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Yes, And... Laughter Lab Announces 2021 Finalists

20 projects in comedy pitch training and incubator explore Racial Justice, LGBTQ Issues, Mental Health, Combating Islamophobia, Drug Decriminalization, and more

Sierra Club, GLAAD, and Key Rat Inc. join Netflix, NBC, Color of Change, Define American, and others as Laughter Lab partners

NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, DC -- The [Yes, And... Laughter Lab](#), a competitive comedy incubation lab, pitch program and showcase founded in 2018, announced its 2021 finalists today. These 20 projects, which include scripted comedy, stand-up, sketch, and film, were developed by some of the best comedy creators focused on social commentary and spotlighting the experiences of BIPOC, immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and women.

In February, the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* accepted more than 350 applications from comedians across the U.S. A [jury of comedians and experts](#) selected their top 20 projects to join the 2021 pitch incubation lab where they will receive industry training and networking opportunities. From the 20 finalists, at least ten winners will be identified by the [Selection and Leadership Committees](#), which includes Aparna Nancherla, Baron Vaughan, Chris Gethard, Deniese Davis, Fawzia Mirza, Franchesca Ramsey, Jeffrey P. Jones, Naomi Ekperigin, Negin Farsad, Prashanth Venkataramanujam, Roy Wood, Jr., Ryan Cunningham, Wyatt Cenac, and others. The winning teams' time in the Lab will culminate at the program's annual pitch showcases in September 2021. There they will pitch to a room of industry executives and social justice leaders in the hopes of advancing their projects into the entertainment marketplace and into movements for social change.

The 20 finalist projects explore critical and timely social justice topics including Asian American representation, cannabis legalization, combating Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ "conversion therapy," criminal justice reform, immigration, reparations for Black Americans, and more.

Finalists:

1. ***Asian In Public*** by SJ Son & Woody Fu
2. ***Asian Women Can't Drive*** by Alex Song-Xia

3. ***Bendecidas y Afortunadas (Blessed and Highly Favored)*** by Julieta Messmer & Marianne Amelinckx
4. ***CameronTown*** by Sheri Bradford
5. ***Camp*** by Air Durnell & Maddie Smith
6. ***Congressgirl*** by Arianna Afsar, Sigi Ravet, & Emily Jenda
7. ***Daddy Issues*** by Shannon Hardy & Ariel Sayegh
8. ***Fabulous Friday*** by Mark Steinbach & Zach Zimmerman
9. ***Getting Schooled with Chris De La Cruz*** by Christopher De La Cruz
10. ***Joonam*** by Lili Michelle Koohestani
11. ***Lifeline*** by Meredith Casey
12. ***Momo's Amerika*** by Abdallah Nabil & Ayman Samman
13. ***Native Comedy at the Rock*** by Jackie Keliiaa
14. ***Neon Sweet*** by Joseph Lymous
15. ***Not For Profit*** by Ali Abbas & Iman Saleh
16. ***Public School*** by Kali Racquel
17. ***Ro & Shirelle*** by D'Lo, Shakina Nayfack, & Adelina Anthony
18. ***Running*** by Adrienne Chalepah
19. ***Shuttlecock*** by Tapan Sharma
20. ***The AzN PoPI Show*** by Anna Suzuki, Iliana Inocencio, Maya Deshmukh, & Angel Yau

In 2021, the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* continues to develop powerful new partnerships with leaders in comedy and social change including GLAAD, Key Rat. Inc., and the Sierra Club. The full [partners](#) list includes: 3Arts, Above Average, Artists First, Caring Across Generations, Color Creative, Color Of Change, Comedy Central, Define American, GLAAD, GloNation, Harness, Haven Entertainment, Imagine, Irony Point, Key Rat Inc., MGM, MPAC Hollywood Bureau, National Lampoon, NBC, Netflix, Opportunity Agenda, Pillars Fund, Powderkeg Media, Sierra Club, Spotify, TBS, Topple Productions, truTV, ViacomCBS, Wise Entertainment, and WV Entertainment.

The *Yes, And...Laughter Lab* is funded by [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art's Building Bridges Program](#), [Luminate](#), and the [Pop Culture Collaborative](#), and sponsored by [Comedy Central](#).

Visit the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* website to learn more: <https://yesandlaughterlab.com/>

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ABOUT THE YES, AND... LAUGHTER LAB

Yes, And... Laughter Lab is a competitive incubation lab, pitch program and showcase that uplifts the best comedy writers and performers creating new comedy about topics that matter, with a focus on BIPOC, immigrant, Muslim, LGBTQ, and female talent.

Follow *Yes, And Laughter Lab* on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @YALLcomedy.