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## **‘YES, AND... LAUGHTER LAB’ ANNOUNCES 2022 SHOWCASE PERFORMERS**

*Sixteen writers and performers were selected to present their original comedy projects that tackle social justice issues at the 2022 Yes, And... Laughter Lab Showcases in New York and Los Angeles*

*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*

**New York, NY - Wednesday, June 15, 2022** – The [Yes, And... Laughter Lab](#) (YALL) – 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 performers for its annual showcases in New York and Los Angeles. Full list of showcase performers below.

For the fourth consecutive year, 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 showcase performers are pitching original comedy projects that touch on topics ranging from combating Islamophobia, disability justice, healthcare inequality, racial justice, and gender equity.

### **2022 Yes, And... Laughter Lab Showcase Performers:**

#### ***Los Angeles Showcase***

1. ***Cancer Culture*** by Becky Braunstein & Brianna Barrett
  - *Cancer Culture* is a half hour scripted comedy series based on the real experiences of comedian/actor/writer Becky Braunstein and writer Brianna Barrett, who met in a cancer support group during treatment. In the series, an aspiring comedian faces the possibility of losing her voice forever when she is diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and seeking community in a new city, finds unexpected friends and new challenges in an activity-oriented young adult cancer survivor support group.

2. **Capitan Churro** by Mario Garza & Alexander Cuervo
  - After being told he'll never play a superhero on the big screen, a young, delicious churro decides to break stereotypes and fight crime to prove churros can also be superheroes.
3. **Crips** by Brian Koukol
  - When a severely disabled man discovers that his long-term girlfriend and caregiver has been cheating on him, he must decide where to draw the line in this comedic tale of life and love and progressive neuromuscular disease set in the un-accommodating world of suburban Los Angeles
4. **Elhottie: An Alabama Scorcher** by Yasmin Elhady
  - *Elhottie: An Alabama Scorcher* is a stand up comedy special exploring the life of a Muslim woman growing up in the Deep South.
5. **Sun Don't Pay** by Hakim Hill
  - After accumulating tons of debt from an unexpected liver lobectomy, a poor and timid clothing store worker starts selling T-shirts with a logo accidentally made from his wound imprint leading to a clothing design business.
6. **The Cleave** by Caitlin Barlow & Kathryn Renée Thomas
  - *The Cleave* is a satirical blog and digital series that explores the insidious ways society lauds mothers as "superheroes" and "saints," yet denies them any substantive resources. It's an online space for women who just can't even with saccharine mommy blogs, manipulative momfluencers and "Is it wine-o'clock yet?" memes.

#### **New York Showcase**

1. **Downshift** by Christine Hoang
  - *Downshift* is a half-hour comedy series centered on Theresa Ho, a Vietnamese American widow, single mom, dutiful daughter, and stressed-out lawyer who leaves her white-collar career to downshift to a blue-collar job as a yellow school bus driver.
2. **Herma-NO** by Milly Tamarez
  - *Herma-NO* is a half-hour comedy about when polar opposite, adult siblings Elisa and Jorje are forced to be roommates they have to learn the lessons of growing while unlearning the toxic machismo they were raised in.
3. **Lizzy, Gary, Bebe & Trish - Que?! - The Animated Series** by Jezabel Montero
  - Four friends, from different ethnic/cultural backgrounds, each representing a letter in rainbow acronym, share their lives in NYC while navigating their careers, sex lives and most challenging, their quirky families.
4. **Rape Victims Are Horny Too** by Dylan Adler & Kelly Bachman
  - *Rape Victims Are Horny Too* is an hour musical comedy duo about healing from rape trauma. Kelly Bachman and Dylan Adler are rape survivors but they're also HORNY, and they invite audiences of survivors and allies to laugh and even sing along with them. They hope to make survivors feel less alone through laughter and music.
5. **Staying On The Right Side Of Sanity, Diary Of A Dirt Road Diva!** by Belynda Cleare
  - A comedic performance of pain and purpose, a true coming of age story of young girls experience with adversity, abuse, discrimination, trauma, stress and depression. Learning to overcome the obstacles by using humor as a coping mechanism.

6. ***Uncle Sam's Misguided Children*** by Luke Muyskens

- *Uncle Sam's Misguided Children* is a half-hour mockumentary sitcom following a small anti-government militia of misfit amateurs with varying ideologies in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the hapless feds trying to take them down.

The YALL Showcases will take place on Thursday, September 15 at Dynasty Typewriter in Los Angeles and on Thursday, September 29 at Caveat in New York City.

Created in 2019 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.

"The comedians showcased in the Laughter Lab are not only hilarious, but they are addressing timely and complex social issues through their work," said **Mik Moore, 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 representation and social impact."

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.