Al Herr founded the *Village Idiots* in Raleigh, NC in 1995. The Idiots went through several cast changes before the group finally coalesced and began doing regular performances in 1997.

In early 1998, Al left the Idiots and the troupe changed its name to *Raleigh’s Village Idiots*, focusing on its identity as a local troupe.

*Raleigh’s Village Idiots* established themselves as risk takers; exploring the boundaries of their art; always refining the types of scenes that they performed; adding new forms to their repertoire – sometimes in the middle of show!

To celebrate the new millennium, the troupe split in 2001. Half the troupe explored more gimmick-based comedy by forming a troupe called *The Product* and the rest of the Idiots explored more artistic and scene-based directions eventually becoming a long-form group called *Sans-Script*. Unfortunately, or fortunately as it turned out, two halves didn’t make it alone.

The core troupe members reunited in March, 2002, along with other members of each spin-off group, with the formation of *Mid-life Crisis* to perform at the Grand Opening of the North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre in March 2002. After six months, the founder of *Mid-life Crisis* left the Raleigh area. With his departure, *Mid-life Crisis* was dissolved and the troupe reclaimed the mantle of *Raleigh’s Village Idiots*.

The show content has evolved to include both short- and long-form improvisation focusing on solid storytelling and character over gimmicks and games (though those find their way in as well). They perform songs, stories, and short scenes to connected montages of scenes and monologues and one-act plays.

Over the past 10+ years the Idiots have not only shared the North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre’s space, but also its passion. Four members of the Idiots have served as the manager of the theater. One of the Idiots served as the chair of the theater’s board. Idiots have performed in most of the theater’s productions and directed many of them. The Idiots have taught improvisation at the theater since its opening as well as other classes and camps over the years.

While the Idiots lead workshops and perform private and corporate shows regularly throughout the Triangle, and occasionally perform public shows at other theaters (STARS in Fuquay-Varina, William Peace University, NC State University), they are proud to call the North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre home.