

BILINGUAL IMPROV SCHOOL

PRESS FACT SHEET

Chicago's Only Bilingual Improv School · English & Spanish · Founded March 2, 2025

ABOUT

[Bilingual Improv School](#) (BIS) is Chicago's only improv school built for bilingual students, where people practice their Spanish (or English)... sin pena. To our knowledge, it is also the only improv school in the country whose entire curriculum is built around bilingual, Spanish-language improv. Founded by Rudy Mendoza in March 2025, BIS offers classes, student showcases, premium live shows, and workshops for companies, non-profits, and schools — all designed to welcome newcomers into improv regardless of language fluency or stage experience.

Mendoza, who is of Cuban and Panamanian descent, started BIS after years in Chicago improv where he was frequently the only Latino in the room. Although Latinos make up nearly 30% of Chicago, that representation rarely reached the improv stage — and BIS exists to change that, building community for Latino performers and audiences while making a notoriously intimidating art form feel like play. BIS operates out of [Collaboraction Theatre](#) (Kimball Arts Center, 1757 N. Kimball Ave.) in Humboldt Park.

BY THE NUMBERS

All figures reflect work delivered since March 2025, drawn from BIS's own ticketing, registration, and invoice records.

1,100+

people have seen a Bilingual Improv School show or taken a class

~650 Reached through schools & non-profits	335 Tickets sold to shows & showcases	95 Classes, sessions & workshops held
10+ Institutional & corporate clients	7 Teaching artists on roster	7 TV & press features

Each person is counted once across classes, workshops, and live shows; participants in hybrid school and corporate events (where BIS teaching artists both teach and perform, e.g. Embarc & Enlace) are never double-counted.

"Classes, sessions & workshops" counts each weekly session of the six 8-week courses to date (3 Level 1, 2 Level 2, 1 Level 3 = 48 sessions), plus 31 public drop-in classes and 16 partner workshop sessions.

CURRENT & UPCOMING OFFERINGS

- **8-Week Classes** — Next session starts the week of July 12th — Level 1: Bilingual Improv Games, Level 2: Scenes, Level 3: Long-Form. During the term, all students have two opportunities to perform in ¡El Showcase!, our monthly student showcase. Registration is \$195 (plus taxes and fees).
- **NEW Programming — Spanish-Only 8-Week Class** — Nivel 1: Improvisación en español, an eight-week short-form improv class taught entirely in Spanish. Students will have two opportunities to perform in a new monthly student showcase called "Se Habla Español" which will be completely in Spanish. Registration is \$195 (plus taxes and fees); classes are Tuesday nights, 7–9:30 PM, starting July 14th.
- **Bi-weekly Drop-In Classes** — every other Monday night at 7 PM, next one July 6th. Intro to Bilingual Improv is a 2-hour bilingual improv class in Spanglish designed for beginners. No improv experience necessary. All Spanish & English fluency levels are welcome. Registration is \$20 (plus taxes and fees) at [bilingualimprovschool.com](#).
- **Student Showcases** — ¡El Showcase! is our monthly student showcase featuring 45 students across our 3-level bilingual improv program in a 2-act show. Open to the general public; all are welcome regardless of Spanish or English fluency.
- **Premium Live Shows** — ¿Cómo se dice? An improv show... pero like en Espanglish! Features the best bilingual comedians and actors in Chicago alongside the best and brightest students in the BIS program.
- **Experiences for Companies, Non-Profits & Schools** — bilingual improv workshops and team-building experiences, applying the tools of improvisation to real-world problems in bilingual environments.

SCHOOLS, NON-PROFITS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

BIS has delivered bilingual improv workshops and experiences for a growing roster of institutional clients:

Partner	Engagement	Participants
Laughing Together	Bilingual Improv workshops at John Muir Middle School, San Leandro CA (5 sessions)	~175 students
Embarc	Improv experiences — Tilden & Bogan High Schools (3 sessions)	112 students
City of Chicago (DCASE) & Chicago Latino Theater Alliance	Intro to Bilingual Improv — “Open House,” Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center (free public event)	~100
Enlace Chicago	All-staff bilingual improv workshop	75
Institute for Workforce Education at Lewis University	All-staff bilingual improv workshop	24

Upcoming: Live improv experience for ~100 attendees at Greater Public’s “Our Hour Luncheon,” [2026 Public Media Growth Conference](#) (Hilton Chicago, July 9, 2026). BIS has also taught bilingual improv classes at the [Asheville Improv Festival 2026](#) in Asheville, North Carolina.

SOCIAL MEDIA & PRESS

- **Social:** @bilingualimprovschool — [Instagram](#) 984 followers, [TikTok](#) 1,020 followers. Top videos have reached 15.6K, 12.1K, and 9K views on TikTok and 7.5K, 7.3K, and 7.2K on Instagram, with roughly 80K combined views across top-performing clips.
- **Featured on:** [Telemundo \(national segment\)](#), [WGN-TV “Adelante Chicago,”](#) and the [Columbia Chronicle](#) (English feature plus a Spanish-language Crónica profile).
- **Also covered in:** [Chicago Sun-Times / WBEZ](#), [Block Club Chicago](#), the [Chicago Reader](#), and [Buzz Center Stage](#).

FROM THE FOUNDER

“In a class of fifteen students, I was the only Latino. I knew we had to do something. My goal is to bring new people into improv with a welcoming environment that prioritizes play — and to give Latino voices a stage.”

— Rudy Mendoza, Founder, Bilingual Improv School

FOUNDER BIO

Rudy Mendoza is the founder of Bilingual Improv School, the only improv school in Chicago offering classes in Spanish. He is also the founder of Antojitos Improv, La Hora de Antojitos and Antojitos Fest, Chicago’s only bilingual improv festival, showcasing the best bilingual improvisers and comedians from Mexico City, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Rudy is an understudy for The Second City, performing in the etc theater’s 50th revue “Improv Supernova,” 49th revue “Chaos Theory of Everything,” and 48th revue “Best Kept Secret: Tell Everyone.” He is a teaching artist with Laughing Together, a non-profit bringing improvisation to school-based mental-health programming, and serves as Facility Coordinator at Collaboraction Theatre in Humboldt Park.

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