

Bad Dog Theatre Company produces world class improv. Whether it's our up-and-coming youth performers or our hilarious professional players, we know how to mix art and comedy to create mind blowing pieces of improvised work that can only ever be seen once. *Animated!* is the latest in the Bad Dog series of youth and adult crossover shows, combining top level adult improvisers and standout teen performers from our Youth Academy. Audiences get the best of both worlds- younger players with creative new ideas, and professionals who know how to create seamless improvised stories.

In *Animated!* our cast pays homage to the world of Pixar by creating a fully improvised animated movie. Each show is inspired by an everyday object that the audience wants to see brought to life onstage. From the audience suggestion, the cast creates a detailed imaginary world where these inanimate objects move and speak and have a life of their own. They create big, bold characters inspired by the item, and use narration to build the world that would exist around them. Every show is a different adventure, always following our heroes as they work together to overcome the "bad guys" threatening them. Along the way they encounter obstacles, meet new friends, and discover what makes them unique.

Based on the suggestion, our cast builds an ENTIRE world around these objects. They ask themselves what other characters would be there? What places would they live in? What would their day to day lives look like? The suggestion means more than just showing these objects walking and talking. It means digging deeper and uncovering what else would be true if these things really did become animated. Barbie and GI Joe fall in love in *Toy Story*. *Finding Nemo* shows us that Bruce the Great White Shark is friendly, but a kid with braces tapping the aquarium glass is terrifying. Without *Monsters, Inc.* we wouldn't know the ins and outs of being a working monster in Monstropolis. Just like these movies, *Animated!* builds a hilarious world with heart.

The backbone of the piece is a hero story or quest, but every show changes based on the audience's suggestions. And the story itself changes because our improvisers are always building off of each other. Every happy accident is supported and turned into comedic gold. Nothing is thrown away. Think of it like a driver with a map, but all the detours and stops the passengers want can make the road trip even better. Or a good recipe that you make your own by adding ingredients. Or improvised jazz, but you know, GOOD jazz. Hilarious jazz.