



## **A LETTER FROM THE JUDGES**

To all competitors taking part in this year's Adlib Entertainment/Ferntree Gully Nissan Youth Impro Games, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this year's competition, which is shaping up to be the very best that we've seen in the Games history.

With a lot of new schools taking part this year, and a huge pool of thirty teams, I thought I'd take this opportunity to give students and teachers alike a bit of a 'heads up' on what the judges will be looking for, and some tips for creating some successful scenes.

At each Heat, Semi Final and the Grand Final, there will be a warm-up session. While these are strictly fun exercises to get the blood pumping, they are compulsory and will help the teams who take them seriously get an edge over their opponents. Focus is a key aspect to performing well, and obviously, helping out your team mates and working together is paramount in achieving victory.

While it might seem funny and easy to go for a cheap laugh, as a judge for the Impro Games I have found that the scenes that scored well involved teams who were clearly thinking outside the box in terms of creativity. A well thought out idea and quick one liner will always get you a few, but very valuable, points, rather than a cheap, throw-away gag.

Practice. Get together at lunchtimes, after school, before school, on the weekends. Any time you spend together is vital in learning how you work together as a team, and you'll soon find that you'll begin to anticipate your teammates responses to your offers, which in turn will make your performances tighter, funnier and very entertaining. Practice, practice, practice.

If a scene doesn't go well (and this will happen, it happens to the best of us) don't worry. As a judge, we look for more than just a concise story. After all, you've only got 2 minutes! We're not expecting a sweeping World War II epic. Remember that simple is best. It'll allow you to focus more on including the set criteria, and coming up with great material will be a lot easier. If things don't go as planned, just remember that you're competing for fun, and it probably didn't go as bad as you thought. The audience will always appreciate what you're doing, that you're entertaining them, and they'll reward you for it.

Once again this year, the Adlib Entertainment and Ferntree Gully Nissan will also be presenting our individual competition, Youth Impro Games Survival Of The Fittest. Half of the competitors for this event will be selected as wild cards from each of the heats, semi-finals, and the grand final. Those who are not selected are more than welcome, and encouraged, to audition for a spot in this amazing event. Last year, Conor Woods of Drouin Secondary College outlasted 11 other contestants and took home the title of Sole Impro Survivor - as well as \$200.00 from FTG Nissan. See an Adlib representative at the Games for more information.

Lastly, support your fellow team mates and teams from your school. If you don't make it to the semi-final or grand final, don't worry. Get together with your classmates, team mates, friends and family and assemble a cheer squad for your fellow school chums and cheer them to victory at the other events!

And if you don't emerge victorious at the end of this Impro marathon, it's okay... There's always next year.

Chookas for a great 2011 season! Happy Impro-ing!

Matt Hillman – Chief Adjudicator.



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