

SUMMER INTENSIVE 2026

from July 27th – July 31th 2026

For the second time, there will be a Summer Intensive in Zurich, where anundpfirsich will become a melting pot for improv during the hot months. In this second edition, Jill Bernard and Leonie Traffelet will share their different perspectives on the same topic: **CHARACTER WORK**. You will work with each of them for two and a half days.

CONTENT

JILL BERNARD

- In 2002 Jill designed a toolkit for creating characters called VAPAPO: Voice, Attitude, Posture, Animal, Prop and Obsession. Improvisors could grab one of these elements to build a quick character for a short improv scene. We'll also practice connecting these choices to realistic character work, noticing ourselves and our scene partners on a micro-level, and playing with emotions and energy in ways that feel honest rather than absurd. You'll learn how to sustain these characters with pauses and rests, build narrative or relationship-based structures, and create scenes that leave the audience engaged, content, and invigorated.

LEONIE TRAFFELET

- We'll dive into big, bold characters using body work and emotion, taking loose inspiration from traditional mime. We'll explore how physical transformation, emotional exaggeration, and clear physical choices can take over your whole body as you play with intensity and focus, all while staying present with your scene partner.

IMPROVISOR'S MINDSET

JILL BERNARD

- We'll explore how to approach improv with curiosity rather than judgment. To me, learning improv is a series of experiments where we see if we can get results that are useful and spark creativity, while being clear to an audience and generous to our scene partners. We're looking to have a playful mindset where we ask: "What happens if we...." & "What if we try...." to see what we can get out of the tools and exercises.

LEONIE TRAFFELET

- We'll look at committing 150% to your own ideas, saying "Yes" to yourself first, and creating bold, comedic, physical characters — all while staying present, listening, and building scenes collaboratively with your stage partners.

THE COACHES

JILL BERNARD



Jill Bernard has been performing with ComedySportz-Twin Cities since 1993, and was a founding member of HUGE Theater in Minneapolis. Her one-woman improv piece, Drum Machine, has been featured in over forty improv festivals. She has taught and performed improv in Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and in over forty of the United States; and also on an episode of MTV «Made». She is author of the improv book «Small Cute Book of Improv».

LEONIE TRAFFELET



Leonie Traffelet is a versatile performer, teacher, and human. She began improvising in 2011 and became a professional improviser in 2018 with anundpfirsich, while completing her master's degree in Robotics at ETH Zürich. Her training includes iO Chicago, The Annoyance Theatre, numerous international festivals, and studies in mime at the Scuola Dimitri in Ticino.

Leonie has performed across Europe and along the West Coast of Canada and the USA, including as part of the ensemble of the International Seattle Improv Festival. In Zurich, she has helped shape a range of projects such as SPUNK, Improchäller, da vorne links, and Ein frühes Stück, and contributed to organizing the opening of anundpfirsich's Theater im Zollhaus.

As an artist and engineer, Leonie brings a wide artistic vocabulary, a deep love of play, and a commitment to precision and continuous exploration to everything she does.

THE SCHEDULE

MON 27 JULY		TUE 28 JULY		WED 29 JULY	
<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>	<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>	<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>
JILL	LEONIE	JILL	LEONIE	JILL	LEONIE
				10-13	10-13
				<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>
				LEONIE	JILL
10-17	10-17	10-17	10-17	14-17	14-17
OPTIONAL JOINT DINNER / 18-OPEN					

THUR 30 JULY		FRI 31 JULY	
<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>	<i>GROUP 1</i>	<i>GROUP 2</i>
LEONIE	JILL	LEONIE	JILL
10-17	10-17	10-17	10-17

THE LOCATIONS

The Summer Intensive will take place at two venues within 5 minutes walking distance:

[THEATER IM ZOLLHAUS](#) – Zollstrasse 121, 8005 Zürich

[SOGAR THEATER](#) – Josefstrasse 106, 8005 Zürich

PREREQUISITES

The Summer Intensive is aimed at advanced improvisers. (for example „Bühnenkurs: Grundlagen“ or 1.5+ years of improv experience). We reserve the right to contact you and ask for more information about your previous experience.

PRICE

- The EARLY BIRD price applies until 19th of January: CHF 650 / EUR 700.
- The REGULAR PRICE after the 19th of January 2025: CHF 850 / EUR 914.