



Kirkland Productions

2023-2024
Catalog



Issues & Ideas • Comedy • Variety & Special Events

Hi folks,

While modern life demands hustle-and-bustle and it can often seem like there's more stress than blood in our veins, I hope you also feel some sense of stability compared to the mess of the past few years. We've noticed some natural rhythms returning, like the busy and quiet periods in our work lining up closer with pre-pandemic cycles. Sensing this and preparing for the years to come, we've spent all of 2023 renovating our agency's processes and paperwork: if we already collaborate, it should feel familiar yet far simpler. If you're new to KP, well, prepare to be impressed. We're more efficient than ever, which allows us further room to create, anticipate, assist... And even take a breather once in a blue moon. 🌕

After their visits to your theatres, your classrooms, your fairgrounds, your boardrooms—your communities—we love to hear your stories about our clients matching your audiences' joy. The times when they're addressing every question, shaking every hand, sharing extra laughs (and sometimes tears!) while leaving everyone's cups filled. That sort of connection can't be found in a Youtube video or a TikTok Live session. All of the entertainers and educators listed in this catalog are only here because they find that joy at every opportunity. This isn't clock-in, clock-out stuff; they're changing lives, and they relish and recognize the chance.

So our mission at Kirkland Productions is to support theirs. We want to expand special moments into treasured evenings. We're here to transform auditoriums into arenas. We're the bridge between our artists' passion and your audiences' desires. Put simply: we want to make everyone's lives easier—especially if you're still striving toward something like normalcy—and we're at your service.

Thank you for your personal role in our little world, and we hope to hear from you soon.



Brian JK Regan, President

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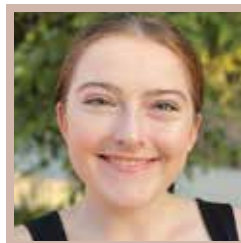
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Showcases 2023

NACA LIVE

HAYDEN KRISTAL

VICTORIA VINCENT

DJ DEMERS*

FERAZ OZEL*

NACA ST. PAUL

STUDENTS FIGHT BACK!*

BEN PALMER

STEPHEN AGYEI

AIKO TANAKA

VICTORIA VINCENT

REEM EDAN

JAMIE SHRINER

JAY LIGHT*

SHAUNAK GODKHINDI*

*ALTERNATE

NACA CHARLESTON

HAYDEN KRISTAL*

SHAUNAK GODKHINDI

VICTORIA VINCENT*

REEM EDAN*

NACA LITTLE ROCK

HAYDEN KRISTAL

REEM EDAN

SURENI WEERASEKERA

BEN PALMER

CHINEDU UNAKA*

PEET GUERCIO*

NACA SYRACUSE

PEET GUERCIO

BEN PALMER

SURENI WEERASEKERA

AIKO TANAKA*

CHINEDU UNAKA*

NACA RIVERSIDE

HAYDEN KRISTAL

STUDENTS FIGHT BACK!*

NICK CALLAS

BEN PALMER

VICTORIA VINCENT

CHINEDU UNAKA

SURENI WEERASEKERA*

SHAUNAK GODKHINDI*



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THIS CATALOG IS AVAILABLE AS A PDF ON OUR WEBSITES. WE ARE ALSO HAPPY TO MAIL AN ADDITIONAL HARD COPY. Pricing listed is based on a single performance for an isolated date. Travel and lodging expenses are not included unless the pricing is marked as "INCLUSIVE." Ask about block booking discounts. Pricing listed is in effect for programs booked through September 1, 2024.

Issues & Ideas



Ash Beckham

AUTHENTICITY • LGBT • DIVERSITY • LEADERSHIP

Ash Beckham is a bold, dynamic presenter who speaks about empathy, respect, and the power of having real conversations. Her TEDx talks “Coming Out of Your Closet” and “Owning Your Duality,” along with her Boulder Ignite speech “I am SO GAY,” have received more than 10 million views. Her message has become a topic of global discussion. Ash reaches millions daily as her inspiring speeches are experienced in classrooms, boardrooms, and auditoriums around the world.

With an arresting blend of urgency and humor, Ash takes on topics like the crippling experience of being trapped in a closet, the difference between tolerance and acceptance, and the need to remove the word “gay” as a pejorative from our lexicon. With wildly funny and poignant stories, and a tough yet deeply compassionate stance, Ash tells us how to take off the armor and be our authentic selves. She tells us how to get real.

Ash declares to her audiences “Hard is Hard. There is no Harder. There is only Hard.” She gives us permission to relate to each other as direct, authentic, unapologetic human beings. Rather than serving up candy-coated optimism, her stories offer listeners something more tangible. She elevates her audience beyond empathy into the realm of personal discovery, and challenges every listener to take responsibility for creating a grand societal shift.

Ultimately, Ash advocates for freedom: freedom to give voice to your truth, freedom to love without limits, freedom to be the person you were intended to be. Ash has delivered keynotes and workshops for universities, organizations, and corporations across the country including Bank of America, Target, Procter & Gamble, GameStop, Vanguard, the U.S. Forest Service, and the FBI.

Programs: The Art of Inclusive Leadership • Give Voice to Your Truth • The Art of Taking a Stand • I Am SO GAY!

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$7000 + TRAVEL & LODGING

VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$5000



Hayden Kristal

**NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
LIVE, CHARLESTON, LITTLE ROCK, RIVERSIDE**

ACCESSIBILITY • LGBTQ • INTERSECTIONALITY

Hayden Kristal (preferred pronouns they/them/theirs but accepts anything said with good intent) is a Colorado-based Deaf queer activist who gave up a lucrative career in salamanders to pursue comedy and public speaking. Life at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities has led Hayden to a career as a professional speaker, exploring the overlap of ability, gender, sexuality, and access, particularly within the spheres of activism and social justice.

Hayden has brought their funny, engaging, and interactive workshops and speeches to dozens of conferences, businesses, and schools all across North America including Harvard, Yale,

Columbia, TEDx, Coldwell Banker, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the Connecticut Supreme Court. The point is to get people thinking about Deafness, disability, and the struggles faced by LGBTQ people who are also Deaf or disabled, to inspire people to learn more, and to expand this view of intersectionality to include all marginalized communities.

Hayden’s quick wit and cheerful self-deprecation—along with their menagerie of goofy farm animals—has earned them over 1,000,000 followers online, a semifinalist spot on *America’s Got Talent*, and a guest role on Netflix & Adult Swim’s *Tuca and Bertie*. Hayden has been a semifinalist for *StandUp NBC*, a finalist for *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee’s* Comedy Writing Mentorship, a featured performer at Limestone Comedy Festival, and has opened and featured for Maria Bamford.

Programs: GAYSL: A Crash Course in LGBTQ American Sign Language and Intersectionality • Lessons on Ability from My Deafblind Dog • The Importance of Intersectional Accessibility • Laughing Out Loud: Bridging Social Gaps Through Comedy

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$3200 + TRAVEL & LODGING

VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2250



Kimberly Dark

EMPOWERMENT • DIVERSITY • BODY LOVE • WOMEN'S ISSUES • LGBT ISSUES
SOCIAL JUSTICE • STORYTELLING • SPOKEN WORD PERFORMER

Kimberly Dark is an award-winning writer, sociologist, and storyteller who shows us how to reclaim our power as social creators and reveal the hidden architecture of everyday life—one clever story, workshop, and performance at a time. Her engaging and interactive lectures provide tools for us to live our best lives and build the culture in which we want to live. Her work uses humor, intimacy, and incisive social analysis to help audiences understand how we receive and change social messages about gender, sex, bodies, and inequality.

Kimberly has been bringing complex ideas to campus audiences since the late 1990s. Lectures such as **Gender, Race and Money** help students understand the social causes of income and wealth disparities in America and how we can take action. Lectures such as **You Don't Owe Anyone Pretty** and **Sex and Society** offer students deep understanding of body and personal sovereignty, along with clear information about how to reclaim one's time and resources from social expectations that keep us constantly seeking approval.

You Don't Owe Anyone Pretty is not just about the time we waste acting like life is a beauty contest we can never win. It's an engaging and humorous invitation for people of all genders, races, and appearances to reconsider how we create and experience hierarchy based on looks and identities. We can stop participating in systems like white supremacy, patriarchy, fat shaming, and their ilk—but first, we must realize how we all participate! That's what Kimberly invites attendees to recognize and reshape.

Ask us for more insight into Kimberly's deep library of educational offerings.

PROGRAMS RANGE FROM 60 MINUTES TO FULL DAY EVENTS • PRICING STARTS AT \$4500 INCLUSIVE
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2940



Jean Franzblau

SEX EDUCATION • RELATIONSHIPS • WELLNESS • CONSENT EDUCATOR

In recent years, students are thinking about their sexual choices in a new light. How do I avoid being a victim? How do I make sure I'm never a perpetrator? Can sex and relationships still be fun? Jean can answer these with practical consent techniques and sexual self-care strategies. Jean's keynotes and workshops are information-packed sessions that help people navigate sexual choices under topics including safer sex, consent, decisions about intoxicants, communication skills, and sexual diversity. All discussions are sex-positive and affirming.

Jean Franzblau's mission is to shift the culture to a more compassionate world by helping people navigate their most challenging conversations.

You may find her onset with A-list actors discussing their most intimate scenes, leading classes for people entering the field of professional cuddling, across the country with college students shedding light on sexual consent or in a conference room of executives exploring the ethics of leadership.

Leading with vulnerability and a sense of humor, Jean is a change agent with a captivating presence. She has been featured on BuzzFeed, TLC, *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, *Good Mythical Morning*, *Dr. Phil*, *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*, and more; as a Hollywood intimacy coordinator, her credits include Netflix's *Blonde*, Hulu's *Deep Water*, and Universal Studios's *Old*.

Programs: **Sex Talk For Wizards • Cuddle Sanctuary • Free Hugs • Sex-Ed Do-Over • My Mother Doesn't Know I'm Kinky • Disrupting the Power Dynamics In Hollywood**

"Jean's events are the best way to teach consent that I've ever seen. And so much fun!" Maya Novak-Herzog, Education Coordinator – UC Santa Cruz.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60-70 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1750



Issues & Ideas



Esteban Gast

COMMUNICATION • DIVERSITY • EMPOWERMENT • INCLUSION • MEDIA & JOURNALISM

Esteban is Colombian, was raised in Puerto Rico and Illinois, and lives in LA. He is co-creator and co-host of *Identity at Play*, a Spotify Original podcast. He is the host of *Comedians Conquering Climate Change*, a podcast called “irreverent but aspirational” by *Variety*. He was the host of *Hyundai Highways*, an electric car travel series, and star of *Jungletown* on VICELAND. His work has been covered in *The Guardian*, *Grist*, *Insider*, *Remezcla*, and on NPR.

Esteban co-founded the Climate Comedy Cohort, creating a first-of-its-kind program connecting comedians to climate experts while also providing funding, production support, and industry connections to those performers who wish to tackle climate change in their art. Their mission was highlighted in a live tour and on Comedy Central.

Seeing Ourselves: Creating Art That Represents the Latin American Diaspora

Esteban moved from Puerto Rico to Chicago in elementary school. In this unfamiliar environment, he took comfort in movies and television... But he didn't see too many people like him on screen. Worse, the ones he saw represented an incomplete part of his culture – he began to feel ashamed to be named Esteban. Latin Americans make up 20% of the population and purchase 30% of all movie tickets, yet only account for 5.4% of lead roles and just 5.7% of all on-screen roles. A culture that doesn't see itself on-screen in their own country will feel invisible.

Esteban dives into his personal journey and delivers an expansive framework for how to tell representative stories. He also asks meaningful questions about the stories we believe about ourselves and how those stories appear in the art we create. With narrative influencing reality, how can we be more intentional about finding & telling better stories in our everyday life?

This is more about the liberal arts than solely the creative arts, because this digital era makes us all storytellers. Sharing the “3-P” approach to representation—Presence, Prominence, and Portrayal—Esteban challenges participants to create a world where all feel seen and heard.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2200 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1750



Lisa Koenecke

NEW TO THE ROSTER

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

As an experienced and energetic Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) educator, Lisa specializes in LGBTQ+ inclusion and counteracting unconscious bias. She knows her own impact is amplified through strengthening each person's allyship. With a demonstrated history of working in the world of education and a passion toward community and social services, she is an expert in counseling, crisis intervention, educational leadership, and program development.

Lisa has earned her Diversity & Inclusion Certification from Cornell University and a master's degree in Counseling. Being an expert in LGBTQ+ issues has allowed her to present both internationally and coast-to-coast on Turtle Island.

Programs: 3 Ways To Become A Better LGBTQ+ Ally In Business and in Life • Supporting Our Transgender & Gender Expansive Community • Fostering An Inclusive Climate

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$3000 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2250





Hufsa Ahmad

MENTAL HEALTH • DEPRESSION • SELF-CARE

Hufsa Ahmad is a Pakistani-American Muslim woman pursuing a Master of Social Work who lives with mental illness and has survived three suicide attempts. She has delivered two TEDx Talks on mental illness and presented keynotes all around the US. Transforming from a victim of her illness to a champion of recovery, she now dedicates her life to helping other individuals with mental health diagnoses find treatment, recovery, and peace, as well as change the world's view of mental health. She has served in the mental health field for 7 years as a social worker, advocate and Board Vice-President for the Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled. Additionally, Hufsa is a rising stand-up comedian who has performed all over the country, including at The Ice House and

Flappers in LA and Laughlin Laughfest. She was featured on *Signature Bits*, found on both Spotify and Amazon.

Programs: **Relapse is Part of Recovery: Mental Illness in College** • **Stigma Smash!: Eliminating the Shame Surrounding Mental Illness** • **How to Share You Have Mental Illness (And How to Listen)**

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2000



Frank King

SUICIDE PREVENTION • MENTAL HEALTH • STRESS

A former writer for *The Tonight Show* and 7-time TEDx Talker, Frank King uses his lifetime battle with anxiety, depression & thoughts of suicide as a vehicle for ending the same on campus. His keynote, **You Can Make a Difference and You Can Save a Life**, is tailored to the unique factors faced by students. The American Institute of Stress has labeled college stress an epidemic. Felt regarding admissions, grades, and finances, it often develops into generalized anxiety—the most reported mental health issue among students. 63% of US students said they suffered overwhelming anxiety in 2018, and that stat worsened with the pandemic. The resulting symptoms correlate with the worst-case scenario: 1100 college students die by suicide every year.

Frank identifies warning signs for the above, and then offers solutions and postvention techniques. Start with a general session for the entire student body, followed by breakout sessions customized for higher-risk student groups: LGBTQ, Native American, Latino, Alaskan Native, African American, and student veterans.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1750



STUDENTS FIGHT BACK!
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Issues & Ideas



Nicole Snell

PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT • SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS • SELF-DEFENSE
VIOLENCE PREVENTION • BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Nicole Snell is a dynamic and engaging international speaker, host, workshop facilitator, and self-defense instructor specializing in sexual assault and violence prevention education, personal safety, and empowerment. She offers high-energy presentations and a connection with audiences of all sizes and across demographics. She believes in social justice, equality, and that everyone has the right to walk through the world feeling safe, powerful, and confident.

Nicole received a full academic scholarship to Cal State Long Beach and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Speech Communication. Nicole is the CEO for Girls Fight Back, an interactive self-defense seminar for women and girls, which also offers a range of gender-inclusive programs. She is the creator of Outdoor Defense, an IGTV/YouTube series that provides self-defense strategies to empower people to enjoy the outdoors solo. Nicole is a full-force Lead Instructor for IMPACT Personal Safety and she sits on the IMPACT Board of Directors.

Nicole is passionate about educating others on how to discover their power and live fearlessly. She has traveled around the world leading hundreds of workshop discussions and keynote events at colleges, high schools, corporations, and private groups, and has facilitated sexual assault prevention workshops at more than 90 military installations worldwide.



S.A.V.E. is a fully customizable, interactive presentation designed to educate corporate groups on essential safety concepts. The content is flexible to any specific needs or goals, and is coordinated with your HR department in advance of the session to ensure that the messaging and terminology aligns with your company's current policies and objectives. Whether you're dealing with co-workers, customers, friends, acquaintances or strangers, the program teaches audiences how to use verbal and physical strategies to manage their safety and comfort in ways that work for them. S.A.V.E. specifically addresses the social anxiety that is common when setting personal boundaries in uncomfortable conversations or situations, and there will be ample opportunity for attendees to practice working through the initial discomfort—contributing to a safer business environment for all.



Yes, I'm Hiking Solo – Ever been worried about your safety when hiking or traveling solo? Do you want to feel confident and independent venturing out on your own? Have you been wanting to learn some badass self-defense moves for your next adventure or trip? Then join self-defense expert and experienced adventurer Nicole Snell as she shares simple self-defense strategies to empower you to feel more confident about exploring the outdoors or wherever your adventure takes you—whether solo or in a group. Nicole is an avid solo traveler and adventurer having visited 47 states, hiked in 15 countries and traveled to 25 countries on 6 continents. Also available virtually, this class is interactive and participants will be encouraged to turn on their cameras, use their voices, and practice the physical skills!

Find Your Fierce: Learn How to Own Your Power & Be Limitless – TV Producer. World Traveler. Bodybuilder. Outdoor Adventure Enthusiast. Self-Defense Expert. It's impossible to put Nicole into any one box, which is why she is the epitome of the phrase "Live Limitlessly!" Join Nicole for an enthusiastic and inspirational talk as she shares personal stories and experiences that explore the motivations behind her life's adventures, hobbies, and career paths. Despite the pressure that exists in our world to pick just one practice to focus on, Nicole's rich life experience speaks to the value of having varied interests and how we can be empowered to live fearlessly. We can be limitless! Nicole's enthusiastic session is aimed to help audience members step into their power, own their choices, and create the life they want!

Lights, Camera, Empower: My Journey from TV Producer to Violence Prevention Educator – For 12 years, Nicole worked as a producer in the entertainment industry after working her way up through the production ladder from intern to executive. After leading crews to locations worldwide on over 75 shows for networks like CBS, TBS, Speed Channel, and VH1, Nicole felt there was something missing in her life. Almost overnight, she left her successful production career to facilitate sexual assault prevention trainings for the US Navy. This was only the beginning of her journey, from the bright lights of Hollywood to blazing her own trail for women's empowerment—culminating in her buying self-defense company Girls Fight Back during the height of the COVID pandemic. Nicole will lead audiences through her personal backstory, hardships, and relatable inner monologues as she leads them through her journey to the present.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 75 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2750 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2000



Students Fight Back!

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
ST. PAUL, RIVERSIDE

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS • SELF-DEFENSE • VIOLENCE PREVENTION BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Students Fight Back is a gender inclusive program that employs everything we have learned about campus safety over the past 20 years through our original Girls Fight Back program. Expanding our audience lets us complete our mission—helping people of all gender identities and expressions stand together as a united front against violence & rape culture in all the ways they present themselves. We focus on being active bystanders and better allies as well as representatives of enthusiastic consent and teach survivor support, verbal de-escalation skills for your everyday life, and boundary setting. We also help you hone your intuition, awareness, and teach you the basics

of personal safety and self-defense. All of this combines to create a Title IX-compliant program that is audience-interactive, fun, and engaging. SFB is customized to include campus resources to seamlessly fit into your overall safety plans and is presented by Nicole Snell, who is trained in self-defense, personal safety, and victim advocacy.

Programs include these key components:

- Using your intuition
- Safety tips—awareness, eye contact, verbal boundaries
- How to be an active bystander and a good ally
- The definition of consent
- How to support a survivor
- Learning to recognize manipulation techniques and how to combat them
- How to set boundaries that work for you
- Verbal de-escalation skills
- The basics of self-defense
- Plus a review of improvised weapons, ground fighting, and how to sign up for a full-contact, adrenaline-based self-defense course near you!



Delivered in a fun and “edu-taining” format, the SFB and GFB presentations have been seen by millions of students since 2001. There are countless reports of past attendees saving their lives thanks to what they learned in these programs.

It is also important to note that violence prevention is not just physical. It is also about boundary-setting and employing a strong verbal response to avoid escalation to a physical confrontation. The best fight is the one never fought!

Before coming to your campus, Students Fight Back will provide you with a list of statistics, national resources, and definitions for various terms related to the issues of violence to combine with your local and campus resources for handouts at your event. They partner with your Counseling Center, Campus Police, Women's Center, Residence Life, Greek Life, and any other group on campus that would like to be present at the program and share resources to ensure that messaging is in-step with your current campus safety initiatives.



Girls Fight Back is a version of Students Fight Back that's tailored to woman-only audiences, and offers a precise program for women's colleges, or events organized by Panhellenic councils, sororities, and women's health centers on-campus.

Fight Back on Spring Break is a customized version of our program that includes proactive strategies for spring break, party, and travel situations. Like Students Fight Back, it is gender-inclusive. Added topics include partying safe, hotel security, avoiding predatory drugs, travel tips, and avoiding crime targeted at tourists.



AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 75 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2750 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2000



Issues & Ideas



Jonathan Rauch

DIVERSITY • MEDIA & JOURNALISM • POLITICAL ISSUES

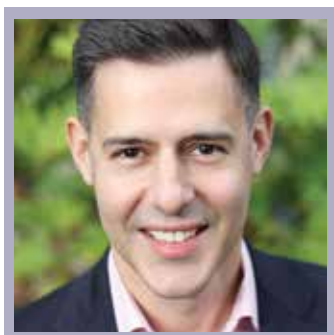
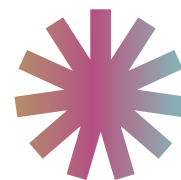
Jonathan Rauch is one of the country's most versatile and original writers on government, public policy, and gay marriage, among other subjects. A senior fellow of the Brookings Institution in Washington and contributing writer of *The Atlantic*, he is the author of eight books and many articles and has received the magazine industry's two leading prizes — the National Magazine Award (the industry's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize) and the National Headliner Award. Major topics of his writing and speeches include:

- How to fight back against trolling, disinformation, canceling, and other cutting-edge propaganda tactics—as in his 2021 book *The Constitution of Knowledge*.
- Freedom of speech and why it's especially important to LGBT people and other minorities—as in his book *Kindly Inquisitors*.
- Why America's politics and government are in such trouble—as in his book *Government's End*.
- Gay and lesbian rights, the struggle for marriage equality, and the growing debate about religious liberty—as in his book *Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America*.

Jonathan has written on these topics and more for publications including *The Economist*, *Reader's Digest*, *Reason*, *Fortune*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. He has appeared on countless radio and TV shows, including NBC's *Meet the Press* and NPR's *NewsHour*. Jonathan takes pride in being a thoughtful, dynamic, and well-prepared speaker, communicating important and often counterintuitive ideas to his audiences in a direct, personal way.

Programs: **Staying Real: The War on Truth—and How to Win It** • **Why Free Speech is The Only Safe Space for Minorities**
• **The U-Curve: The Surprising New Science of Happiness and Age** • **How American Politics Went Insane**

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • ASK ABOUT ADDING AN OPTIONAL BOOK SIGNING
PRICING STARTS AT \$10,000 + TRAVEL & LODGING



John Corvino

LGBT ISSUES • DIVERSITY • POLITICAL ISSUES

Want better conversations in the culture wars? Then bring John Corvino to your campus.

John has nearly 30 years' speaking experience at hundreds of campuses across the globe. A veteran of the marriage equality debate, he combines logical precision, empathy, and humor to get audiences thinking about hard questions: on sexuality, religion, free speech, political polarization... and the possibility of constructive dialogue across deep divides.

John is available both for solo programs—including his popular keynote, "Conversation Stoppers in the Culture Wars" and his new talk "Punching the Nazi: The Uses and Abuses of Civility"—and

for debates and dialogues such as "Reclaiming Disagreement" with Matthew Lee Anderson. If you're looking for a campus speaker who combines serious academic credentials with accessibility, sensitivity, and impact, look no further. As one student put it, "He's funny and he makes you think."

John Corvino, Ph.D. is Dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Professor of Philosophy at Wayne State University. He is the author or co-author of several books, including *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* (with Maggie Gallagher; 2012), *What's Wrong with Homosexuality?* (2013), and *Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination* (with Ryan T. Anderson and Sherif Girgis; 2017), all from Oxford University Press. His current research concerns free speech, civility, and the ethics of public discourse.

John has appeared on CNN, ABC, FOX, MSNBC, CSPAN, and other TV and radio networks, and has written for *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Detroit Free Press*, *Slate*, *Commonweal* and elsewhere. An award-winning teacher, he has spoken at over 250 college campuses, and his YouTube videos have received nearly three million views.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60-90 MINUTES + Q&A • ASK ABOUT ADDING AN OPTIONAL BOOK SIGNING
PRICING STARTS AT \$3000 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2250



Patrick Holbert

ADDICTION • RECOVERY • ALCOHOL AWARENESS

In this hilarious and educational comedy show, Patrick Holbert tells stories and jokes about his past addiction and current sobriety. **Punch Line Drunk** outlines his transformative journey from abusing substances to amusing audiences. It's an informative "TED Talk of Shame" spanning his college years as an overachiever under the influence, his debauched career as a TV producer, and how it all came crashing down. During this presentation, students will be asked to consider their own relationships with alcohol and other drugs while also learning pragmatic ways to live a fun and productive life without getting wasted. After joining him on this twisted saga from keg stands to standup, audiences are encouraged to participate in an interactive Q&A.

Now 14 years clean, Patrick performs stand-up nightly in New York City's best comedy clubs and seediest bars, proclaiming himself "The Jason Bourne of safely navigating booze-soaked environments." He uses his past struggles with alcohol as fodder for his brutally honest comedy. His ultimate goal is to destigmatize challenging topics such as mental health, addiction, and family dysfunction. When he's not on stage, he works as a substance abuse counselor and recovery coach.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2000 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1400



Ryan Prior

NEW TO THE ROSTER

SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY

In his junior year of high school, Ryan Prior was captain of the cross-country team, varsity soccer player, and student council president while managing a packed AP course load. One evening after soccer practice, he came home, went straight to bed, and slept for 16 hours uninterrupted. The scenario repeated itself the next day, and the next, and so on; his few hours "awake" were in a deep haze as his condition worsened. Within just a few weeks he realized he would need to drop out of high school entirely. Only after months of hospital stays and testing was he diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; likely conveyed by tick bite.

The syndrome can be managed, but there is no cure; passing him on the street, you would never be able to tell. His experience with one of many "invisible diseases" informed his pursuit of journalism and his advocacy for other patients struggling to be recognized. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath has only added to the urgency of his mission. Weaving together his personal story, his professional pursuits, and his passion for change, his keynotes include:

Innovation: How Patients Can Change The World
Storytelling & Activism: The Policymaking Hero's Journey
Misinformation: How To Process Data and Details Like A Journalist

Now he is a fellow at The Century Foundation, where he writes about Long COVID and chronic diseases as a journalist-in-residence with their Disability Economic Justice Team. He authored *The Long Haul: Solving the Puzzle of the Pandemic's Long Haulers and How They Are Changing Healthcare Forever*, published in November 2022 by Simon & Schuster to strong reviews in the *LA Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Science*, along with coverage on CNN and *NewsHour* on PBS.

Prior began as a journalist at CNN in 2015. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he took on the role of their science & health features writer. He directed, produced, and wrote a feature-length documentary, *Forgotten Plague*, which *The Huffington Post* called a "Must-See." He has also written for *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, *USA Today*, *STAT News*, *Business Insider*, and *The Nation*.

AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60-90 MINUTES + Q&A • ASK ABOUT ADDING AN OPTIONAL BOOK SIGNING
PRICING STARTS AT \$2000 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1600

Issues & Ideas



Ron Placone

MEDIA LITERACY • POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT • EMPOWERMENT

One of the most in-demand political comics today, Ron Placone has been seen and heard on Cross-Talk, The Discovery Channel, Redacted Tonight, FreeSpeechTV, TMZ, SiriusXM, The Young Turks, and many others. He can be seen regularly on the online news network Status Coup. He has toured the entirety of the US as well as Canada, Australia, and a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Ron's appearances always include a Q&A, and in addition to stand-up he offers a historic interpretation of Lucian the Satirist, film screenings, and the political game show *Anything Can Happen*.

Battling Political Apathy – Time to Get Active, Time to Be Heard

Ron Placone speaks on the importance of civic engagement, political activism, social movements and how to think critically about contemporary media and politics. A comic with a passion for the issues, Ron will make you laugh, think and gasp with disbelief in the same hour. Using examples from current events, Ron takes the audience on a tour of the contemporary media structure and political landscape that is bound to challenge the way “we the people” consume the news and engage as citizens with a program that can only be described as “equal parts funny, fascinating, and frightening.”

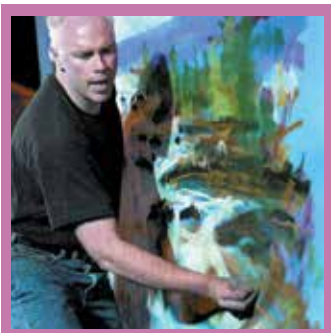
Anything Can Happen

A new politics and history game show—designed for bipartisan entertainment and education—ready to come to your campus!

With such categories as “Republican or Democrat?,” “Real Life or Comic Book Villain?,” and “Name That Dictator,” *Anything Can Happen* is an action-packed rapid-fire show with tons of points at stake and laughs to be had. The show makes a perfect event for different political groups (Who will be the champion? The College Democrats or College Republicans?) *Anything Can Happen* began amidst the climate of 2020 and quickly developed a large and loyal online following, whether staged in-person or virtually. No matter your political persuasion, you'll be amazed to see competitors work across the aisle more easily than our reps in Congress!

Co-Host Comedian Graham Elwood has over 300 episodes of hosting experience including *The Gameshow Network* and the *USA Network*, along with appearances on Comedy Central.

**AVERAGE PROGRAM IS 60 MINUTES + Q&A • PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1750**



Richard Hight's Visual Impact

SPEED PAINTING • MOTIVATION • STUDENT ENGAGEMENT • COMMUNITY BUILDING

Effortlessly enthralling diverse audiences with his message of possibilities, creativity and “burst out of the box” thinking, Richard addresses and embodies hope and dogged determination. His struggle to overcome dyslexia through school and beyond has especially gifted him to help his audiences understand that the very qualities that make them different can make them great. His visual style and ability to engage audiences are unparalleled—he brings the “WOW” factor every time.

Richard's presentation is a practical program that inspires and maps out a clear vision for making a difference. As a masterful storyteller with a down to earth, warm, and

humorous style, Richard delivers the real time learning that audiences value and need to shift perspective—creating forward momentum in their own lives. By seamlessly combining art, music, and the spoken word, he creates a dynamic message with staying power. When the presentation concludes, you keep the original canvas as a visual reminder of the life-changing moments you shared.

**AVERAGE SHOW IS 60 MINUTES • WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
PRICING STARTS AT \$4000 + TRAVEL & LODGING AND INCLUDES UP TO TWO WORKS OF ART
THAT ARE YOURS TO KEEP**



Safe & Sound Schools



Safe and Sound Schools is a foundation created by Sandy Hook parents, educators, and community members—all inspired by their children and educators who perished on December 14, 2012. Coming from a variety of backgrounds, they are united in their mission: to better protect our schools. To provide safe & secure schools, for our children and educators. And to help others do the same in their communities and any public spaces.

With a team of national school safety and mental health experts, plus emergency and law enforcement professionals, Safe and Sound delivers programs, workshops, and assessments, ranging from 30 minutes to multiple days. They work with all levels of community institutions — schools; municipalities; businesses; houses of worship; educational and public safety leadership; state and federal governments; law enforcement agencies; top news media sources; and anyone who desires practical, purposeful methods and resources for a safer community.

Beyond the handful of team-members listed below, there are currently more than 25 experts on our roster covering any aspect of safety that might meet your needs. In-person and virtual engagements are both available, so don't hesitate to ask and learn more.



Michele Gay

CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAFE AND SOUND SCHOOLS

Michele Gay is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Safe and Sound Schools. Following the tragic loss of her daughter, Josephine, in the Sandy Hook School tragedy, Michele joined fellow Sandy Hook mother Alissa Parker to establish Safe and Sound Schools as a national resource for school safety.

Michele travels across the country sharing her message of inspiration, recovery, and school safety education and advocacy. She conducts school safety workshops and seminars, presenting Safe and Sound's school safety model and resources, and facilitating school safety development in

communities across the country. Recently, she was honored with the "Champion of Life" award by the BFG Community Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, for her work as a school safety advocate with Safe and Sound Schools and the "Shining Star" award by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for establishing "Joey's Fund" with her husband for families with autism.

Prior to founding Safe and Sound Schools, Michele taught in the Maryland and Virginia Public Schools, where she served as both a mentor teacher and a peer coach. Michele holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Towson University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from McDaniel College. Her education and professional and personal experiences have uniquely positioned her to advocate on the national level for safer schools.

Program offerings include: **School Safety: A Parent's Perspective • Beyond Tragedy: Response and Recovery in a School-Based Crisis • School Safety: Students First • Reunification for the School Community • Engaging the Community in School Safety: Tools and Ideas for Safer Schools • Developmentally Appropriate Safety Education • Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions**

"We had the honor of having Michele Gay speak at our School Safety Summit to an audience of our district and school leadership. Her presentation ... was both inspirational and educational in providing our schools with great ideas that they could take back to their school and implement immediately. I cannot think of a more meaningful presentation that truly hits home with everyone in the audience."
Paul Hildreth, Emergency Operations Safety & Security, Fulton County Schools

"Michele's outstanding keynote address was well received by the 800+ school resource officers in attendance and it truly set the stage for a powerful close to our national school safety conference." Mo Canady, Executive Director, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)

PRICING STARTS AT \$5000 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$4500



Safe & Sound Schools



Frank DeAngelis

RETIRED PRINCIPAL OF COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

Frank DeAngelis, retired principal of Columbine High School, served as an educator for the Jeffco School District in Littleton, Colorado, since 1979, starting as a social studies teacher and filling many roles before becoming the principal in 1996. Frank has received multiple awards for his teaching, leadership and coaching skills. A national-level speaker, Frank has addressed audiences on the topic of recovery after a school-based tragedy. He has visited, consulted, and assisted school communities across the country following incidents of violence and tragedy, including Platte Canyon, Chardon, Virginia Tech, and Sandy Hook. He retired in June of 2014 after 35 years at Columbine High School. He is presently serving as a consultant for safety and emergency management for the Jeffco School District in Colorado, and continues to travel nationally and internationally, speaking and consulting.

Program offerings include: **Leadership Lessons from Columbine and Beyond • School Safety: Students First • Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions**

"The feedback we're getting regarding the Symposium is phenomenal. Without a doubt, Frank's presentation affected everyone present and brought many tears... I so admire Frank's "calling" and his candor about the personal toll it takes on his own family—been there! Frank is so approachable and relatable to every person there. We made him an honorary Texan!"

Debi Nixon, Deputy Emergency Coordinator, Kaufman County Department of Emergency Services

PRICING STARTS AT \$5000 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$4000



Scarlett Lewis

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING • COMMUNICATION • PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Scarlett Lewis founded the nonprofit Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement after her six-year-old son's murder in the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012. She dedicated herself to solving the issues in society that caused the tragedy, resulting in her current role as a Character Social-Emotional Development Advocate.

Scarlett is the recipient of the Global Peace and Forgiveness Foundation's International Forgiveness Award and Search for Common Ground's annual award for her advocacy work for peace and forgiveness.

Speaking across the US and internationally to diverse audiences, Scarlett urges everyone to become part of the solution, dedicating her life to helping children and adults around the world to thrive mentally, socially, and emotionally, and she has been instrumental in changing legislation to incorporate SEL into schools. In 2021, Scarlett was named a Forbes 50 over 50 Impact Honoree, one of 50 women leading the way with impact and changing their communities and the world in ways big and small through social entrepreneurship, law, advocacy, and education.

The Movement's *Choose Love for Schools* program is a no-cost, comprehensive, lifespan, next generation, SEL and character development program, empowering educators and students to choose love, handle adversity, and manage their emotions. *Choose Love* programming is extended into homes, communities, athletics, and the workplace, and has been accessed in all 50 states and over 120 countries.

Program offerings include: **Choosing Love • Social and Emotional Learning • Cultivating a Healthy Workplace Environment**

PRICING STARTS AT \$6500 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$4500



Variety & Special Events



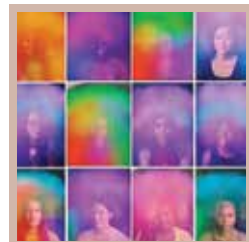
Aura Weaver Photography

Have you ever wondered what your spiritual energy—the usually invisible magnetic field that permeates and envelops you—looks like on this earthly plane? With Charlie Watts and Judah Andrews, astral readers extraordinaire, you can now have your spirit rendered in full color! These magical Aura Weavers bring Dottie—their 1970s AuraCam 6000—and hand sensors attuned to your magnetic signature to record and manifest a vision of your astral body, permitting your aura to be translated into visible light waves.

But just what is an aura? Your aura is your unique color signature; it reflects your bio-electromagnetic field surrounding your physical body. Each aura has many layers and colors that, when understood, gives us a snapshot into our present moment.

The Weavers will not only give you a Polaroid portrait of your celestial being, but they will also guide you in interpreting what the colors emanating from your auratic glow mean. Options scale from a bespoke self-interpretation pamphlet up to a combined aura & tarot reading for every participant.

PRODUCTION RATE: 40 PHOTOS PER HOUR FOR ONE PHOTOGRAPHER
MULTIPLE TEAMS AVAILABLE • YURT AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS IN THE SOUTHEAST
PRICING STARTS AT \$1750 + TRAVEL & LODGING FOR 2 HOURS



Better Than Heroes - Live D&D

Better Than Heroes is a live, actual-play Dungeons & Dragons experience and show—springing from a hit stream series & podcast—that's currently set in a jaw-dropping space-fantasy setting inspired by *Spelljammer*. The game is played by four stand-up comedians, but the story and characters always take center stage, and jokes complement the action instead of overshadowing it. The show is accompanied by a subtle score and sound effects, which heighten the immersion into this spectacular world. After many adventures, the characters continue to grow and define their relationships with each other and the limitless world around them.

Dungeons & Dragons has never been more popular, and new actual-play shows are following in the footsteps of giants such as *Critical Role* and *The Adventure Zone*. *Better Than Heroes* stands apart from the crop with its unique *Spelljammer*-inspired setting, and the talent caliber of its performers. Every show, like all D&D, is improvised and unique for your audience. If you have some experienced and capable adventurers among you, we offer the possibility to drop-in as a character for the session.

Harlan Kelly – stand-up, writer, and dungeon master
Andrew Orvedahl – stand-up and co-creator of sitcom *Those Who Can't*
Aaron Urist – stand-up and voice actor
Rachel Weeks – stand-up and host of *The Commander Sphere* podcast
Jordan Doll – stand-up and podcaster (*Werewolf Radar*, *Fight Island*)

SHOWS RUN 2-3 HOURS • SHOW PRICING STARTS AT \$3500 + TRAVEL & LODGING
VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2500



Variety & Special Events



Campus Escapes

Campus Escapes brings the worldwide craze of live escapes to your school, putting you inside the game with a team to physically participate in the story. Besides being novel entertainment and a great way to meet new people, this activity is designed to get a group focused on leadership and team building. They work together using the available tools and their collective logic to solve the game in a set period of time. Every round of play concludes with a group picture and a post-game wrap up.

We have four games you can choose, and each tells a unique story that unfolds as the participants play. Each room's puzzles and environmental decoration is staged by a game operator, with little in tech needs aside from tables and electricity. This same operator then performs as an character

in that game's story for an immersive experience. If you choose to bring **multiple rooms**, you can bring in different stories to provide players the choice of their favorites. We can run up to eight rooms simultaneously on your campus!



The Philosopher – The final project for Dr. Allister Longbottom's Intro to Philosophy class is a team paper, but the one member tasked with submitting it has made a disastrous mistake and, embarrassingly, sent the wrong file: a prank copy. Nobody wants Dr. Longbottom to get the last (maniacal) laugh. Your group has managed to solicit the aid of a helpful GA who offers to let you all into Dr. Longbottom's office, overseeing your attempts to gain access to his computer and delete the offending file. You've only got 25 minutes before he's back for office hours—his angriest time of the day. Can you do it?

The Mystery on Mount Olympus – When you and a group of friends realize that you are descendants of the Greek gods, you go to Mount Olympus to attempt a takeover. Charon, who ferries souls across the River Styx in Hades, is lurking around while the gods are off crashing a festival. With them out of the picture, Zeus' lightning bolt is ripe for the taking. The precious object is imbued with all of Zeus' power—enough to install you all as the new 21st century Pantheon. If you win, Charon will expect a reasonable job up in Olympus for helping you. He is tired of being stuck in hell, so he wants you to win. But if you need a hint, you will have to bribe him with a gold coin ... Charon doesn't work for free. You've got 25 minutes. Let the games begin!



Space Calls: Infinite Horizon – You and your team awaken from cryosleep to discover that a mysterious collision has jettisoned the escape pod you're currently in, and the life support systems are failing fast! If you can't reset the navigation computer in 25 minutes, there's no way you'll be able to make it back to Earth safely, and repairs are trickier than you would expect. What's worse, your on-board robot companion, T.A.R.E. (pronounced Tar-ray), a Terrestrial Androgynous Robot Entity, has also sustained damage; it'll do what it can, but that's not much ... Houston, we have a puzzle.

Totally Tubular 80s Party! – Your best friend throws, like, the most totally tubular theme parties on campus: Fright Night, Alice in Wonderland, Great Gatsby—it's a never ending stream of fun ideas that has everyone dressing up in costume for another gnarly night. And tonight's the "Totally Tubular 80s Night." You head over in costume ready to dance out your Pacman Fever, but, whoa, the night was just a bit too bodacious for your own good. Friends, you have partied so hard, you interrupted the time-space continuum and you are now STUCK in 1988. Dude! You have a job interview tomorrow and if you don't ace it, you can kiss your career goodbye. Way. You have to get back to the Present Day. You are all going to have to work together to figure out how to open up a time portal and zoom back before this party gags you with a spoon.



Each game is structured like the spokes of a wheel, not a straight-line progression; there are several puzzles that can be played by different members of the group at the same time. Each solution produces a piece of a final puzzle that is played as a group. This allows maximum participation and encourages teamwork.

Teams can be comprised of 2–12 people and the game runs in 25 minutes. At the conclusion of each game, there is a 10-minute break while the team that has just completed the challenge, takes team pictures and the room is reset for the next team. Our standard package runs the room for 4 hours and 5 minutes and allows up to 84 people to play. **Additional hours** can be added for longer events and more teams, and we can also run **multiple rooms** simultaneously.



"The escape rooms were AMAZING. The students had a blast and had nothing but great feedback about the event. It was truly a pleasure working with y'all from start to finish and we're already excited for next year!"

Delaynie Koenig, Community Engagement Advisor, Stanford University

"It was great! I can't say enough good things about your room operators. They were incredible, professional, and fun. They well-informed us of our tasks and were flexible as issues arose through the evening (late reservations, no shows, etc.). All in all, students loved this event. I certainly would love to partner with you all

again for even more rooms. And if the same team is available and willing for repeat performances, it would be awesome to work with them again. I hope they are duly praised and rewarded for outstanding customer service to both my team and the players. Thank you for a great experience!" Seth Bumgarner, New Student & Family Programs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Your employees were fantastic and patient, always willing to help out. Feedback from the students suggest it was one of their favorite experiences about the entire Orientation Week! I can't thank you enough for being willing to do this, we will be in touch for next year!" Michael Johnson, Student Orientation Coordinator, Marietta College

"The event went amazing last night! We had just over 120 students participate, and everyone left laughing and smiling. The event operators were also wonderful to work and communicate with. It was great to work with you all again on a successful event!" Magann Dykema, Activities Coordinator, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse



ASK ABOUT BLOCK DISCOUNTS • PRICING STARTS AT \$2750 INCLUSIVE FOR THE FOUR-HOUR EVENT AND \$5250 INCLUSIVE FOR TWO SIMULTANEOUS ROOMS



High Flying Adventures Hot Air Balloons

With High Flying Adventures, the sky is the limit! We offer tethered hot air balloon adventures and balloon glow events to college and university campuses that can be personalized for your program. Our FAA-licensed pilots come to your campus with a beautiful hot air balloon (or balloons!) to offer a unique form of entertainment and adventure. Tethered balloon events require a site with a 150' radius in, preferably, a low-lying area. The standard balloons hold 3–6 passengers, depending on weight. Large passenger balloons hold 9–10 passengers, and both sizes

ride from 30 to 130 feet. This magical and highly visible event is sure to bring excitement to campus and gather a large crowd. It is a perfect fit to book with one of our photo events, to ensure that each passenger has a souvenir from the day.

"The hot air balloon event was great! We love working with Brian R. and his team! Students had an amazing time and as always wish it can be longer. We look forward to working with y'all in the future!"

Sam Mendoza, Coordinator for Student Programs & Activities, Angelo State University

PROGRAM LENGTH IS FLEXIBLE • BECAUSE OF WIND PATTERNS, WE ONLY OFFER MORNING AND EVENING FLIGHTS • PRICING STARTS AT \$3500 + TRAVEL & LODGING FOR A 2-HOUR EVENT



Variety & Special Events



Cynthia Graubart

Cynthia Graubart is a James Beard Foundation Award-winning cookbook author, cooking teacher, and culinary television producer. With decades of experience behind her, Cynthia produced the nationally-distributed cooking series *Nathalie Dupree's New Southern Cooking* and was nominated for a Georgia Emmy Award. In front of the camera, Cynthia has appeared on *Fox & Friends*, Hallmark's *Home & Family*, NY1, the syndicated *Daytime TV Show*, and many morning shows. She recently authored her twelfth cookbook, and her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, among others. Outside of media, she is a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier, a professional culinary organization with the mission to help foster the education of women in the culinary arts and related fields.

Classes are 90 minutes long with full student participation (a "cook-along" class). A shopping list, equipment list, and recipes are provided one week in advance of each event. Every group is unique, and Cynthia is happy to tailor and develop classes to fit your specific needs and constraints; whether that is time, budget, ingredients, cooking level, or any other concern.

She also delivers keynote programs on a diverse array of topics, such as the origins and breadth of Southern cooking, the culinary life, how to be a successful author, the self-publishing process, and more.

STANDARD COOK-ALONG CLASS IS 90 MINUTES, INCLUDING 2-3 DISHES • CLASS PRICING STARTS AT \$2000 + TRAVEL & LODGING • KEYNOTE PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1500



Impact Personal Safety

When you can express your wishes with clarity in any circumstance, it affects your ability to assess situations, communicate with others, and value yourself. Personal safety skills translate to all of life's arenas. For over 35 years, IMPACT Personal Safety has reinforced those skills for countless students.

IMPACT's classes cover self-defense, assertiveness, and boundary-setting through verbal strategies, awareness tactics, and full-force assailant scenarios. Their patented padded instructor suit and unique curriculum are designed to activate your adrenaline within a 100% safe space so that the feeling becomes familiar. Training is trauma-informed and focuses on assault prevention & recovery, putting students in touch with their innate power regardless of size, strength, fitness, (dis)ability

level. All courses can be offered for mixed or individual gender groups.

**INTRO WORKSHOP IS 3 HOURS • CLASSES CAN BE EXPANDED IN LENGTH AND OFFERED ACROSS MULTIPLE DAYS
PRICING STARTS AT \$1800 + TRAVEL & LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$1500**



Campus Flix

Smell the popcorn in the air! Campus Flix combines the authentic charm of drive-ins & "screen on the green" with cutting-edge technology. Whether indoor or outdoor, single or double feature, we can screen any film of your choosing. Hosting a video game tournament? Competitors and audience deserve a monitor that highlights all the action!

Your booking includes an on-site technician, an inflatable movie screen with a 13' x 26' viewing area, projection equipment, a microphone for announcements, and a sound system of either outdoor speakers, FM radio transmission, or both at once. Smaller and larger screens are available—up to 60' x 110'.

TYPICAL SCREENING IS 2 HOURS • PRICING STARTS AT \$1000 + TRAVEL & LODGING





Puppy Songs

NEW TO THE ROSTER

Humans and dogs have been BFFs for thousands of years, living and playing with us longer than any other species. Fueled by that unconditional love shared with his own pooches Leni & Marley (AKA Mar Pup), musician Matt Hobbs began writing, performing, and sharing songs about them. With his background and current role as music director and improviser at the legendary Dad's Garage Theater in Atlanta, he deftly flitted across genres and eras to honor his two companions.

Over 165 songs later, Puppy Songs has exploded into an international sensation with more than 1,000,000 followers online (@PuppySongs). He has composed theme songs for many celebrity dogs and supported life-saving fundraisers & adoption days for rescues

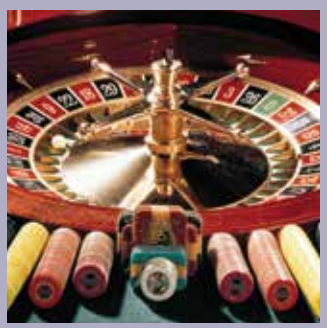
around the nation. At the live shows, expect to hear the classics like "Cheese Tax," "Big Stretch," "Stuck on My Teefs," "Spot for My Snoot," "Amazon Man," and "What If It Was for Puppies?" along with extra stories, videos, unreleased material, and the opportunity to bond with fellow animal lovers in your community. Of course, your own dogs are encouraged to attend, and we welcome discussion about your venue options in order to allow it.

Whether your best friend is furry, feathered, or scaly, we treasure the relationship all the same, and nurturing that connection for anyone is the magic of Puppy Songs.



PERFORMANCES RUN FOR APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES + Q&A

PRICING STARTS AT \$2500 + TRAVEL AND LODGING • VIRTUAL PRICING STARTS AT \$2000



Carte Blanche Casino Nights

Snake eyes, begone! Each Las Vegas-style casino party is tailored to your specific needs: size, number of games, duration, and number of dealers. Parties can be booked fully-staffed with dealers, or save money and foster teamwork by providing volunteers; our game monitors will train them before providing support & oversight throughout. All parties include set-up, take-down, all necessary accessories, and casino cash for buy-in & cash-out.

Choose from these classic exciting casino games and more: Blackjack • Craps • Let it Ride Texas Hold 'Em • Poker • Island Stud • Roulette • Slot Machines • Three Card Poker

AVERAGE SESSION IS 2 HOURS • PRICING VARIES BASED ON DATE, SIZE, HOURS, AND DEALER CONFIGURATION



Comedy Killers: Murder Mysteries

Before you can figure out "whodunit," you might be asking "howdunit?" Comedy Killers are the answer. Their repertoire of 20+ shows is reworked annually to stay at the cutting edge of humor and relevance. Cast size and show duration can scale, making this a great experience for small groups or audiences of hundreds.

Beginning with a "soft start," characters mingle throughout the guests as they arrive. After all attendees are seated, the show takes place in four adaptable parts—scripted so every guest is given all necessary clues. Before the truth is revealed, attendees vote on the perpetrator's identity. The show concludes by clearing any popular suspects and deducing the only possible solution. As every show

is different, you never have to worry about seeing the same show twice. This is a perfect dinner event or prize-giveaway opportunity!

SHOW LENGTH IS ADAPTABLE FROM 90 MINUTES - 3 HOURS • PRICING STARTS AT \$1600 + TRAVEL & LODGING

Product Packages



Bear Creations

Choose from bears, tigers, puppies, cats, horses, and many more. We also include wishing stars to stuff inside your animal, as well as a certificate to commemorate the day your new friend arrived! We have over 90 bear styles and 150 bear accessory options. In a standard package, you can choose up to 17 different styles (a dozen each). Custom t-shirts, a huge array of clothing and accessories, and fully staffed events are also available at an additional charge.

We can custom-create larger or smaller packages as well. Specialized themed offerings include: Halloween, winter holidays, Christmas, graduation, sports, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, and more.

Basic Package includes: 204 bears (or other animals) • Stuffing • 204 Birth Certificates • 204 Wishing Stars • Shipping charges
Fully staffed events are also available.

"Thanks so much, we received all our shipment! Just to let you know we have had this activity for several years and your company by far has the best quality animals along with the ample supply of stuffing. Thanks again,"

Deb Prutsman, Coordinator of Student Activities & Programs, Corning Community College

PRICING VARIES BASED ON THE QUANTITY IN YOUR CUSTOM PACKAGE.

A STANDARD PACKAGE OF 204 WITH EVERYTHING LISTED ABOVE INCLUDED IS \$2790.



Plant a Tree Kits

Our Plant a Tree Kits are an affordable way to get students involved in the environment. Perfect for Earth Day (April 22), these tree kits are fitted with custom labels for your event or campus and can be planted in the ground or grown into bonsai. Each kit contains a biodegradable peat pot with an expandable nutrient soil pellet, seeds, and a 32-page information-packed booklet inside a 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" decorative box. The booklet contains growing instructions, information about the specific tree, "Tree Facts" about the environmental benefits of trees, and tree mythology—all printed on high-grade recycled paper with soy inks. Your package can include an assortment of trees including: American Elm, Blue Spruce, Dawn Redwood, Douglas Fir, Flowering Catalpa, Giant Sequoia, Ponderosa Pine, and Red Maple.

PRICING VARIES BASED ON THE QUANTITY IN YOUR CUSTOM PACKAGE.

A STANDARD PACKAGE OF 200 WITH EVERYTHING LISTED HERE INCLUDED IS \$1250.



Lucky Bamboo

Lucky bamboo arrangements, thought to have originated in southeast Asia thousands of years ago, are indoor plants used to increase a space's feng shui and bring good luck in financial and romantic matters. Lucky bamboo is prized for its beauty, versatility, and hardiness, and is popular as a "good luck" gift for all occasions—requiring minimal care and brightening any room. Our Lucky Bamboo packages include three stalks of bamboo at different heights, a clear square vase, black gravel, care instruction sheets, a lucky gold tie, and shipping & handling. You can decide how many sets to order in your package, or ask about alternative arrangements of bamboo.

PRICING VARIES BASED ON THE QUANTITY IN YOUR CUSTOM PACKAGE.

A STANDARD PACKAGE OF 250 WITH EVERYTHING LISTED ABOVE INCLUDED IS \$1900.

Campus Novelties



**BIG CHAIR
PHOTOS**



**CAMPUS
CASH CUBE**



FAMILY CRESTS



**HOLLYWOOD WALK
OF FAME STARS**



**KIRKLAND
CARICATURES**

We have novelty and souvenir programs for you to bring to your campus! Our trusted team will come to you, with minimal set-up beyond a table and electricity. They will take wacky & cool photos, help you create personalized art, trinkets, or housewares, and—no matter what—make treasured memories. Take a look at our 60+ options below; full summaries of each can be found on our website. We are always updating and adding more options, so feel free to ask about the latest and greatest for your attendees.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

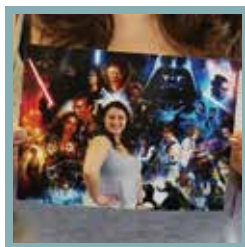
AIRBRUSH T-SHIRTS
AIRBRUSH TATTOOS
AIRBRUSH TRUCKER HATS
BALLOON ARTISTS
BIRTHDAY CHRONICLES
CANDLE CREATIONS
CHAIR MASSAGE
CUSTOM BASEBALL CARDS
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CUSTOM PHOTOS
CUSTOM PHOTO T-SHIRTS
CUSTOM SILICONE WRISTBANDS
DIGITAL CARICATURES
DOG TAGS

FIRST NAME ORIGINS
FORTUNE TELLERS
FUNNY PHOTO FRAMES
HENNA ART
MAGAZINE COVERS
PHOTO BOOTH
PHOTO BOTTLE OPENERS
PHOTO CALENDARS
PHOTO COFFEE MUGS
PHOTO COIN BANKS
PHOTO DESK ORGANIZERS
PHOTO DOG TAGS
PHOTO FLASHLIGHT KEYCHAINS
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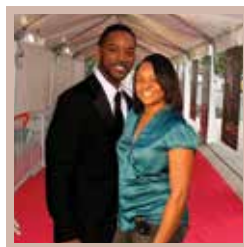
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PHOTO POSTCARDS
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POP ART PICS
REAR VIEW DRAWINGS
RICE JEWELRY
SAND ART
SILHOUETTE CUTS
SPIN ART FRISBEES
SPIN ART SHUTTER SHADES
STAR SIGNS
TIE-DYE SHIRTS
WAX FLOWERS



**METAL
STREET SIGNS**



MOVIE POSTERS



PAPARAZZI PICS



**PHOTO
BOBBLEHEADS**



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SNOW GLOBES**



**PHOTO
STUFFED ANIMALS**



**PHOTO
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**SANDY CANDY
CREATIONS**



**VOGUE FASHION
CARICATURES**



WAX HANDS

Comedy

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Will Burkart

Will Burkart is an LA-based stand-up comedian, actor, and sparkling water aficionado. After growing up in the Bay Area, he moved out to LA and quickly established himself as one of the hardest working young comics on the scene. Thanks to the massive popularity of his stand-up clips on social media, Will's fan base has skyrocketed over the past few years, amassing over 500,000 followers and more than 150 million views. Currently, Will is in the midst of his first nationwide tour, selling out venues all across the country.



Janae Burris

Janae Burris is a comedian, writer, and actor from South LA, now living in Denver. Her years growing up in one of Los Angeles's roughest neighborhoods and her training in avant-garde theater each inform Janae's bold, unique comedy and performance style—which is why she was selected as a Just For Laughs New Face in 2019. Her TV debut was on NBC's *1st Look* in her comedy trio with fellow KP comics Christie Buchele and Rachel Weeks. (Okay, technically her first TV appearance was on *Family Feud*, where she lost her shot at \$10,000 because what they don't tell you on that show is the real feud's between you and your own damn family.)



Mohanad Elshieky

Mohanad is a New York-based, Libyan-born comedian who made his national TV debut on *Conan* and has been featured on Comedy Central. Mohanad has a special skill for making you laugh at the seemingly unlaughable. He combines a deceptively laidback demeanor with his whip-smart perspective on politics and culture. He is one of the hosts of Lemonada's Webby-nominated podcast *I'M SORRY* and was selected as one of *Thrillist's* 50 Best Undiscovered Comics. The *Portland Mercury* called him "an undisputed genius of comedy," he's been featured on podcasts such as *Pod Save The People* and *Harmontown*, and he was a digital producer for Sam Bee's hit show *Full Frontal*.



Shaunak Godkhindi

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
ST. PAUL, CHARLESTON, RIVERSIDE

Shaunak Godkhindi is an Atlanta comedian who once made a lady laugh so hard she peed a little. And then she emailed him after the show saying that her night was ruined. His comedic style is energetic, optimistic, and fun. He recently finished a recording for *Netflix is a Joke Radio*, and has also been a performer at SXSW, High Plains Comedy Festival, and Laughing Skull Fest. Shaunak also regularly opens for acts like Rory Scovel, and has opened for Kyle Kinane, Joe Zimmerman, Nore Davis, Sean Patton, Aakash Singh, and many more.



Jared Kassebaum

Originally from Indianapolis, Jared Kassebaum charms audiences with his unique blend of naïve storytelling, witty wordplay, and the occasional song on a child's toy keyboard. A big fan of his PhD biochemist father, Jared planned to be a scientist his whole life. After going to a university with the aim to get a PhD in physics, he experienced the sudden loss of a best friend and realized he didn't want to take measurements in a lab anymore. His brand of earnest jokes reflects this through both his desire to wonder at the ridiculousness of life and his scientific dissection of language. Now he performs nationally at clubs and festivals, but his grandma somehow always seems to get a headache when he invites her to shows.





Lace Larrabee

Lace Larrabee is a nationally-touring stand-up comic, actor, and former Southern beauty pageant queen. She most recently made it to the semifinals of season 17 of *America's Got Talent*. In addition to NBC, Lace has been seen on FOX, TruTV, and on The Weather Channel making fun of people falling on ice. She has been featured in clubs and festivals from coast-to-coast and is the co-host of the hit podcast, *CHEATIES*.



Teresa Lee

Teresa Lee is a first-generation Taiwanese American comedian and has appeared as a guest star on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and can be seen in the upcoming season of Netflix's *Girls5Eva*. They wrote and starred in the short film *I Think She Likes You*, which received distribution on GagaOOLala, the first all-LGBT+ streaming platform in Asia. Their standup is a wholesome and unfettered approach to life's biggest questions by way of bold jokes. As a child, they were an overachieving gifted student, and as an adult, they need to stop bringing that up. Their comedy is wholesome like a reasonable weekend in Vegas: it's good for you because it's a little bad.



Jay Light

NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: ST. PAUL

Growing up outside Dallas, Jay Light had to sneak late-night viewings of Comedy Central and Adult Swim with the volume turned low. Now it's come full circle: he's appeared on two seasons of Comedy Central's *Roast Battle*, praised as "one of the best roasters in Los Angeles." He's an accomplished TV writer working with the likes of Gordon Ramsay, Nikki Glaser, and Cristela Alonzo. Self-deprecating, slyly dark, and eager to subvert audience expectations, Jay is a regular performer at the famed Comedy Store. He may look like the clean-cut, naïve boy next door, but as crowds quickly learn, Jay doesn't shy from discussing his sheltered religious upbringing or lessons learned along his path to sobriety.



Mandal

Mandal is an Atlanta-based stand-up comedian, writer, and actor. He is known for his energetic performances and absurd sense of humor. He is the cohost for *Clown School*, a podcast about life's absurdities. He has opened for comedians such as Tig Notaro, Jamie Lee, and Donnell Rawlings. He has also performed sets for Don't Tell Comedy and *Netflix Is a Joke Radio*. Mandal is a devoted fan of Waffle House.



Maggie Maye

Maggie Maye loves candy almost as much as she also loves performing comedy. She made her late-night debut on *Conan* and was highlighted on *Gotham Comedy Live*. She has performed at SXSW and the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival. She has opened for Marc Maron, Nick Kroll, Anthony Jeselnik, and Earth, Wind and Fire. She has been featured in the *Huffington Post*, *Variety*, *LaughSpin*, *The New York Times*, *Splitsider*, and the *Austin American Statesman*, and has written for *The New Yorker*. Her comedy is described in the same way she is: sassy, charming, and smart. Also, a 6-year-old once told her she was the funniest person ever. And kids rarely lie.

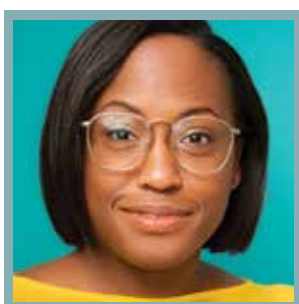
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Christine Medrano

Christine is a stand-up comic from Winnipeg, in Manitoba, Canada. Her humor is the result of a mixed-race woman growing up suburban while attending 14 years of private Catholic school. She crewed on *Good Mythical Morning* and was a featured cast member & writer for College Humor. She's been on *The Eric Andre Show* and voices a character on season 12 of *Bob's Burgers*. Her short film, "I Think She Likes You," which she co-wrote & stars in, featured at the Tribeca Film Festival, Outfest, Frameline, and other festivals around the world. Christine has also been a finalist for Sirius XM's *Canada's Next Top Comic*, featured at the Laughing Skull Comedy Festival, and opened for Maria Bamford.



Kenice Mobley

Kenice Mobley is a stand-up comedian and filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. Kenice was a host for the VICE News series *Complexify* and made her late-night debut performing stand-up on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. She also worked on the 2020 BET Awards and wrote on *By Us, For Us*, a comedy sketch show for ColorofChange.org. Kenice performs stand-up comedy around the world and has participated in the Women in Comedy Festival, Bridgetown Comedy Festival and SF Sketchfest. She has also appeared on *Laughs* on FOX and SiriusXM and hosts *Love About Town*. Kenice was a finalist in the 2019 StandUpNBC showcase and was included on *Vulture's* 2021 list of Comedians You Should Know.



Dauood Naimyar

Afghan American comedian Dauood Mohammad Naimyar learned the value of assimilating at a very young age. He tried his best to not be different but failed at every turn. Once he embraced his eccentric point of view, he saw the humor all around him. Dauood's comedic perspective is shaped by the duality of his constant need to fit in and his relentless desire to be different. His search for being relatable yet unique has brought audiences joy for nine years. Dauood has built a following of 150,000+ TikTok followers by showing the humor of his circumstances, with multiple viral hits poking fun at politicians and world leaders. Dauood's debut comedy album, *Pier 69: Junior Varsity*, topped all the charts upon its release.



Andrew Orolfo

A staple in San Francisco comedy clubs and comedy festivals nationwide, Andrew Orolfo has been named one of the country's "top knot" comedians by ... don't even ask, just go with it. He has his own half-hour special on Comedy Central and was featured in *Jo Koy: In His Elements* on Netflix. Andrew made his late-night debut on *The Late Late Show with James Corden* and can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. Andrew was born and raised in the Bay Area to Filipino parents; stand-up comedy may not have been the career option his family hoped for, but—like many of us—he's still trying to figure this whole life thing out.



Feraz Ozel

NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: LIVE

Feraz Ozel turned down law school and the CIA for a life in comedy. Now this LA-based comedian tours across the country providing crowds with a diverse and energetic brand of insightful humor as he blends hilarious observations, animated act-outs, and catchy musical pieces. Feraz's stand-up clips have over 30 million views online and he's made national television appearances on *2 Broke Girls*, *Conan O'Brien, Comics Unleashed*, and Hulu's *Coming to the Stage*. A writer on ABC's *American Housewife* and Hulu's *Deli Boys*, Feraz has been featured in *The LA Times*, *The Atlantic Magazine*, and *Rolling Stone*. His debut album *Chillennial* charted in Billboard's top 10 and iTunes' top 3.



Samantha Ruddy

Samantha Ruddy is a comedian and writer from Scranton, Pennsylvania. She's been a Digital Producer at *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee* and performed on both CBS' *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and NBC's *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. Samantha performed at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2019 and in 2020 released her first comedy album, *Logging Out*, which was named one of the best albums of the year by NPR. Samantha brings to the stage a world of witty one-liners and a fresh, absurdist perspective. She has been featured on Comedy Central, in *Bust*, and was named one of the "50 Funniest People in Brooklyn" by *Brooklyn Magazine*.



Richard Sarvate

Richard quit tech to do stand-up ... oops! He started performing in San Francisco in 2011 and now lives in LA. He talks about his experience as a first-generation Indian immigrant, mental illness, and his time in Silicon Valley. Richard has a half-hour special on Dry Bar Comedy and 1.5 million followers on TikTok. Watching Richard perform is hilariously unpredictable. He can be vulnerable or silly; he can be thoughtful or in-your-face; one minute he's talking about a taqueria that serves fortune churros, and the next minute he's bringing up Bitcoin. Whatever the subject matter, he'll find a way to make you laugh. He's opened for Roseanne Barr, toured India doing stand-up, and runs a comedy club called The Setup.



Jamie Shriner

NEW TO THE ROSTER
NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: ST. PAUL

Jamie Shriner is a comedian based in Chicago, IL. A former theatre kid, current queer, deaf, & mentally ill gig-worker, Jamie uses humorous original songs to discuss these identities, along with her struggles with body image, womanhood, and being queer in her home state of Indiana. Jamie was named Best of the Fest at Big Pine Comedy Festival and is a regular feature at Zanies and Laugh Factory Chicago. Jamie's debut album, *Corn Baby*, can be heard wherever you stream. This host and producer of Chicago Underground Comedy has opened for the likes of Beth Stelling, Randy Feltface, Rosebud Baker, and Chrissy Chlapecka, and is a former Contributor for *The Onion*.



Audrey Stewart

Audrey Stewart is a stand-up comedian and former Hoosier based in LA. Her severe ADHD is finally paying off and landing her cool opportunities such as *The Drew Barrymore Show*, NBC, Josh Wolf's show *Controlled Chaos*, and *Netflix Is a Joke Radio*. She has hosted and shared the stage with comedians such as Arsenio Hall, Dane Cook, Fortune Feimster, Tiffany Haddish, Sherri Shepherd, Iliza Shlesinger, Bill Burr, and more! Audrey has been selected for several festivals, including the 2023 Just For Laughs Festival and the Laughing Skull Festival, and her stand-up clips have accumulated over 12,000,000 views, building her a loyal following.



Paige Weldon

Paige Weldon may look like a nice, quiet girl with glasses, but she's actually a very tough, cool comedian, actor, and writer... with glasses. You may know her from *The Late Late Show with James Corden*, Comedy Central *Stand-Up Featuring*, or her album *Girlfriend at the Time* from AST Records. She is one of *Time Out LA's* top 10 comedians to watch, and one of the NY Comedy Festival's comics to watch. (Are you watching her yet?) Paige can be seen on the Paramount Network's TV reboot of *Heathers*, Comedy Central's *Corporate* (for which she also wrote), and various commercials casting the role of "silly woman, 20s/30s."



Subhah Agarwal

Subhah has written for Netflix's *Arsenio! Live*, *The Jim Jefferies Show* on Comedy Central, and *Comedy Knockout* on truTV, amongst others. You can also catch her jokes live at stand-up comedy clubs across the country. If you don't want to leave your couch, you can stream her debut album *Dog Show* and you can see her late-night debut on NBC's *A Little Late With Lilly Singh*. Subhah has a supporting lead role in the upcoming movie *Plan B*, appeared on season three of HBO's *Westworld*, *General Hospital*, on truTV's sketch comedy *Friends of the People*, and as herself on MTV2, Comedy Central, and *Gotham Comedy Live*.



Stephen Agyei

NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: ST. PAUL

Stephen Agyei began his comedy career in his hometown of Denver, CO, achieving headliner status at the world-famous Comedy Works. At the same time, this son of Ghanaian immigrants double-majored in Communication and Sociology at the University of Colorado-Boulder and ran Division 1 track. He's been an ambassador for Denver comedy at festivals like Riot L.A., Bridgetown, Limestone, and High Plains. After appearing on Viceland's *Flophouse* and NPR's *All Things Considered*, Stephen moved to LA where he booked roles on *Bojack Horseman* and *Just For Laughs Digital*. You may know his face from Realtor.com commercials or his voice from Cartoon Network's *Tig-N-Seek*.



Wally Baram

Wally Baram is a Mexican-Syrian comedian in her early 20s that probably should have stayed in school. After dropping out of college to pursue comedy full-time (since a degree in economics is an awfully expensive way to become a stand-up comedian), Wally has opened for Jeff Garlin, has written for *BETTY* (HBO) and *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX/Hulu), and performs regularly at the Hollywood Improv. As seen on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, Showtime, and A&E, her comedy brings a unique perspective on both the idiosyncrasies and banalities of entering the adult world while growing up with a strong multi-cultural Mexican-Syrian identity. Please help her figure out if dropping out was worth it.



Jose Barrientos

Though he's ex-military and a cyber security expert, Jose Barrientos never took life seriously, pulling pranks his whole life. For instance: his college Speech 101 class. For an entire semester, Barrientos faked a typical Hispanic immigrant accent, wearing a massive sombrero and carrying piñatas to class ... But what started as a prank blossomed into a social experiment. His video summary of the prank raked in 2 million views and international media attention, including an appearance on ABC's 20/20. Pushing the limits of social norms and preconceptions, Barrientos now tours around the country sharing laughter about what he learned from that experience—among many others.



Matthew Broussard

Born in NJ, raised in ATL, and once named Houston's Funniest Person, Matthew Broussard is not exactly sure where he's from. He earned a degree in Applied Mathematics and worked as a financial analyst before taking on showbiz. His brand of playful, witty humor covers topics from physics & grammar to the hardships of looking like an 80s movie villain. He's been on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, *The League*, *The Mindy Project*, *Conan*, *Roast Battle*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, the film *Here Today* with Billy Crystal and Tiffany Haddish, and has his own *Half Hour Special* on Comedy Central. And if that's not enough, he regularly shares hand-crafted visual puzzles via his popular webcomic, *mondaypunday.com*.



Nick Callas

NEW TO THE ROSTER
NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: RIVERSIDE

New Jersey native Nick began his stand-up career in high school. After declining a scholarship for comic book drawing, he pursued comedy writing & acting at NYU Tisch. Commuting between NYC and NJ to save on dorm expenses, he often missed the last bus to perform at top city clubs. Nick blends various comedic styles, including impressions, original characters, physical comedy, storytelling, rap, and filmmaking; a dynamo at any show. From missing buses to barely missing a cast spot on *Saturday Night Live* (three years in a row—who's counting?), come see why Nick's recognized as an emerging comic sensation.



Curtis Cook

Curtis Cook is a standup comedian and WGA Award-nominated writer who has traveled the world with VICE, appeared on IFC's *Portlandia*, performed standup on Comedy Central, and famously puked on a TV show called *Flophouse*. In addition to performing, Curtis has written for the recent reboot of *Crank Yankers*, the critically acclaimed Hulu comedy *This Fool* and the GLAAD nominated series *American Dad* on TBS.



JR De Guzman

Born in the Philippines and raised in California, JR De Guzman began performing comedy while working as a music teacher, which he soon learned just meant teaching Taylor Swift songs to teenagers. He entertains internationally, having performed in Japan, Indonesia, Amsterdam, Canada, and many other countries. Combining music and comedy, JR serenades the audience into laughter with songs, jokes, and stories of traveling the world, life after college, and family. He won the 13th Annual Stand-up NBC Showcase and appeared with Kevin Hart on Comedy Central's *Hart of the City*. And if you, like everyone, have a Netflix account, you can check out JR's debut special on *The Comedy Lineup*.



D.J. Demers

NACA 2023 SHOWCASE: LIVE

Hard of hearing since birth, D.J. Demers has never let his disability get in the way of his dreams. His stand-up profiles his perspective on life while hard of hearing, and the fact that he doesn't see things any differently than most of us—keeping it refreshing and inspiring no matter what. He's appeared on season 11 of *America's Got Talent* and performed on *Conan* three times. He's a past winner of the Homegrown Comics Competition at Just For Laughs and the Toronto Comedy Brawl, was a finalist for NBC's *Stand-Up for Diversity*, and won "Best Breakout Artist" at the Canadian Comedy Awards.



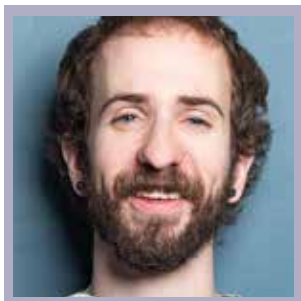
Reem Edan

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
ST. PAUL, CHARLESTON, LITTLE ROCK

Reem Edan is stuck in the middle: she's Iraqi & American, Muslim-Sunni & Shiite, and literally the middle child. Sprinkle in an overweight childhood and you've got a recipe for a stand-up comedian. Since moving to Hollywood, Reem completed the NBC Late Night Writing Program, has written for the likes of Netflix and Disney, and performed in sketches with Elizabeth Banks (for *Pitch Perfect 3*), Markian B. (*Smile Squad*), and on the *Family Guy* IG page. She recently made her TV debut on the *Stand-Up Sketch Show* and on Showtime's *Desus & Mero*. No matter what the medium, Reem's unique brand of Muslim-ennial humor shines a light on growing up culturally confused, having big dreams, and never quite fitting in.

Comedy

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VIRTUAL PRICING DISCOUNTED



Benny Feldman

NEW TO THE ROSTER

Benny Feldman is a stand-up comedian based out of New York City who recently performed on Comedy Central's *Stand-Up Featuring* series in 2023. In the past year, Feldman was named one of the New Faces at the 2022 Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal. Known for his one-liners and for performing with Tourette's syndrome, he's gone viral many times across many different platforms, with millions of views each on TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Reddit.



Jared Goldstein

Jared Goldstein is one of JFL's New Faces 2022, *Vulture's* Comedians You Should & Will Know 2021, and was featured in the 2020 CBS Showcase. He's appeared in the new season of *Black Mirror* on Netflix, ABC's *Modern Family*, Hulu's *Dollface* and CBS's *The Unicorn*. Originally from Long Island, NY, he has also appeared on *Saturday Night Live* in a sketch written by Tina Fey.



Peet Guercio

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES: LITTLE ROCK, SYRACUSE

Peet Guercio is a former rock singer from Chicago who got into comedy on a dare. Since then, his stand-up videos have racked up more than 500 million views online, reaching audiences in more than 100 countries. His animated, infectious stage energy keeps the audience engaged and on their toes, never knowing where he'll go next. Peet has done national tours with *The Carbonaro Effect*, starred on an E! sitcom, and once hacked Planet Hollywood's website to win a Justin Timberlake lookalike contest. He'll tell you the crazy story—and show you the photo evidence—when he takes your stage.



Hayden Kristal

Hayden Kristal (preferred pronouns they/them/theirs but accepts anything said with good intent) is a Colorado-based Deaf queer activist and stand-up comedian. Life at the intersection of marginalized identities led Hayden to twin careers, exploring the intersections of ability, gender, sexuality, and access in both their workshops and stand-up sets. Hayden's quick wit and cheerful self-deprecation—along with their menagerie of goofy farm animals—has earned them over 1,000,000 followers online, semifinalist spots on both *America's Got Talent* and *StandUp NBC*, and a role on Netflix & Adult Swim's *Tuca and Bertie*.



Luke Null

NEW TO THE ROSTER

Luke Null began performing comedy the moment he picked up a guitar in Chicago. During his stay in the Windy City, he developed his signature musical comedy style, blending witty humor with catchy earworms. This unique approach garnered the attention of Lorne Michaels and earned him the chance to perform as a cast member on *Saturday Night Live*. After a year in New York as a featured player on *SNL*, Luke moved to LA and is now a regular at the Hollywood Improv. He performs standup comedy at clubs and colleges across the country. In 2019, Luke released a live standup album called *Guitar Comic* through 800 Pound Gorilla Records, now available anywhere you can stream music.

SAMMY OBEID



Sammy Obeid

Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian-Italian American Sammy knows a lot about mixin' it up. After double majoring in Business and Math at UC Berkeley—which is why he does comedy now—Obeid breaks down trending topics in ways that will make you laugh your abs into a six-pack and give you more new brain cells than most of your classes. Sammy hosts Netflix's acclaimed social-science show *100 Humans*. He's been on NBC's *America's Got Talent*, *Last Comic Standing*, TBS's *Conan*, and was the first comedian to perform on the Food Network (sorry Rachael Ray). He may have once impressed his parents by setting a world record of performing comedy 1,001 consecutive nights; a story featured in *Time* and *The New York Times*.



Opey Olagbaju

Opeyemi "Opey" Olagbaju's love and commitment to stand-up are always apparent on stage. The LA comic performs across the city and has successfully showcased at several festivals, including the Bridgetown Comedy Festival, SF Sketchfest, the World Series of Comedy, and he's written for Sarah Silverman's *I Love You America* on Hulu. He is noted for his observational humor, which stems from his personal experiences as an immigrant from Nigeria who assimilated into American culture and society. Through comedy, Opey explores what makes us different, and more importantly, how these differences make us all the same.



Ben Palmer

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
ST. PAUL, LITTLE ROCK, SYRACUSE, RIVERSIDE

Starting stand-up in his home state of Ohio, Ben moved to Atlanta and fused his two greatest passions: live comedy & humor writing. He first pretended to be customer service reps on Facebook, replying to disgruntled customers who wrote on corporate pages. He made a page for the City of Atlanta, posting satirical announcements. Its popularity forced city hall to release a statement that his page wasn't official. He's made five appearances on court TV with made-up lawsuits, and Judge Judy personally declined to hear his case. He began posting his "trolling with a cause" to TikTok, racking up 3 million followers and over 500 million views. His work has been covered by *Snopes*, *USA Today*, *Buzzfeed*, *Yahoo*, and NPR.



Comedy

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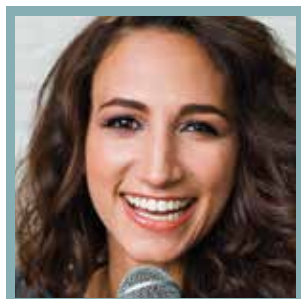


MANDAL (PAGE 21)



Barry Rothbart

Barry Rothbart is a comedian and actor whose performances have graced both the big screen and little screen (unless you have a big TV) with roles in ABC's *The Conners*, Hulu's *Vacation Friends*, Netflix's *The Lovebirds*, Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street*, and MTV's prank show *Punk'd*, as well as stand-up appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *Conan*, *The Late Late Show* and his own Comedy Central special. He has two dogs, and walks them regularly even if he doesn't want to, which is often, because it takes a while (and sometimes it's hot), but it's the responsible thing to do, so he does it.



Ester Steinberg

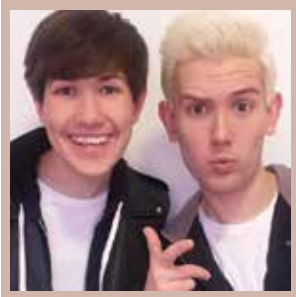
Ester Steinberg is one of LA's hottest comedians. You can see her on season two of the Amazon show *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* which was nominated for 14 Emmys. Ester starred in Oxygen's *Funny Girls*, is a regular correspondent on TMZ on TV, and has appeared on NBC's *Meredith Vieira Show*, *Millionaire Matchmaker*, and *Gotham Comedy Live*. She's the creator and host of the long running Kibitz Room Comedy Show at Canter's Deli in the heart of LA. You may have seen her in the viral YouTube "7 Women You Meet on JDate," or her web series *Esoteric*. Ester was selected as a New Face at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival and she continues to perform at clubs and colleges all over the country.



Aiko Tanaka

NEW TO THE ROSTER
NACA 2023 SHOWCASES: ST. PAUL, SYRACUSE

A Tokyo-born comedian, actress, and TV personality, Aiko aspires to become the first Japanese-speaking comedian with a one-hour comedy special. Offstage, she enjoys napping, watching anime, and savoring boiled vegetables... But when performing, she's a dynamic force. She made her screen debut in *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*. Aiko reached the semi-finals on *America's Got Talent* Season 17, earning praise from all judges, including Simon Cowell. Her talent has also graced *The Jim Jefferies Show* and Comedy Central's *Stand Up Asia! Live*.



Those Klein Boyz

NEW TO THE ROSTER

Jeremy & Kyle, Those Klein Boyz, are brothers who deliver high-energy performances blending original songs & improvised rap comedy! What's that? We'll tell you! It's a cross between Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* & *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Now imagine that coming from two highly caffeinated brothers! They've entertained across the US from corporate events to private parties and appeared on John Krasinski's *Some Good News*. They were named 'Best of Fest' at the Burbank Comedy Festival (2020, 2022) and are nominated comics in this year's Laugh After Dark Comedy Festival in Las Vegas!



Irene Tu

Irene Tu is a queer Asian American millennial comedian (so her parents are super proud of her). A graduate of UC Berkeley, she started comedy in college and decided pursuing this path was the best use of her college degree. Irene frequently jokes about her childhood, what it's like being a minority in modern-day America, and her love of food. Named a "Woman to Watch" by KQED in 2016 and one of the Bay Area's "11 Best Stand-Up Comedians," Irene has been featured on *Viceland* and *Seeso*. She has never met Ellen but holds out hope that one day she will.



Chinedu Unaka

NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
LITTLE ROCK, SYRACUSE, RIVERSIDE

Chinedu started comedy in college (UCSB), so it's only right for him to return to the place that ruined his Nigerian mom's doctor-or-lawyer-only expectations (oops). Born and raised in LA, Chinedu has established himself as a talent with the uncanny ability to connect with people from any background. His goal is to become so famous that spellcheck will finally stop insisting that his name is spelled "Chinese." Named as a top comic to watch by *Time Out LA*, you might have caught Chinedu on *Abbot Elementary*, *Insecure*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *The Mindy Project*, in the 2022 reboot of the 90s classic *House Party*, or on tour with Damon Wayans, Jr. and Yvonne Orji.



Victoria Vincent

NEW TO THE ROSTER NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
LIVE, ST. PAUL, CHARLESTON, RIVERSIDE

Victoria Vincent is a Columbus, OH native and a rising star in the Chicago comedy scene. She is a healthcare worker and comedian. Victoria is one of the Just For Laughs New Faces 2022 and a regular feature at Zanies and Laugh Factory Chicago. The host and producer of Don't Tell Comedy Chicago has opened for the likes of Cameron Esposito, Hannah Berner, Bobcat Goldthwait, and was featured in the *Chicago Reader*.



Sureni Weerasekera

NEW TO THE ROSTER NACA 2023 SHOWCASES:
LITTLE ROCK, SYRACUSE, RIVERSIDE

A Sri Lankan-born, New York-based comedian, writer, and actor; Sureni deftly navigates from lighthearted banter to sharp, dark humor illuminating cultural dilemmas. She's graced stages at SF Sketchfest, Desi Comedy Festival, New York Comedy Festival, and more, opening for headliners like Hari Kondabolu and Irene Tu. Her talents extend to writing, recognized with the 2019 Diversity in Comedy Writing Fellowship. She's the creator of "Medium Roasts," a witty café-themed video series. Sureni's rising star earned her a spot among "23 Comedians to Watch in 2023" by Gold Comedy and listed her as one of "5 Bay Area Comedians on the Rise" by 7x7.

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