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'YES AND... LAUGHTER LAB' ANNOUNCES 2022 FINALIST COHORT OF DIVERSE COMEDIANS AND WRITERS

Twenty-one comedy projects developed by 27 writers and performers selected to Yes, And... Laughter Lab's 2022 cohort tackle topics including racial justice, healthcare and disability justice, sexual assault, elder care, and combatting Islamophobia

The Yes, And...Laughter Lab is designed to introduce diverse comedians to the entertainment industry, social justice organizations, philanthropists and activists who can help bring their work into the entertainment marketplace

37 program partners include Comedy Central, NBCUniversal, Color of Change, GLAAD, Pillars Fund

New York, NY - Monday, April 18, 2022 - The [Yes And... Laughter Lab](#) – a competitive incubation lab, pitch program, and showcase that sources, trains, and builds industry and social justice networks for the best diverse comedy writers and performers creating new comedy about topics that matter – today announced the slate of finalists for its annual incubator cohort.

Full list of program finalists below.

Created in 2018 by the non-profit innovation lab and research center [Center for Media & Social Impact](#) (CMSI) at American University and creative agency [Moore+Associates](#), the Yes, And...Laughter Lab is designed to introduce diverse comedians to the entertainment industry, social justice organizations, philanthropists and activists who can help bring their work into the entertainment marketplace.

For the third consecutive year, in January, the Yes, And... Laughter Lab accepted hundreds of applications from diverse comedians from across the United States for its competitive incubation lab. Applications were judged by the strength of their originality and creativity of their comedy, potential for social impact, and practicality of development. Projects were [judged by a Selection and Leadership Committee](#) which included Aparna Nancherla (*BoJack Horseman*), Corey Ryan Forrester (*WellRED Comedy*), Jana Schmieding (*Rutherford Falls*), Jeffrey P. Jones (Peabody Awards), Jenny Yang (*Last*

Man Standing), Ryan Cunningham (*Inside Amy Schumer*), and Wyatt Cenac (*Wyatt Cenac's Problem Areas*).

This year's finalist projects touch on topics ranging from the climate crisis, combating Islamophobia, disability justice, elder care, healthcare equity, and racial justice.

[2022 Yes And... Laughter Lab Finalists:](#)

1. ***Bill from Indiana*** by Casey Rand & Sasha Stewart
2. ***Cancer Culture*** by Becky Braunstein & Brianna Barrett
3. ***Captain Churro*** by Mario Garza & Alexander Cuervo
4. ***Crips*** by Brian Koukol
5. ***Downshift*** by Christine Hoang
6. ***Elhottie: An Alabama Scorcher*** by Yasmin Elhady
7. ***Herma-NO*** by Milly Tamarez
8. ***How to L0ve*** by Robert Cunningham
9. ***I Did Something in Palestine*** by Shatha Yas
10. ***Lizzy, Gary, Bebe & Trish - Que?! - The Animated Series*** by Jezabel Montero
11. ***Old Friends*** by Geri Cole & Serena da Conceição
12. ***Old Queens*** by Reid Pope
13. ***Planet Dearborn*** by Majdy Fares
14. ***Rape Victims Are Horny Too*** by Dylan Adler & Kelly Bachman
15. ***Staying On The Right Side Of Sanity, Diary Of A Dirt Road Diva!*** by Belynda Cleare
16. ***Stefan*** by Ana-Marija Stojic
17. ***Sun Don't Pay*** by Hakim Hill
18. ***The Cleave*** by Caitlin Barlow & Kathryn Renée Thomas
19. ***The Desi Diamond*** by Ali-Asghar Abedi
20. ***The Jersey Devil is a Papi Chulo*** by Iraisia Ann Reilly
21. ***Uncle Sam's Misguided Children*** by Luke Muyskens

Finalists will attend a two-day intensive training in May in New York City, and are invited to attend exclusive workshops, panels, and networking events throughout the year. Following the training weekend, the Laughter Lab will select at least ten finalists to perform at the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab's* annual showcases at Dynasty Typewriter in Los Angeles on September 15, 2022 and Caveat in New York City on September 29, 2022.

"The comedians entering the Laughter Lab are not only hilarious, but they are sharing lived experiences that are still often unseen in entertainment," said **Caty Borum Chattoo, co-director of the Yes, And... Laughter Lab**. "YALL functions to provide these diverse, talented creators with social capital, professional development, and an opportunity to share their stories with our community of change makers in entertainment and social justice."

Previous Finalists of the *Yes, And... Laughter Lab* include comedians and writers like Carolyn Pierre-Outlar for her comedy series *Rhonda Mitchell M.D.*, now [in development with NBC](#), about a healthcare clinic in Harlem; Ayman Samman, Abdallah Nabil, and Yusef Zeidan for their animated series *Momo's Amerika*, recently [acquired by Comedy Central](#), that follows the story of an Egyptian-American family living in Orange County; and [Keisha Zollar](#) and [Sasha Stewart](#) for their docuseries *Let's Get*

Physical that utilizes humor, patient testimonials, and medical experts to debunk the myths and misogyny around women's bodies.

Yes, And... Laughter Lab's [partners](#) include leaders in comedy and social change, including 3Arts Entertainment, 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 Artist Management, Irony Point, Key Rat Inc., MGM, MPAC Hollywood Bureau, MuslimArc, National Lampoon, NBCUniversal, Netflix, The Opportunity Agenda, Paramount, Pillars Fund, Powderkeg Media, RespectAbility, Spotify, Starfish Accelerator, Toppie Productions, TBS, truTV, Wise Entertainment, and WV Entertainment.

The Yes, And...Laughter Lab is funded by [Comedy Central](#), [Doris Duke Foundation](#), [Luminate](#), [Open Society Foundations](#), 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, with a focus on BIPOC, immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and women.

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