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Member: National Speakers Association
CSP (Certified Speaking Professional)



BIO

Izzy Gesell is an organizational alchemist who helps individuals and organizations transform their thinking from commonplace to extraordinary. Through his keynotes, trainings, coaching and facilitated sessions, Izzy offers imaginative, intuitive and immediately useful insights and programs. He is skilled at delivering meaningful material in a way that makes participants enjoy their time with him.

Izzy was one of the first to use Improv Theater concepts as tools for personal and organizational learning. He is the author of *Playing Along: Group Learning Activities Borrowed From Improvisation Theater*, a co-author of *Humor Me: America's Funniest Humorists on the Power of Laughter*, and a contributor of a chapter on Improvisation as a facilitation tool in the *IAF Group Facilitators Handbook*.

He has trained NASA engineers in leadership, helped Aetna Insurance customer reps learn to manage their stress, and guided Hewlett Packard global managers to communicate more effectively.

Recognized by his peers, he has earned a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation from the National Speakers Association. Less than 10% of NSA's 4,000 members are CSPs. The International Facilitators Association (IAF) regularly calls on him to train facilitators in his techniques.

A former stand-up comedian and public school teacher, Izzy was raised in Brooklyn NY where commonplace thinking was frowned upon. He has earned a BA in Psychology, an MS in Education and a P.... that's 1/3 of a PhD and now lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.