

14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CLEVELAND  
**COMEDY**  
FESTIVAL

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November 10 - 13, 2021

**C D E C N**  
**CONCERT CLUB**

**CLEVELAND, OH**

**1295 Old River Rd  
Cleveland, OH**

**[Clevelandcomedyfestival.com](http://Clevelandcomedyfestival.com)**

# **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland Comedy Festival**

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November 10-13, 2021

**The Cleveland Comedy Festival began in 2008 as a celebration of local, independent comedy and has grown into much, much more in the decade plus.**

**Our mission remains the same — to celebrate Cleveland’s comedic past, present and future and help promote one of Cleveland’s greatest exports — our collective sense of humor and comedic talent.**

**The Cleveland Comedy Festival is an event that is uniquely Cleveland and continues the legacy of funny that includes Bob Hope, Ernie Anderson, Tim Conway Arsenio Hall, Steve Harvey, Drew Carey and many, many others. Cleveland has always been a funny place that seems to foster more than its fair share of hilarious people.**

**And it’s still true today! The wealth of comedic talent in Cleveland has never been stronger, and that’s what our Festival is all about. And as we’ve grown, we’re now attracting national and regional comedians and industry representatives to come to Cleveland and join in the laughs.**

**Over the last year and a half we have also been working on extending into the Cleveland Comedy Network & Festival. This rebrand of a name, encompasses shows we do throughout the year AND a podcast network and original YouTube series. We also held the first ever [Rubber City Comedy Festival](#) in Akron in May of 2021.**



# Cleveland Comedy Network & Festival

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As mentioned, in 2020 we quietly rebranded and launched Cleveland Comedy Network & Festival. This has allowed us to at times just refer to Cleveland Comedy Network, which is an ongoing branch of live events and digital content.

For several years now we have ran shows throughout the year, outside of just the annual festival. We needed something a little less confusing. On top of that, we've expanded to more than just live comedy.

Our podcast network is small, but still growing with great anchors like "Ten Cent Beer Life" focusing on sports and the "DMST Podcast" focusing on life and pop culture from the view of three friends.

Aside from podcasts, in 2021, we began releasing original series to our YouTube channel. This included our series, "I Love the CLE!" featuring commentary from comedians and local personalities on a variety of topics centered around Cleveland. We also began releasing episodes of "A Toast to Cleveland" which features host Holly B getting stories from drunken storytellers all about Cleveland's history and their experiences.

We're looking forward to more growth in 2022!



# Festival Show Schedule

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WED NOV 10 – 5pm

## FREE Happy Hour Comedy

Comedians from near and far help you unwind from your workday with this FREE happy hour comedy show located at “Down the Rabbit Hole” the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage within the Odeon.

WED NOV 10 – 7pm

## Women & Wine Showcase

This Femme Showcase also includes two glasses of wine with ticket purchases! Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole

## The Best of Cleveland – 7:30pm

Mike Polk Jr of WKYC Headlines and is joined by WMMS personalities, Bill Squire & Mary Santora of the Alan Cox Show! PLUS local talents John Armstrong, Tania Timmons Joe Howard, and Logan Rishaw!

THUR NOV 11

## You Can't Laugh At That – 5pm

LIVE version of podcast hosted by comedians David Horning and Steve Mers, includes performances from comedians and interviews. Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole (FREE)

## Spotlight Showcase 1 – 7pm

Gheramy Demery, Dwayne Duke, Cait Hogan, Julia Mary, Bill Stone, Bryan Sternik, Miki Janosi, Tim Wolfe, John Armstrong, Mark Colella. Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole

## Best of Cleveland Comedy Festival – 7:30pm

Featuring some of the top talent to have graced Festival stages over the last several years including headliner Jessica Keenan (HBO Max). Featuring; Spyder Jones, Zach Russell, Sonal Aggarwal, Misha Han, Jason Moliterno, Tania Timmons. Venue: Odeon Main Room



# Festival Show Schedule

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**FRI NOV 12 – 5pm**

## **FREE Happy Hour Comedy**

Comedians from near and far help you unwind from your workday with this FREE happy hour comedy show located at “Down the Rabbit Hole” the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage within the Odeon.

## **Spotlight Showcase 2 – 7pm**

Erin Hart, Zach Russell, Rodescu Hopkins, Jason Moliterno, Dave Flynt, Tabitha Jones, Bryan Sternik, Miki Janosi, featuring Michael Cheselka closing the show! Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole

## **Matteo Lane– 7:30pm**

Matteo Lane initially trained as an Opera singer in Italy before moving back to the States and becoming a standup comedian! Specials on Comedy Central and Netflix have followed along with late night appearances and more! Festival standouts join him on this special headliner show! Venue: Odeon Main Room

## **The Ad Hominem Attack Show– 10pm**

Late night show full of laughs! Watch as comics compete against each other in roast battles. This show is not for everyone and it gets downright mean and dirty!

**SAT NOV 13**

## **DMST Podcast LIVE – Noon**

Three friends that grew up in East Cleveland and go by the names Big Dev, Brainstorm, and Playboy bring their podcast to a live audience and talk pop culture and every day life. PLUS guest standup performances

## **Ten Cent Beer Life, LIVE – 2pm**

Hosts Kyle Haunhorst and Brian Kenny talk Cleveland sports in this live recording of their popular podcast. Guests will join in as well!



# Festival Show Schedule

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**SAT NOV 13**

**Spotlight Showcase 3 – 4pm**

**Logan Rishaw, Teddy Bruno, Erin Hart, Zach Russell, Gheramy Demery, Dave Flynt, Spyder Jones, Amanda Averell.**

**Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole**

**Spotlight Showcase 4 – 6pm**

**Eitan Levine, Dwayne Duke, Brett Thomas, Joe Briggs, Steve Mers, Samantha Archual, Carli Robe, Kristin Galewood**

**Venue: Down the Rabbit Hole**

**Nic Nemeth (aka Dolph Ziggler) – 7:30pm**

**WWE Superstar Dolph Ziggler performs standup comedy as himself, Cleveland native Nic Nemeth along with his brother, AEW Star Ryan Nemeth, and more! PLUS a special post-show performance by NUNFIST**



# NIC NEMETH

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**Nic Nemeth is originally from Northeast Ohio where he graduated from St. Edward's High School and Kent State University. At both he excelled in amateur wrestling and was a multi-time champion. From there, he made his way to the WWE where he has competed for more than a decade as Dolph Ziggler and captured plenty of gold and accolades.**

**While Ziggler's career continued on, Nic wanted more. His love for comedy and standup persisted and finally he caved. Starting from the bottom and hitting open mics like anyone else, but it was clear his talent and already known name in wrestling would put him on everyone's radar faster than usual.**

**He's since appeared on Comedy Central's Roast Battle and has taken the DZ Comedy Tour across the country to clubs and venues. Sure, he'll talk a bit about his day job that pays the bills, but Nic Nemeth is here to make a name for himself in comedy as Nic and leave the wrestling to Dolph, so expect plenty of other topics!**

**Joining Nic is his younger brother Ryan Nemeth, who is no slouch himself! Ryan currently is part of All Elite Wrestling (AEW) on TNT as the Hollywood Hunk Ryan Nemeth. Ryan also performs improv, sketch and standup regularly across the country. He's appeared in sitcoms and movies and most recently has gained applause and accolades for a short film that he wrote and produced, HEEL.**



# MIKE POLK Jr.



Mike Polk Jr. began his comedy career at Kent State University (at the same time Nic Nemeth was wrestling there) and was one of the originals when it came to having viral YouTube videos. His "Hastily Made Cleveland Tourism" video is still highly viewed (and quoted) along with countless others including; "First Semester Spanish Love Song" and his quotable takes on local sports teams (Factory of Sadness). Mike was able to parlay all of this

into a local television career, as he now appears on WKYC Channel 3 with his own segments. We're excited to have him back on the standup stage!

# Matteo Lane



Matteo Lane is a New-York based comedian whose stand-up special can be seen on Netflix's, "The Comedy Lineup." He's also appeared on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" "Late Night with Seth Meyers" HBO's "Crashing" and NBC's "Will & Grace"

Matteo is currently developing an animated series, "Kickass Drag Queen" with Bob the Drag Queen, Gary Sanchez and Unicorn Island Productions. He also co-hosts the podcast, "Inside the Closet" alongside Emma Willman.

Not limited to just standup, Matteo also performs a live cabaret, "Streisand at the Bon Soir," to great critical acclaim. Fluent in five languages and with a singing range of six octaves, Matteo lived in Italy as an oil painter and opera singer before starting his comedy career!



# BILL SQUIRE



Bill Squire has taken part in the Cleveland Comedy Festival so many times over the years, dating all the way back to its infancy, including winning the "Ninja Comedy Deathmatch Contest" in 2009. Bill can be heard as co-host of [The Alan Cox Show](#) on 100.7WMMS in Cleveland that has thousands of listeners/viewers across the country on iHeartRadio and YouTube. Bill has appeared on Laughs on FOX and Hulu.

Bill's comedy touches on his life as a step parent, divorce, dating, and leaving the Mormon church in his early 20's.

# JESSICA KEENAN



Jessica Keenan is a Mexican/Lebanese comedian, born and raised in Las Vegas. She is one of the most original voices on the LA comedy scene and performs at all the major clubs there. Jessica has appeared on Chelsea, NuvoTV's Stand Up and Deliver, and was also a finalist for Standup NBC.

You currently catch her special streaming on HBO Max. In 2019 she participated in the Cleveland Comedy Festival and won the Veneman Award for Best Overall comedian.



# MARY SANTORA

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Mary Santora is a Cleveland favorite, was a finalist in the 2015 Festival, has been named the "Best Comedian" at the 2019 Cleveland Comedy Awards, the "Best Undiscovered Comedian in Ohio" by Thrillist in 2018, "Best Female Comedian" by Cleveland Scene Magazine in 2016, 2017, and 2019, and was part of the 2018 "Best of

the Midwest" competition at LaughFest in Grand Rapids, MI. She can be heard regularly on The Alan Cox Show on 100.7 WMMS and is quickly making a name for herself as one of the best up and coming comics in the country. She has a straightforward, quick witted style, and has performed alongside Dave Attell, Tom Papa, Jen Kirkman, and Kyle Kinane, to name a few. Mary is a fresh breath of femininity in the otherwise male-dominated world of stand up.



# Life Widgets

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In a world where Big Tech companies seem to focus more on revenues than their user experiences, our mission is to put users **FIRST** by providing a better experience that connects everything that matters in one place making it easier to live connected.

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# Odeon Concert Club

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The Odeon Concert Club is one of the last living links from the “old” Flats to the “new” Flats. This iteration of the famed venue reopened its doors in 2015 and has worked to have live music in the Flats neighborhood ever since.

The storied venue has played host to Metallica, Weezer, Nine Inch Nails, Eminem, Iggy Pop, Bjork, Todd Rundgren and more in its decades long history. Since its reopening the venue has expanded to include more than just music, but of course you can still find its bread and butter there.



December 14<sup>th</sup> you can catch Nita Strauss performing at the Odeon Concert Club. Nita has been the lead guitarist for Alice Cooper for years now and has headed out on a solo tour and is making her stop in Cleveland right here at the Odeon! Get tickets at [nitastrauss.com](http://nitastrauss.com)

# JIA

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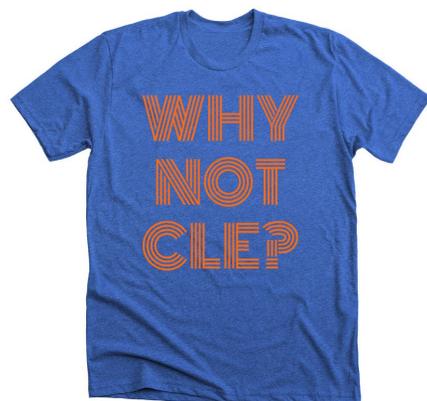
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There are a number of ways that you can help support Cleveland Comedy Festival right now, in 2021 and beyond!

**DONATE!** – The easiest route is to head to our website [clevelandcomedyfestival.com](http://clevelandcomedyfestival.com) and click on the Donate button right on our homepage! Any amount helps us operate as a nonprofit, as we work to get back onto our feet and provide live entertainment to you, and a home to comedic artists looking to hone their craft. We also have PayPal, Venmo, and Cashapp (@clecomedyfest)

**ADVERTISE/SPONSOR!** – We are always seeking advertisers and sponsorships! Now, with the growth and addition of Cleveland Comedy Network, we have more ways for your brand to be seen or heard about that doesn't just rely on live shows, or our once a year actual Festival. Ads on podcasts, original series, our website, and social media throughout the year.

**BUY MERCHANDISE!** – Cleveland Comedy Festival has its own online store through website [Bonfire](#), where you can purchase tshirts, hoodies, and more! Our "WHY NOT CLE?" Collections allow you to sport your pride in your hometown and teams!



# Rubber City Comedy Festival

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Originally planned for May 2020, but derailed by the COVID pandemic, Rubber City Comedy Festival is still slated to become a new extension of Cleveland Comedy Festival and serve as a sister-Fest. Submissions and lineups had already been set and we look forward to being able to welcome those same comedians to the Akron area for its first Comedy Festival.

Partnering with Funny Stop Comedy Club and Akron area venues, our hope is to bring the same laughter and experiences to the Akron area that we currently have been doing for over a decade to Cleveland.

So keep an eye out and be sure to give a follow on Facebook and other social media as well, to help us support this new venture to launch officially in 2021!

Visit

[rubbercitycomedyfestival.com](http://rubbercitycomedyfestival.com)



# Thank you!

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Many thanks to all of the following people and organizations that have helped us stay afloat in this difficult year and have been great in our previous years as well, including our incredible staff that currently work as volunteers!

Kyle Haunhorst – Elton Lytle – Cait Hogan – Rodney Bengston – Dwayne Duke – Kristin Galewood – Dwayne Duke – Juanda Mayfield – Kelly Thewlis – Josh Volchko – Marv Conner – Matt Farkas – Bill Stone – John Wellington – Joe Hannum – Brian Wehman – JD Sidley – Logan Rishaw – Megan Schenk – Sam Klima – Hilarities – Pete Barakat – Funny Stop – Warehouse District Cleveland – Holly Braschwitz – DMST Boyz – Jenkins Insurance Agency – Annie Nickoloff – Jay Mendyka – AIW – Homa Bash – Kelly Dobeck – Kate Sidley – Launchpad Productions – All Saints Public House – Angel Isaac – Ohio Arts Council – Neighbor Up – Ray Roberts – Steve Guy – 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios – Superelectric Pinball Parlor – The Odeon – Chris Stark – Matt Mitchell – Alan Cox – Breanna Mona – Kierra Cotton – Ryan Kelly – Zach Niton – WKYC – Every Angle Photography – Fox8 – Anthony Lima – Ken Carman – 92.3TheFan – ESPN850 – Flat Iron Cafe – Cleveland.com – Cool Cleveland – Gheramy Demery – Golden Ox Studio – Life Widgets – BS Design – Incswell –

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# CLEVELAND COMEDY

## FESTIVAL

NOV 10 - 13, 2021 ODEON CONCERT CLUB



**Dolph Ziggler Matteo Lane**

**Jessica Keenan Mike Polk Jr**

**Bill Squire Mary Santora Sonal Aggarwal**

**Zach Russell Misha Han Eitan Levine Tania Timmons**

**Brian Kenny Rodescu Hopkins Amanda Averell**

**Gheramy Demery Dwayne Duke Matt White Jason Moliterno**

**Cait Hogan Logan Rishaw John Armstrong Brett Thomas**

**Joe Briggs Teddy Bruno Julia Mary Bill Stone Dave Flynt**

**Jenjen Bryan Sternik Miki Janosi Spyder Jones NUNFIST**

**Steve Mers David Horning Ten Cent Beer Life DMST Boyz**

**You Can't Laugh at That Ad Hominem Attack Show & more**



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