

ABOUT *LIKE YOU MEAN IT*

Like You Mean It is an improvisational trio of dance artists who have been working together since 2006. The performers construct a coherent piece in real time with movement, sound, and text, most often with a live DJ responding as a fourth collaborator. Much like improvisation in jazz music, these compositions can be viewed just like finished choreography. For *Like You Mean It*, improvisational performance is choreography, requiring the same seriousness of purpose and regular rehearsing that yields engaging dance works.

Though their movement training and backgrounds are stylistically varied, Chun, Durant, and Kloppenberg each consider improvisation a fundamental part of their artistic processes. Through regular teaching, rehearsing, and performing together, the trio has developed a group aesthetic based on their individual and collective philosophies and approaches. *Like You Mean It* premiered at The Ohio State University in 2008 and continues to rehearse regularly, perform, and teach workshops throughout Ohio and the United States.

***Like You Mean It* facilitates master classes, workshops, and improvisational intensives.**

Teaching Philosophy

In the daily “performance” of living, we all compose our own experiences in real life in real time. A coherent performance of group improvisation, however, is a complex task that must be informed by rigorous physical investigation and shared inquiry as a part of a group.

Like You Mean It approaches the classroom/studio as a site for the collaborative exchange of ideas, opinions, perspectives, experiences, and knowledge. We work to create a community; then we create *in* that community. Improvising dancers bring the body into situations, which are beyond the control of any one individual. Performers then become responsible for enlivening unfolding scenarios through their collective choreographic rigor. Ultimately, we coax the group to engage in a shared endeavor to initiate, build, transform, and interrupt emergent events in service to an unfolding dance.

Like You Mean It models a meeting place of our values that becomes richer at their intersection. We expand that attitude to include the shifting identities of dancers’ moving selves. We hope that through this work, dancers will contextualize their improvisational experiences to inform their own interests and particular practices as dance artists

INTENSIVE WORKSHOP :

Spontaneous Combustion: Crafting Performance in the Moment

Implode: *Expanding Possibilities, Encountering Risk, Chance, and Choice*

The first class addresses the improvisational creation of personal movement vocabularies; increasing self awareness in movement; learning to negotiate the play between following impulses and developing cohesive solo material; and practicing surprising oneself—moving beyond a familiar range—and then reining it back into control. Dancers will play with the extremes of consciousness in movement and individual choice making.

Explode: *Ensemble Making, Composing as a Group*

In the second class, dancers will expand attention to include the whole group and awaken a responsive body that integrates personal movement impulses with a larger group awareness. Transitioning between perceiving composition and generating composition, dancers will begin to explore making improvised pieces by following prescribed scores and naming what emerges in order to establish a group sensitivity.

Blow it Up: *Refining Composition, Getting Performance Ready*

The third class synthesizes experiences of the previous day and allows participants to further refine their specific performance ensemble dynamic. The new ensemble will move to recognize and create coherent pieces from scratch. The group will begin to develop organized dances even in the absence of any pre-determined details.

Performance: *Spontaneous Combustion & Like You Mean It*

Workshop participants will put their new skills to the test in front of an audience. The newly-formed ensemble collaborates to make a group piece, followed by a performance by the *Like You Mean It* trio.



Photo: Leigh Lotocki

MASTER CLASS: ***Conscious Trip: Not Just Dancing Around***

This class focuses on generating improvisational compositions in the body and collectively as a group. We work to develop movement with clarity, specificity, and dynamic physicality. Through skill-building exercises, we examine formal composition with choreographic rigor. We may choose to address working specifically with text, props, sound collaboration, and/ or performance qualities and states. We stumble into improvisational dance-making in a series of scores designed to facilitate both risk-taking and nuanced attention. Participants begin to confront performance skills in small groups. In the discussing, watching, and doing of specific scores, the group acquires a set of shared tools and points of view about perceiving and participating in these dances. We conclude the workshop by making an ensemble piece entirely from scratch, integrating the ideas explored during the workshop with the past experience of each dancer.



Photo: Leigh Lotocki

While Improvisation is the primary form the trio addresses together, they also teach:

- Modern
- Ballet
- Hip Hop
- Yoga
- Contact Improvisation
- Choreography/Creative Process
- Repertory (new & existing)

For more information about booking *Like You Mean It* for performances, individual classes and teaching residencies contact:

Likeyoumeanit.info@gmail.com

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Noelle Chun is currently a freelance dance artist based in Columbus OH. Originally from Honolulu, HI, she has performed professionally in various works across the Mid-west in Michigan, Illinois, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In addition to being an active performer, she also has taught in a range of academic and other educational settings such as the Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Wittenberg University, Beloit College, Wexner Center for the Arts, Honolulu Parks and Recreation and Dublin Dance Centre. Chun has created works showcased at Columbus venues like Junctionview Studios, Capitol Theatre and Sullivant Hall. As a dance artist she is interested in melding her performance studies in improvisation as well as collaborating with the dancers in *Like You Mean It*, who actively contribute and make direct decisions inside of a creative process that create spontaneous, subtle, and ruminative works. She holds a BA in both Anthropology and Theatre Arts from Beloit College in Wisconsin, and an MFA in Dance from OSU.

Adriana Durant is a choreographer, performer, and teacher. She has an MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University and a BFA in Performance from Emerson College in Boston. Between degrees, Adriana taught, created, and produced dance in Chicago for nine years. She has performed professionally as an improvisational dance artist, dancer for many independent choreographers, and as a member of Mordine and Company Dance Theatre. Adriana has also performed in works by Bebe Miller, Amy Raymond, HiJack Dance Company, Peter Schmitz, Peter DiMuro, and Compagnie Felix Ruckert. Adriana's choreography has been performed in Chicago, New York City, Boston, Washington DC, Columbus and Athens Ohio, where she is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Ohio University, teaching ballet, modern, composition, and improvisation. Adriana continues to reinvest in improvisation as a performance form as a member of *Like You Mean It*. Her fascination with performance theory, improvisation, social dance, and the interactions between will steer her ensuing research in the dance field.

Annie Kloppenberg's current creative and theoretical research hinges on improvisation. She is currently completing an MFA in choreography at The Ohio State University and holds a BA from Middlebury College. She is a certified yoga instructor trained at OM Yoga in New York City. Annie has studied improvisation at the *Work in the Performance of Improvisation Festival*, the *Movement Intensive in Compositional Improvisation*, and has received scholarships to the *American Dance Festival* and the *Bates Dance Festival*, where she now works as Director of Residential Life for the Young Dancers' Workshop. Called "a choreographer of nuances" by the Boston Globe, her work has been presented in Boston and New York. In addition to making her own work, Annie has performed in works by Bebe Miller, Sara Pearson & Patrik Widrig, Shani Collins, Rebecca Rice, Prometheus Dance, Cathy Young, Heidi Henderson, Elisha Clark, Meghan Sprenger, Annie Bessera, Yen Fang Yu, Jill Anderson, Ashley Thorndike, Jill Jackson, and Katherine Ferrier. Annie has worked intensively with William Forsythe's *Improvisation Technologies* and has been deeply influenced by her improvisational studies with Bebe Miller, Kathleen Hermsdorf, Penny Campbell, Peter Schmitz, Nik Haffner, and *The Architects* (Michael Chorney, Lisa Gonzales, Katherine Ferrier, Jennifer Kayle, Pam Vail). Annie was a member of the improvisational ensemble *Riding the Wild Ephemera*, under the direction of Penny Campbell and Michael Chorney, and is delighted to continue to investigate improvisational performance as a member of *Like You Mean It*.



an improvisational trio



performances ~ master classes ~ residencies ~ intensives