

## **SXSW Comedy Festival Announces Initial 2018 Lineup**

**Austin, Texas – February 27, 2018** – South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference and Festivals (March 9-18, 2018) has announced an initial list of SXSW Comedy Festival participants and shows. For over a decade, the festival has pulled guests from all corners of the entertainment industry — hosting hundreds of acclaimed comedians and entertainers. With an established history of featuring tomorrow's celebrated performers, the festival introduces film and media icons to the next wave of groundbreaking comedic talent. Along with a list of rising stars, this year's festival hosts performances from the industry's brightest comics and a catalogue of diverse programming, including showcases, podcast recordings, conversations, and more.

"We hope to bring together compelling voices in comedy and provide them a place to shine within SXSW's diverse media landscape. The unique gathering from all reaches of entertainment so often leads to surprising moments and lasting relationships." said Charlie Sotelo, Head of SXSW Comedy Festival. "It's exciting to watch our performers thrive in that environment and we can't wait to see what happens."

### **2018 SXSW Comedy Festival Participants**

**Adam Lustick • Adam Pally • Aparna Nancherla • Baron Vaughn • Beth Stelling • Betsy Sodaro • Bill Hader • Chris Garcia • Conner O'Malley • Dave Anthony • Dave Hill • David Gborie • Dick Cavett • Doug Benson • Gareth Reynolds • Godfrey • Horatio Sanz • Ian Abramson • Ian Karmel • Jake Weisman • James Adomian • James Davis • Jermaine Fowler • Jim Gaffigan • Jo Firestone • Joe Pera • Jon Gabrus • Lauren Lapkus • Leonard Maltin • Liza Treyger • Lynne Koplitz • Maeve Higgins • Martha Kelly • Matt Besser • Matt Ingebretson • Matteo Lane • Matthew Broussard • Monroe Martin • Nick Thune • Nick Offerman • Orlando Leyba • Pat Bishop • Rachel Bloom • Ramon Rivas • Robin Thede • Ron White • Roy Wood Jr. • Sam Morril • Scott Aukerman • Sean Patton • Stuart Goldsmith • Vanessa Gonzalez • Willie Barcena and more**

### **2018 SXSW Comedy Festival Special Programs Featuring**

**ASSSSCAT • Butterboy • Comedy Bang! Bang! • Comedy Central's Corporate Retreat • Doug Loves Movies • improv4humans • James Davis and Friends • Loud Village Live • Maltin on Movies • The Comedian's Comedian • The Dollop • Witch Taint and more!**

This year's festival opens on Friday, March 9th with WFMU's **Dave Hill** hosting, **Cavett on Comedy**, a conversation with broadcasting legend and pop icon, **Dick Cavett**. From his start as a writer on *Jack Paar's The Tonight Show*, Cavett kept close to comedy through his run on *The Dick Cavett Show* and throughout his distinguished career. He'll share stories from his nearly 60-years entwined with some of comedy greatest figures.

The lineup includes collaborations highlighting current works by relevant presenters and performers. **Comedy Central's Corporate Retreat** will celebrate the season-one finale of "**Corporate**," the network's dark, incisive take on cubicle life -- featuring creators, **Pat Bishop**, **Matt Ingebretson**, and **Jake Weisman**, along with co-stars **Adam Lustick**, **Aparna Nancherla**, and **Baron Vaughn**. The delightfully subdued **Joe Pera** will lend his best indoor voice to this year's list of live performances. He'll join **Jo Firestone** (*The Tonight Show*) and **Conner O'Malley** (*Late Night with Seth Meyers*) for a showcase performance and sneak peek of his new **Adult Swim**, live-action comedy, "**Joe Pera Talks With You**." Nancherla, Firestone and **Maeve Higgins** host Brooklyn's newest must-see show, **Butterboy**. Higgins and Nancherla, backed by **DJ Donwill**'s musical-stylings, will welcome **Roy Wood Jr.** and a lineup of hilarious friends to a special SXSW edition of **Butterboy**. And **Adam Pally** will host **Rachel Bloom** and the cast of **Most Likely to Murder** (a SXSW Film world premiere) for an evening of music and stories about growing up.

This year's roster also includes several festival favorites. **Upright Citizen Brigade** (UCB) cofounder, **Matt Besser**, returns with his hit podcast **improv4humans**. He'll also lead UCB's flagship show, **ASSCAT** (improv based on true tales from celebrity guests), riff on hit songs in the **Sing-A-Long Comedy Experiment**, and provide weed comedy for stoners and friends of stoners at **The 420 Show**. **The Laugh Button** returns with New York's **Gotham Comedy Club** to present a lineup of favorites from the iconic club's stage. **Dave Hill** and musician **Phil Costello**, as the faux black metal band **Witch Taint**, will read the viral email exchange that almost landed the band a real Norwegian record deal and close with a performance from **Witch Taint's** terrifying catalog. (Assuming you can handle it.)

Following a morning SXSW Conference discussion between Jake Tapper and the real Bernie Sanders, comic and expert impressionist, **James Adomian** (*Bernie vs. Trump*), will hold a **Bernie Sanders Town Hall** as the 2016 presidential hopeful. Later in the week he'll perform his **Edinburgh Fringe** show, "**Lacking in Character**," a uniquely detached critique of masculinity in our culture and the circus fire of today's American politics.

The schedule also features a slate of live podcast recordings. Scott Aukerman returns with **Comedy Bang! Bang!** featuring an all-star lineup of actors and improvisors, and **Doug Benson** will record his hit game-show podcast, **Doug Loves Movies**. Renowned film historian **Leonard Maltin** will lead several interviews with comedic guests, including **Bill Hader**, for **Maltin on Movies**, and **Dave Anthony** will surprise **Gareth Reynolds** with historical absurdities on their wildly successful podcast, **The Dollop**. **Robin Thede** will tape an episode of **The Randown** — the companion podcast to **BET's The Rundown with Robin Thede**. **Stuart Goldsmith's** podcast, **The Comedian's Comedian**, has grown into a giant on the UK comedy scene attracting a who's who of British comedy. Curious and insightful, he'll bring his distinct style stateside to interview fellow performers **James Davis**, **Ron White**, and others.

In partnership with the SXSW Music Festival, **AUDIBLE IMPACT** in support of **The Ally Coalition**, an organization dedicated to LGBTQ equality. **Nick Offerman** (*Hearts Beat Loud* at SXSW) will host a special night of music and comedy at ACL LIVE featuring **Jim Gaffigan** (*You Can Choose Your Family* at SXSW) and headliners from across the festival.

**truTV** has long supported SXSW Comedy by creating an inviting green room experience for festival comedians. This year, the network will expand its sponsorship to also bring its distinct, original touch Esther's Follies, the beloved Austin theater and SXSW Comedy headquarters, enhancing the festival-going experience with a comedic art installation.

Stay tuned for further announcements from SXSW Comedy, which will include information about additional performers, showcases, and events. Full details and lineups will soon be live at [sxsw.com/comedy/2018](http://sxsw.com/comedy/2018).

The SXSW Comedy Festival is open to all SXSW Badges, Music Festival and Film Festival Wristband holders.

### **SXSW Film Festival**

The Film Festival will feature SXSW Comedy performers in several premieres and special events. **Rachel Bloom** and **Adam Pally** produce and star in the comedy-mystery ***Most Likely to Murder***. Stories of fatherhood play out in both ***Hearts Beat Loud*** starring **Nick Offerman** and ***You Can Choose Your Family*** starring **Jim Gaffigan**. The documentary ***Ali & Cavett: The Tale of the Tapes***, explores the life and career of Muhammad Ali through his many interviews with **Dick Cavett**, and **Lauren Lapkus** stars in ***The Unicorn***. Festival favorite **Doug Benson** will join Austin's **Master Pancake Theater** in lampooning one of the lesser *Leprechaun* sequels in a live movie-mock-along.

### **SXSW Conference**

Comedy Central will bring a pair of Featured Sessions to SXSW. **Real Fake News Never Stops: Convo with *The Daily Show***, will feature correspondent **Roy Wood Jr.** and producers from ***The Daily Show*** discussing audience engagement through social media. And following a panel discussion. **Robin Thede** will join a conversation on diversity in film awards at the panel **#OscarsSoWhite: What's Next for Entertainment?**, and actress and improviser **Tatiana Maslany** will sit down for Featured Session, **A Conversation with Tatiana Maslany**.

SXSW dedicates itself to helping creative people achieve their goals. Founded in 1987 in Austin, Texas, SXSW is best known for its conference and festivals that celebrate the convergence of the interactive, film, and music industries. The event, an essential destination for global professionals, features sessions, showcases, screenings, exhibitions, and a variety of networking opportunities. SXSW proves that the most unexpected discoveries happen when diverse topics and people come together. SXSW 2018 will take place March 9-18, 2018.

SXSW 2018 is sponsored by Capital One, Mercedes-Benz, Bud Light, and The Austin Chronicle.

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