it shares the techniques and strategies veteran players use to combat these problems. Improv art is revealed to be an art of compromise, a fragile negotiation between the poles of process and product. The result, as shown here, can be exciting, shimmering, magical, and not exclusively the property of any troupe or actor.

 [Download Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City Amy E. Seham

---

### From reader reviews:

#### **Martha Wilson:**

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A e-book Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think that will open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or ideal book with you?

#### **Cheryl Dawkins:**

The book Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a good thing like a book Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City? Wide variety you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim that book can give many info for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you may give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City has simple shape however you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Willie Thacker:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Jesica Simon:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

**Download and Read Online Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond  
Second City Amy E. Seham #37VFWKM0GJ1**

## **Read Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham for online ebook**

Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham books to read online.

### **Online Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham ebook PDF download**

**Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham Doc**

**Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham Mobipocket**

**Whose Improv Is It Anyway?: Beyond Second City by Amy E. Seham EPub**