

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TIM MEADOWS & IMPROV GREATS SHINE IN SF IMPROV FESTIVAL LINEUP**

*The 8-year-old festival gets the word out on the not-so-secret weapon of comedy.*

(San Francisco, CA July 19th, 2011) – The San Francisco Improv Festival, running August 18th - 27th at The Eureka Theater, is on a mission to get the word out about improv. Tim Meadows (performing with Uncle's Brother), Improv Everywhere, and Dr. God are just a few of the acts in this year's impressive lineup helping with that mission.

"Really, improv *is* everywhere," says festival Executive Producer Jamie Wright. "From *SNL*-ers Seth Meyers and Jason Sudeikis to Ms. *Bossypants* herself, Tina Fey, to the casts of *The Colbert Report*, *30 Rock*, and *The Office*, improvisors make up a huge part of the smartest and funniest comedy performers at work today."

That's what the San Francisco Improv Festival is here to celebrate, and as part of that they are hosting the heavy-hitting talents who taught many of today's comedy greats how to be funny.

Charna Halpern, co-founder of iO Theater in Chicago taught or helped train such performers as Stephen Colbert, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, and Tim Meadows. Ms. Halpern will give a workshop on improv fundamentals, and will also be featured in a talk about San Francisco's role in the life of Del Close, improv guru who trained the likes of John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Robin Williams, Bill Murray, Amy Sedaris, Harold Ramis and Gilda Radner. Close, who helped found iO with Halpern, was a member of San Francisco's legendary comedy troupe, The Committee, which closed its doors in the 1970s.

According to Wright, "When you look back at the best comedy in the last 40 years, outside of standup, you're looking mostly at the product of people who were improvisors first and foremost: John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Gilda Radner, Chris Farley, Bill Murray, Steve Carell, Robin Williams, Christopher Guest, Drew Carey, Tina Fey, Will Ferrell, Stephen Colbert... Think of all their movies and shows and then think - they're all improvisors, and you'll realize the influence and reach that improv has in everybody's daily life."

Festival lineup, workshops, and ticket information is available at [www.sfimprovfestival.com](http://www.sfimprovfestival.com). Press passes available upon request.

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### **AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW:**

**Charna Halpern**, co-founder of iO theater, co-author of "Truth in Comedy" with Kim 'Howard' Johnson & Del Close.

**Kim 'Howard' Johnson**, author of "The Funniest one in The Room: The Lives and Legends of Del Close".

**Charlie Todd**, founder of Improv Everywhere, author of "Causing a Scene".

**Tim Meadows**, castmember of Uncle's Brother, formerly of *SNL*.

**Jonathan Pitts**, founder of the Chicago Improv Festival.

**Ron West**, formerly of *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, *Third Rock from the Sun*.