



Dear iOWest Performers and students:

I have been silent lately because I have been in the process of making great changes at our theater. I am now ready to announce all that is going on.

First, our new Producer is Mike Canale. Mike has been with the theater for many years as former training center director and financial director. He knows the business through and through and his transition to this position will be seamless. He is wonderful and I know you will find him a joy to work with as much as I do.

It is also time that iOWEST has an artistic director. I have heard requests for a woman's voice in this administration as well as requests for someone from LA to bring together the sects of LA and Chicago into a unified theater company. I have interviewed many and decided that since there is so much to do and so many bridges to repair- this could be a job for two of the best candidates to share as interim artistic directors. Colleen Doyle has been with iO since 2003. She has been one of our best teachers and performers and has lived the tenets of the iO philosophy on and off the stage. She truly cares to make this theater the best. She has many ideas on how to make the shows better while promoting our teams. Colleen is honesty and love personified and you will all feel well taken care of. But wait – there's more. Zach Huddleston has been with iOWest since 2007. He is a top performer and a well - respected teacher at our theater. He works tirelessly for iOWest and has many goals for outreach in the community to bring the best shows to iO as well as to help create them from within. Please welcome Colleen and Zach and help them during this new period of transition to make iOWest the number one place to train and perform.

There are other changes as well. The students will be happy to hear that I have instituted a Harold Commission to begin

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watching student shows at the theater. This is a large group of men and woman who have been performing at our Theater, who want to help fashion the best teams out of the classes. They are here to help - to give notes and answer any questions students may have. Please see them as here for your benefit and not to judge. In fact, I have stopped **AUDITIONS FOR TEAMS** after your classes. It seems unfair. A performer can be doing great work in the run of his or her graduation show and then have a lousy audition. There is no need for auditions anymore because people will be watching you grow regularly in your shows. Teams will be created after the run ends. The commission will work closely with the artistic directors. If you don't make a team - it's not over for you. Teachers will be making notes on your progress all the way thru the program, which you will be able to see and learn from just by calling George. And surely these will be notes you have heard from your teachers in class as well. You may repeat a class and work on whatever you need to work on to get on a team. This is what we do in Chicago and many make teams after the fact. Being on a team may not be your ultimate goal but it does make you a stronger actor and its just so much fun.

Our artistic directors will be working on improving and building our sketch and writing division as well.

I am also in the process of looking at new locations for iOWEST. I have some interesting prospects and will try to make this happen as quickly as possible so that we are all in a safe happy place both inside and out.

I will be back in LA within a month to lead a Sexual harassment training session for all employees and a forum for all performers.

I leave you with the words of our guru, the late Del Close.

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"We have created theater of the heart-a theater where we cherish each other to succeed on stage". Theater of the heart-that is a philosophy we can all be proud of.

Love Charna

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