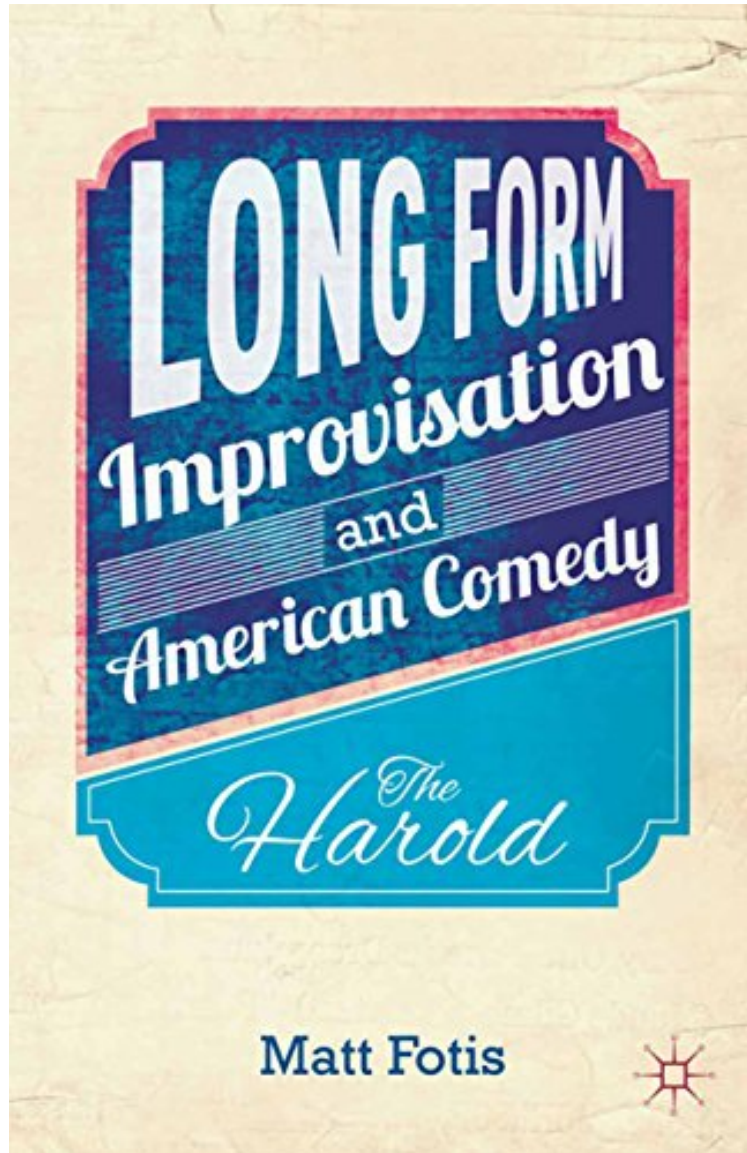


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## Long Form Improvisation and American Comedy: The Harold

*Matt Fotis*

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**Matt Fotis : Long Form Improvisation and American Comedy: The Harold** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Long Form Improvisation and American Comedy: The Harold:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Should be required readingBy Paul R.This should be required reading for your improv class. You get history, you get technique, you get it all. It comes from the perspective of a scholar and a performer of improv and you feel their passion as you step through the more advanced levels of thought around American comedy and the Harold.

Comedy has undergone a seismic shift over the past quarter century: from star powered stand-up comics to an ensemble-fueled style marked by support, trust, and collaborative creativity. This shift is mainly due to the long form improvisational theatre structure known as the Harold. The form's philosophies serve as the bedrock for the majority of the most significant comedic performers, writers, and directors of the past quarter-century who are transforming the way performers and audiences make, view, and interpret comedy. This book examines the development of the Harold and the ways in which it has helped transform American comedy, examining the tensions and evolutions that led to the Harold's creation at ImprovOlympic (now iO) and following it through its use in contemporary comedic filmmaking.

"Matt Fotis' Love Letter to Long Form is Required Reading. Long Form Improvisation and American Comedy: The Harold may be the most important improv book you've never heard of. It's definitely the most comprehensive, meticulously-researched study of long form ever written." -- PeopleAndChairs.com "I remember my late partner, Del Close, telling me years ago that someday our work in long form improvisation would change the face of improvisational comedy. And while we struggled for years to convince anyone that improvisation was an art form unto itself, he promised that someday someone would study our work and its importance to the world of comedy. Del was always right. Matt Fotis has done an incredible job of looking at the rich history that I am so proud to be a part of. The depth of his study is unbelievable; he covers the history of improvisation and the work itself. I don't know how he did it - but he got it right. Somewhere above, Del is jumping in the air and clicking his heels together. Del and I brought the Harold to the stage, but Matt Fotis is bringing the Harold to the rest of the world." -- Charna Halpern, iO Theatre "Matt Fotis has done a great job researching in detail exactly what Long Form is, how it started, and (most importantly) the impact it has had on American Comedy, which is substantial." -- Jeanne Leep, Professor of Theatre Arts, Edgewood College, USA and author of Theatrical Improvisation: Short Form, Long Form, and Sketch-Based Improv