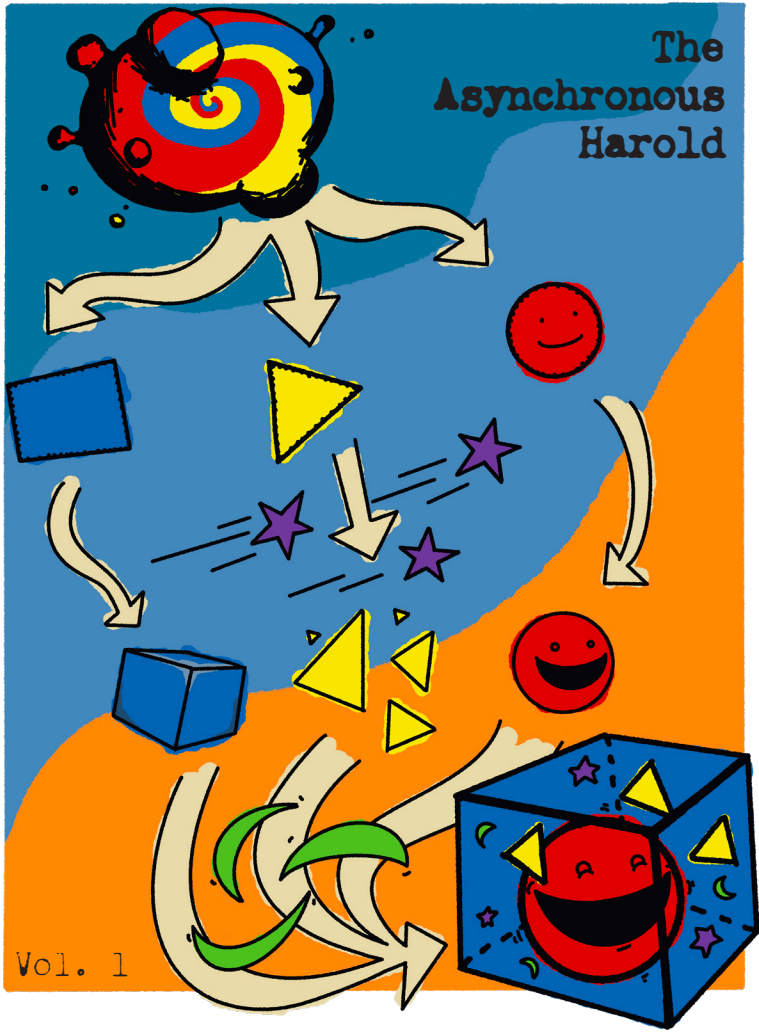


The Asynchronous Harold



Vol. 1

The Asynchronous Harold

What is the Asynchronous Harold?

The Harold is a long form improv comedy form. Under normal circumstances it is performed in person. The Asynchronous Harold is a written compilation of short scenes that follow that same form.

Each of the first three scenes are inspired by one word:

HIGH LIGHTER

Here is a list of the contributors to the scenes: Rachel Wilson, Connor Strickland, Andy Freese, Katherine Hintz, Hank Womble, Jair Bell, Tucker Ward, Holly Beth Bell, Gannon Bell





A: These are the juicy parts, I'm not redacting these! Government documents are boring enough as it is.

B: Agent Sanders, this is the NSA we redact documents. We can't have the population knowing about this stuff.



A: Oscar, You know what I'm done. Wait, I'm more than done. Hand me the highlighter.

B: Please don't refer to me by my first name. Wait, how do you know my first name!?

A: (Giant grin)

B: You haven't been redacting anything have you?!

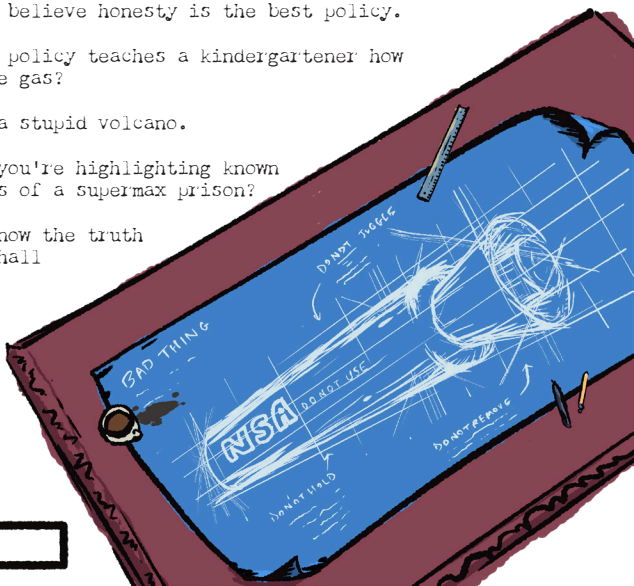
A: Personally I believe honesty is the best policy.

B: Even if that policy teaches a kindergartener how to make chlorine gas?

A: Better than a stupid volcano.

B: You realize you're highlighting known security defects of a supermax prison?

A: They shall know the truth and the truth shall set them free.



Guess the author:

Guess the author:

Person A stands over a desk highlighting pages.

Person A: Monica, if you just initial here here and here and sign here. That's it, we're divorced.

Monica:[grabs pen and starts signing] So Glad we are doing this Alex. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to a break from being a mom while they are staying at your place.

A: Oh I... I gave you full custody in the divorce. I am really wanting to start fresh.

M: What the fuck Alex? I don't want full custody!

A: Well the piece of paper you just signed say that you have it. Besides kids need their mother... its like pretty well established fact in psychological development.

M: Kids also need their father!

A: I couldn't agree more, which is why I plan on putting all of their ball games and recitals in my google calender. I'm going to make as many as I can.

M: This is bullshit. What am I supposed to tell the kids?

A: I guess just tell them that their dad works very hard.

M: That doesn't make any sen...
[Alex phone rings]

A: Apologies, its the boys.
Hello... I'm free.

Swipe



Player 1 walks up to another player with a backpack on

Brad: Liz can I borrow a highlighter for my science class?

Liz: Sure Brad, just make sure it gets back to me.

Brad: Yeah sure thing, it wont be like last time when I lost your pink eraser

Liz: I hope that's true, brad, but something tells me youre gonna lose it. It's lucky for you my mom packs me extra school supplies for big losers like you.

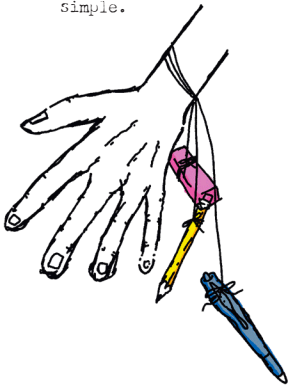
Brad: That is lucky, my parents started to tie pens and pencils to my wrist, as a way to ensure I dont lose them. I still do. I am a loser.

Liz: You are. If only you could tie string from you to your friends, so you wouldnt lose them so fast.

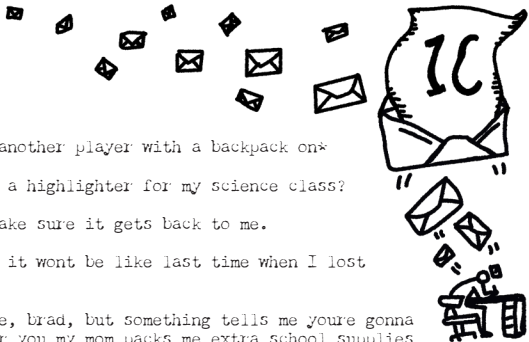
Brad: Ok thats a sore subject. I may have borrowed a fancy expensive calculator from ryan that I then lost, and he hasnt talked to me since. I cant keep friends or supplies.

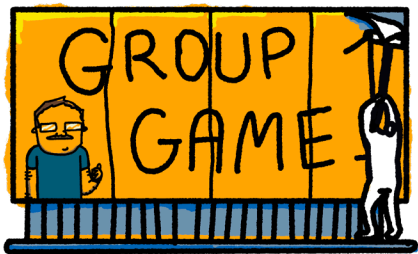
Liz: You also lost your spot on the football team, after you misplaced 5 of their helmets. Coach thought you were pawning them off!

Brad: You think I'm smart enough to do that? Nah I just lost em, good and simple.



Guess the author:





Guess the author:

[Setting: Aisle in a store.
Person B is browsing. Person
A approaches.]

Person A: I see you checking out the highlighters. Can I help you pick something out?

Person B: I'm highlighting my whole textbook. I need a big pack of highlighters.

Person A: The Bics have the brightest fluorescence if you want to highlight it right.

Person B: I'm highlighting everything, so that's not important.

[Person C walks on stage.]

Person C: Sorry to interrupt, but if you highlight everything, it loses its meaning. I use the Sharpies because the clean lines make the words pop from the page.

Person A: You gotta highlight it right.

Person C: Highlight it right.

[Thomas walks on stage.]

Person A: Thomas, what do you think?

Thomas: I don't use highlighters.

Person B: Why not?

Thomas: I don't like being told to pay attention.

[SCENE GETS SWIPED]



BREVAN'S

AMATEUR IMPROV HOROSCOPE



Virgo

You're doing a good job buddy, especially with what is on your plate. Don't let her get you down. Don't give up.

Taurus

Be brave, brave enough to be afraid... if you feel like it.

Cancer

Put your nose to the grindstone and find the space to just relax. Follow your heart there.

Aries

Passion is a useful tool for scenes, but so is serenity. I don't know, just do what feels right, I guess.

Gemini

Look inside yourself. Find a wolf and pick one, but don't forget to feed the other one as well.

Leo

DELETE BEFORE PUBLISHING
(find way to reword Taurus)





[J] "Gosh, isn't feeling a little lost the best part of backpacking?"

[P] Man, I guess, but I recognize that same skull that we passed 30 minutes ago! Don't you think that being the guide and all, you should know where we are?

[J] (Inhaling deeply and smiling) Oh yea... Doing circles. That's the stuff. I haven't gotten this turned around since '09. Ya know Paul... you can't ever be lost if you don't have a destination... Aimless wandering in a state of perpetual here-ness. (looks off into distance)

[P] O'mon Greg, I know you're feeling poetic, but why wouldn't you know where you're going? You've got a gps! Enough exploring, we need to start heading home, it's getting cold.

[J] Oh man, get this. Don't you even worry right now. Look here. I left those burdens in the van. The only compass we need is our intuition. You'll be thanking me later when you embrace this experience and give up your fearful clinging to known "trais". (gestures finger quotations)

[P] (stifling a scream) Look Gregory, this is not a living metaphor! We have to get out of here before dark. We won't last another day in these canyons! What about those directions that old man at the gas station told us to stick to? Didn't you write that on your map?!

[J] Sorry Paul, but if you inspect my map, you'll find that it's an old copy of popular mechanics with a drawing of an old man in it. Anyways, who needs maps? If you are trying to get somewhere new, don't follow the maps of your past.

[P] What!? Have we just been wandering for the last three hours?

[J] If you push away all your worries like, "What time is it", "How much water do I have left", and "Which direction is North", then you'll rub your eyes and wake up to the fact that all who wander are not lost. And we, my friend, are wandering. (offers high-five)

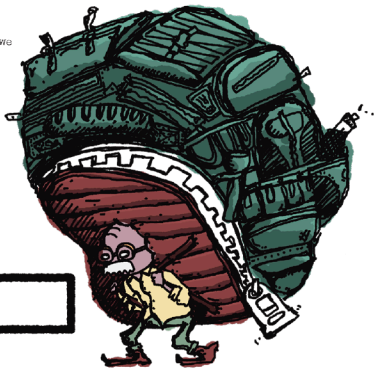
[P] (Silent, ignoring Greg's waiting high-five)

[J] Oh gosh, look at this, a fork in the trail! The trail is diverging in our very own yellow wood, and we are faced with a decision! (Greg seeks eye contact, shivering with anticipation) Which path should we take?

[P] I'm gonna die in this Canyon.

[J] That's the attitude! Death is the final voyage! Ya know, I'm relieved Paul. For a second there I thought you weren't having any fun!

Guess the author:



Guess the author:

Person A stands over a desk highlighting pages.

Person A: Okay, Sylvia--if you sign here, here and here, that's it! You're no longer a Nexjen employee.

Sylvia grabs a pen and starts signing.

Sylvia: FINALLY. I'm honestly relieved to be laid off, George. I've been miserable for months.

George: There's something we can agree on. I genuinely think letting you go is best for the team.

Sylvia: I would have quit a long time ago.

George: Why didn't you?

Sylvia: I wouldn't have qualified for unemployment. Or this fatass severance package. (Sylvia winks)

George: I wish they'd lay ME off. Try being CEO. Everything that happens around here is "my fault."

Sylvia: I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to a break from this place. For 60 hours a week it's been nothing but "Nexjen this" and "Nexjen that." I'll finally have time to read a book or something.

George: Oh... it's in the terms of your agreement--we're still going to call you every day to ask you how you did your job. We really wanted to start fresh... but we couldn't afford to keep paying you while we train your replacement.



I, again, am putting
in my 2 we





Lights up on a dimly lit stage.

Player 1 & Player 2 walk backward towards each other until they bump in the middle. Lights up fully. Player 1 is holding a briefcase. Player 2 has nothing. They are mafia members

Player 2: Hey Francisco....didn't think I'd see you here.

Francisco : Ey Salvatore - I didn't know they let you back around these parts after what happened with the last briefcase. *hands brief case*

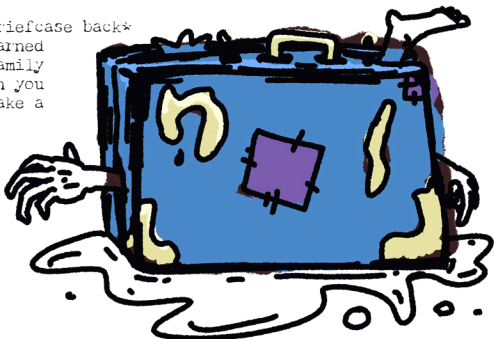
Salvatore: Look! Accidents happen! Bodies...I mean BRIEF-CASES go missing all the time!

Francisco: It's lucky for you we never run out of ..brief-cases to dispose of. The Boss has me whacking overtime to cover for you! *grabs brief case back*

Salvatore: That is lucky! Last time I lost a one Boss had me dragging brief cases up and down the wharf all night long!

Francisco: *finally hands briefcase back*
Do you think you finally learned your lesson? The New York family don't even want to work with you anymore. They're about to take a hit out on you!

Salvatore: Nahhhh families come families go. Murder is forever **runs off stage**



Guess the author:

Guess the author:



Doctor: [Excited] First day on the job as the only doctor at Sephora. How may I help my first patient?

Person 1 [teen]: umm excuse me doctor, it's prom tonight, do you know where I can find the strobe highlighter 2000?



Doctor: The strobe highlighter is no longer recommended by doctors and may cause epileptic reactions.

Person 1: and??

Doctor: *sigh* aisle 5

Person 2 [middle schooler]: [rolls eyes-- in VERY TEENAGE TONE] UMM Excuse me! my baby sitter is waiting in the car, do you know where I can find the Ten Step Anti-Aging Chemical Peel Starter Kit??

Doctor: [bewildered] Products this intense can be extremely harmful to people under the age of 11! We strongly discourage it!!

Person 2: [all of the attitude] SoC??

Doctor: [concern etched on his face] Back right wall. [down trodden. Hopeless]



Person 3: Mother with swaddled baby: Excuse me doctor! I have an event coming up!! Do you have any appointments available for a facelift?

Doctor: [sigh of relief] absolutely. ma'am, let me take a look what are your main concerns?

Person 3: well doctor, I know it's only been a couple of days.. but her christening is coming up and...

[All at once]

[holds up baby] I'm worried she's gonna look too old!!

BREVAN'S

AMATEUR IMPROV HOROSCOPE



Libra

You don't have to make a decision, but you must be decisive. If that is what you think is best.\\



Scorpio

Learn to trust your instincts by testing them with your logical reasoning. Think your way to your emotional center.



Sagittarius

You don't have anything to contribute. Stop being mean to good men who love you. An old flame will likely reignite as soon as you start answering my calls.



Capricorn

Look for the first funny thing, unless second funny thing is funnier, and so forth.



Aquarius

Amber is the color of your energy.



Pisces

Go with the flow, unless you need to put your foot down. Check back in and let me know how that goes.

Guess the author:



Sinner: *weeping and gnashing teeth*
It makes sense I would end up
here in hell.

Satan: Hmm, well actually...

Sinner: [abruptly] I can't do anything right - I came
into this world an ugly baby. Then I told all my
friends' secrets, I lost my spot on the football team,
I lost my job, I lost my family, and I didn't even
have any fun! And I'm STILL ugly!

Satan: I don't know how to say this...

Sinner: [interrupting] You know what? I am glad to be
down here! I'm actually glad to be in the underworld
if it means seeing new sights and experiencing new
things. Like eternal damnation, I think I know what
that means, but how can I know without really experi-
encing it. Sulfur in my eyes, flames on my skin. It's
a fresh start, you know?

Satan: I should have communicated better, I am here
because I am going to have to send you back to get
your friend out of the canyon, he's having too much
fun.

*Satan pulls out highlighter and starts marking end-
lessly long fleshy scroll*

Satan: Just sign here. (Giant grin)

Sinner: Oh brother, you know it defeats the purpose
when it's ALL highlighted.

[BLACKOUT]

Missed Connections:

To the symphony superfan tailgating doing a chardonnay kegstand before Beethoven's Seventh:

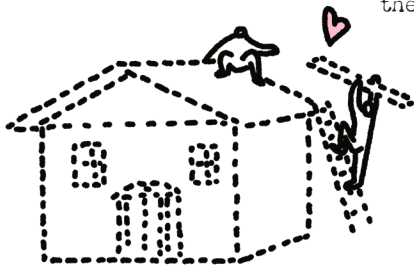
You probably didn't notice me; I was on the backline mimicking the sound of violins warming up. You looked angelic dangling there, suspended from the strapping arms of two baroque enthusiasts standing atop two bentwood chairs at center stage. I just wanted you to know that, if you ever decide to initiate another athletics-adjacent activity mapped onto the fine arts, I'll be the first to step out with you so we can discover together that, if this is true, I'll also be true.



To the best object work I've ever seen:

I was transfixed as I watched from the backline as you picked up and put down a cup in such a way that I could see a table with a short leg wobble with the impact. I can only imagine what you could do given a warehouse full of crates, dodging each one with such care and recollection of their locations that a Minesweeper champion would weep with envy.

If I were ever lucky enough to honor you as you honor the environment, I would spend the rest of my days constructing a house of imagination for us in which everything would be of realistic weight and size.



Acknowledgements

I would like to take this moment to thank all of the dear friends that have supported and encouraged this artistic endeavor. Of course to each of the individual contributors of scenes a big thank you. Thanks to Gair B., Andy F., Gannon B., and Connor S. for hours of ideation and collaboration. Thanks to Liz Dial for artistic collaboration (typography, missed connection and Brevan) and to Zach King for his baroque missed connection. And to anyone not mentioned here, whoops I forgot and I love you dearly.

And finally, thanks so much to Michael Greene, Tim Casper, and Jacob Simmons at Faraway Theater for sharing their love for improv comedy and building a community that sparked the idea for this zine.



- Tucker Ward(evil)

PLUGS



nov. 14 - 7pm - After-School Special at Fararway Theater
nov. 14 - 7pm - After-School Special at Fararway Theater
nov. 15 - 7pm - House Night at Faraway Theater
nov. 15 - 9pm - Cagematch at Faraway Theater
nov. 21 - 7pm - After-School Special at Fararway Theater
nov. 28 - 8pm - Team Jam at Fararway Theater
dec. 5 - 7pm - After-School Special at Fararway Theater
dec. 6 - 7pm - Good Gladys at Fararway Theater
dec. 6 - 9pm - Bad Gladys at Fararway Theater
jan. 13 - 101: Intro to Improv (sign up now!)

***DISCLAIMER - THIS ZINE IS
NOT ENDORSED OR RUN BY
FARAWAY THEATER IN BIR-
MINGHAM, AL, HOWEVER
EACH OF THE CONTRIBUTORS
MET AT FARAWAY THEATER
AND BECAME BEST BUDS, SO
WE HOLD IT IN HIGH REGARD.
PLEASE GO TO THERE.**