



THE ASSEMBLY

New Improv Company Launches in Toronto

Will focus on game-based longform, the type of unscripted comedy made famous by the Amy Poehler-created company, Upright Citizens Brigade.

TORONTO, Ont., March 30, 2017 – A new improv company has launched today. The Assembly, the only longform-specific improv company in Toronto, is a collective of 12 troupes and will help provide opportunities for developing talent in monthly showcases.

Until recently, these teams were housed at the Second City Training Centre with biweekly shows for the past several years. When the institution made the decision to overhaul its show schedule, the 90+ performers were left without a space to perform. Rather than abandon their art form, this collection of teams banded together to create a new company devoted specifically to longform improv. The Assembly features Toronto's best longform improvisers, including stars from CBC's *Workin' Moms*, CityTV's *Sunnyside*, TBS *People of Earth*, and CBC's *Because News*.

The Assembly mentors new players. It will facilitate a coalition of the most dedicated longform teams in the city, and will coordinate workshops featuring Toronto's favourite longform instructors. It's not governed by a board of directors, or a distant imperialist overlord. Viva la revolution!

"We're the only company in Toronto that focuses solely on this type of improv," said Geoffrey Cork, one of the founders of The Assembly. "We are completely artist-run and dedicated to making good improv and great improvisers."

The Assembly's goal is to provide opportunities for new players and coaches, to build and support new longform teams, and to showcase Toronto's unique take on game-based longform improvisation.

The Assembly's show launch will take place on Thursday, April 13 at 8 p.m. at the Bad Dog Theatre at 875 Bloor Street West. Tickets are available for \$5 and can be purchased online at www.baddogtheatre.com/longform-thursday or at the box office.

For more information on The Assembly, visit www.theassemblyimprov.com.

Featured members of The Assembly:

- MANTOWN, Canadian Comedy Award winners "Best Improv Troupe 2013"
- 2-MAN NO SHOW, Canadian Comedy Award and Now Magazine Best of Toronto Nominees
- RN & Cawls, featuring Canadian Comedy Award winner Adam Cawley and Canadian Screen Award winner Rob Norman
- STRIKE, The Assembly's featured troupe, comprised of Second City alumni and favourite local improvisers including Rob Baker (Bad Dog Theatre, *Bonspiel!*), Ashley Botting (CBC's *Because News*, *Bonspiel!*), Jan Caruana (*Mean Girls*, *Monkey Toast*),



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Ken Hall (co-star of TBS People of Earth), Becky Johnson (The Sufferettes) Rob Norman (CityTV's Sunnyside), and Kevin Vidal (CBC's Workin' Moms).

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