

No Shame was first established in 1986 in the back of a pickup truck in Iowa City by playwrights Todd Ristau, Stan Ruth, and Jeff Goode.

The aesthetic is rough, the performers rougher, but the event is undeniably exciting.

Since the days of the truck, writers and performers who gained their first production experience at No Shame have gone on to establish No Shames all over the place—like New York, Chicago, Miami, Cleveland, London, and even Alaska! Charlottesville has been feeling No Shame since 2001.

Some No Shamers have actually become working professional artists on stage, TV and film! Even won awards and stuff.

No kidding. Its true!

Ever sat in an audience and thought, “I could do that”? Here’s your chance!

No Shame Theatre is a quirky Friday night venue for short original performance pieces. At 10:00 pm we take the first 15 scripts that show up at the door, and the show starts at 10:30.

What is it like?

On any given Friday night you might get a poem about stealing eyeballs in the rain, a dance piece about global warming, a puppet show about violence in the schools, or a moving drama illustrating some important truth—only to be followed by a delightful ditty on a hand saw.

How do you do it?

The format is simple. Just create a 3-5 minute performance piece in any style and rehearse it—or pull actors from the audience and have them read it cold—its up to you! Just get there early enough to fill the one of the available open slots and take your place in the spotlight. Be sure to bring enough scripts for your actors, and one for the light board operator—with your contact information.

Will I have lights and stuff, and are there rules?

You never know what you will have available, so pieces should be self contained (Bring your own props and stuff).

Performers won’t have much more an idea what to expect than the audience. As for rules, you can’t break any laws or endanger yourself, your performers, or your audience.

Other than that its mostly good sense and fire codes. Seating is limited so you have to pay to watch. \$5 at the door. \$99.99 for a One Year Pass.

Ok, I know what it is, but why is it?

No Shame is intended to be a low risk performance environment where you can explore any aspect of the theatre you want and not have fear of failure keep you from actually attempting success... and there is no convincing anyone you should be allowed to do your work. Talk about Freedom of Speech!

**It’s your theatre,
make it what you want it to be.**

