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YES, AND... LAUGHTER LAB LAUNCHES 'YALL COMMUNITY,' PREMIER CURATED DATABASE OF DIVERSE COMEDY WRITERS AND PERFORMERS

[YALL Community](#), featuring YALL finalists and winners, curates the funniest diverse comedy performers and writers for TV, film, and live shows.

Los Angeles, CA - Thursday, September 30, 2021 - [Yes And... Laughter Lab](#), a competitive diversity incubation lab, pitch program, and showcase, has launched *YALL Community*, an online database featuring 100 of the program's finalists and winners. The database launched at today's Yes, And... Laughter Lab 2021 pitch showcase at Dynasty Typewriter, an annual event sponsored by Comedy Central, Amazon Studios, NBCUniversal and WarnerMedia.

Co-founded in 2018 by the non-profit creative innovation lab and research center [Center for Media & Social Impact](#) (CMSI) at American University and creative agency [Moore+Associates](#), the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* selects 20 finalists each year from more than 400 diverse applicants, provides them with pitch training, and invites between 10 and 12 to present at one of its two pitch showcases. Laughter Lab members who will be in the *YALL Comedy* database include Keisha Zollar (Astronomy Club), Joey Clift (Spirit Rangers), Alex Song-Xia (Rick and Morty), Mamoudou N'Diaye (Queens), and Emma Ramos (New Amsterdam).

As part of its mission to elevate underrepresented storytellers, Yes, And... Laughter Lab created the free, searchable database to introduce diverse comedians to the entertainment industry, social justice organizations, philanthropists, and activists who can help bring their work into the entertainment marketplace. The *YALL Comedy* database features an ever-growing list of actors, writers, directors, and comedians with a proven ability to produce powerful, marketable, and inclusive entertainment content. The majority of this talent pool includes immigrants and refugees, women, LGBTQ people, people of color, and religious minorities.

The database is free and accessible via yesandlaughterlab.com/community/

For the third consecutive year, in February, the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* accepted hundreds of applications from diverse comedians from across the United States for its competitive incubation lab. The [Selection Committee](#) -- including Roy Wood, Jr., Franchesca Ramsey, Aparna Nancherla, Baron Vaughn, and more -- chose 20 finalists on the strength of their originality, creativity of their comedy, potential for social impact, and practicality of development. Twelve winning teams received \$2,000 in funding to support their work and presented projects that touched on topics ranging from LGBTQ "conversion therapy," anti-Asian hate, mental health, and racial bias to a hand-picked audience of industry partners and allies. The showcases took place Friday, September 17th at Caveat in New York City and on Thursday, September 30th at Dynasty Typewriter in Los Angeles.

“The comedians showcased in the Laughter Lab are not only hilarious, but they are sharing lived experiences that are often unseen in entertainment,” said **Caty Borum Chattoo, co-director of the Yes, And... Laughter Lab**. “Inviting a mix of entertainment industry and social justice leaders to hear from them creates opportunities not only for the comedians themselves, but for entertainment industry leaders to meet the calls from a generation with new standards and expectations of Hollywood when it comes to diversity in representation.”

“This year’s pitch showcases feature some of the most talented comedy writers and performers we’ve ever worked with,” said **Mik Moore, co-director of the Yes, And... Laughter Lab**. “They are telling the kinds of stories that are desperately needed in Hollywood right now, exploring complex, often sensitive issues with humor and wit.”

Yes, And... Laughter Lab’s partners include leaders in comedy and social change, including 3Arts, A Penny For Your Thoughts Entertainment, Above Average, Artists First, Boomgen Studios, CAA Foundation, CAPE, 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, MuslimArc, National Lampoon, NBCUniversal, Netflix, Opportunity Agenda, Pillars Fund, Powderkeg Media, RespectAbility, Sierra Club, Spotify, Starfish Accelerator, 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](#).

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About 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, focusing on immigrants and refugees, women, LGBTQ people, people of color, and religious minorities.

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