

The Portland Sketch Comedy Festival

Submission Criteria

What is the Portland Sketch Comedy Festival?

Dates: July 23-25, 2020

The Portland Sketchfest debuted in July 2017 at The Siren Theater in Portland's beautiful Chinatown, and it will be back for its fourth year in 2020! It is a 2-3 evening showcase of live sketch comedy troupes from all over the country and beyond. Each troupe who is accepted will be given a 30-50 minute time slot where they will be able to perform in front of a live audience!

Who is behind the festival?

The Portland Sketchfest is brought to you by Ted Douglass (founding member of sketch troupes The 3rd Floor and Nacho Gold and former director of Portland's Best of the Best Sketchfest which ran from 2003-2009) and Shelley McLendon (Owner/Artistic Director of The Siren Theater and Bad Reputation Productions, founding member of sketch comedy troupes The Aces, The Sisters of Mercy, Lone Wolves and Sweat, director of sketch troupe D&D, and co producer of stand up festival The Pacific Crest Comedy Fest).

How can my troupe be considered?

In order to be considered, troupes must:

1. Already be performing as a troupe in front of live audiences.
2. Complete the online application and submit all application materials no later than April 30, 2020.
3. Submit a 15-25 minute video of one of your live performances in front of an audience. The recording can begin at any point during your show, but it must be a consecutive 15-25 minutes: No editing, no montages, no splicing together bits. Please send only the 15-25 minutes you want us to view. The video must include the performers who will be performing in the festival!
4. Pay the non-refundable submission fee.

What are you looking for?

We want to fill this festival with the best sketch comics we can find who are also fun to work with! Therefore, preference will be given to troupes who:

1. Are exhibiting smart and fresh writing
2. Are well-rehearsed
3. Are professional
4. Follow directions
5. Are current with what is happening in comedy
6. Put on a good show and make us laugh out loud!

What if my troupe doesn't get accepted?

As we will be considering troupes from all over the country and beyond, and we only have a certain number of performance slots, your troupe may not be accepted this year. We love you.

Will you consider solo acts?

We will! However the show must fall under the category of “sketch comedy”. It must include predominantly written material and it must be considered comedy.

What about improv or stand up?

This festival is dedicated solely to sketch comedy, so we will decline any stand up comedians or improv troupes.

THE PORTLAND SKETCH FESTIVAL CODE OF ETHICS

Participants in the festival must also agree to abide by The Portland Sketchfest Code of Ethics below:

The Portland Sketch Comedy Festival is committed to providing an environment that is fun, positive, collaborative, safe, and free from discrimination and harassment. Therefore, anyone involved with The Siren Theater or The Portland Sketchfest (including but not limited to performers, directors, staff members and volunteers) agrees to treat all other participants with the utmost respect and to refrain from any form of hostility or unwanted behavior.

This includes any form of discrimination, bullying, or verbal, physical or sexual harassment that is directed toward an individual or individuals either in person, via social media, over email, over the telephone, via text message, etc. Anyone participating in this type of behavior will be immediately removed from participating in the festival. Please contact the directors of the festival with any questions or concerns. They can be reached here:

Ted Douglass **TedDouglassInc@gmail.com**

Shelley McLendon **info@sireentheater.com**

Thank you for your interest in the festival!