

Innovation Theatre

Drawing on theatre improvisation methods to explore challenges in innovation and to mutually develop new perspectives on the emerging themes.

1. Method

- Processes of innovation are to a large extent happening in the communicative interaction between the involved stakeholders. Engaging people in improvised theatre invites participants to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions and patterns of communicating, which allows emergence of something new.
- There are a variety of theatre-based methods, whose core lays in the meeting between theatrical representations of burning themes, and the responses from corporate practitioners involving themselves in the unfolding improvised situations.
- The themes brought up reflect what is of importance within the organisation. Playing out such themes opens up for new ways of interacting, which can immediately be tested.

2. Requirements

- Skills of facilitation to allow the most important themes to be at the center of the work

3. Potential solution/outcome

- It immediately provides participants with new ways of interacting with each other.
- Using improvised or innovation theatre enables access to a skill set different than the cognitive, judgment-driven discrimination typically honed in the business classroom.
- Improvisation can help practitioners generate creative responses to client demands, facilitate meetings, and offer ideas to superiors.
- Help future managers develop important organizationally valued skills.

4. When should you use it?

- Using impro to generate experiential learning about key course themes: creativity and leadership.
- Using impro to create an environment conducive to learning: taking risks, creating community, having fun, and getting focused.
- Using impro to stimulate creative, nonlinear idea exchange and co-learning.

5. Main Sources

- Huffaker (2005) Learning in the business classroom - An adventure with improve theater techniques
- Jackson,Vine (2013) Introduction - Learning through theatre
- Moshavi (2001) Impro techniques to management
- Vera et al (2005) Impro and innovation