

# EDMONDS CENTER for the ARTS

2025 | 2026

*A Season of Discovery*

## 45<sup>th</sup> THE SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY COMPETITION SEMI-FINALISTS



**JORDAN POLICICCHIO**  
Toronto, ONT



**TAVARIS SMITH**  
Los Angeles, CA



**TYRIK WOODS**  
Atlanta, GA



**TOMMY MELLOR**  
Calgary, ALB



**CODY CHASTEEN**  
Portland, OR



**DAVID LOUIS**  
NYC, NY



**XANDER BELTRAN**  
Oakland, CA



**BRENT AYTON**  
Edmonton, ALB



**PAUL GOODWIN**  
Columbus, MS



**DEZ O'NEAL**  
Dallas, TX

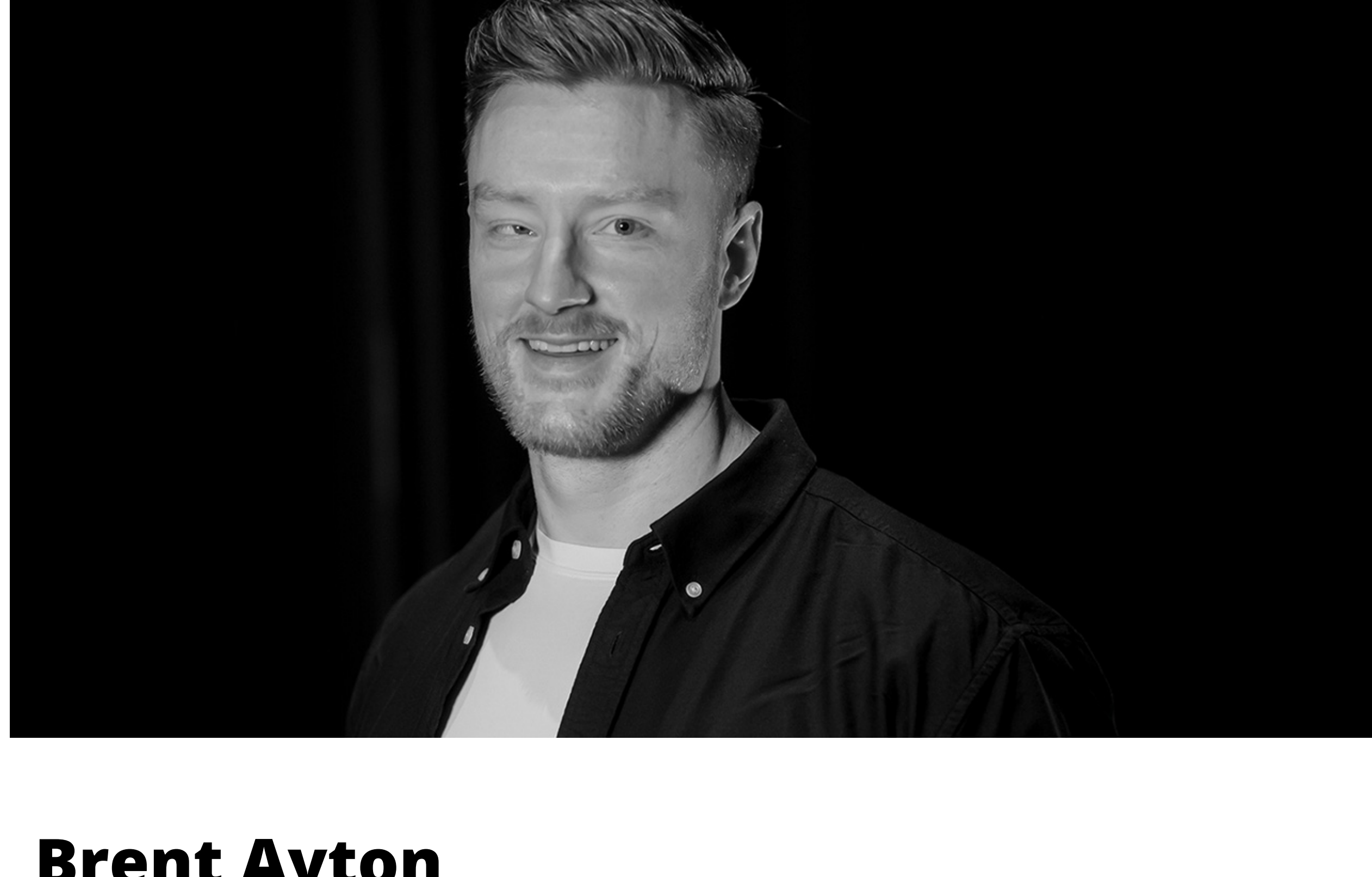
## 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY COMPETITION

First Round of the Semi-Finals

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

*Sponsored by  
Christine A. Foster, Nicholas &  
Kathryn Sweers, and Will Chen*

### THE CONTESTANTS



#### **Brent Ayton**

Brent Ayton started his comedy career in Edmonton and, within his first two years, won Edmonton's Funniest Person competition and the Edmonton Comedy Festival's Young Guns competition. Since then, Brent has been touring across the country, lofting his unique point of view and observations with audiences, hoping to hear laughing and clapping in response. He has also been featured at the Hubcap Comedy Festival in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Brent's material varies from clean and relatable to unoffensive observations on edgier topics and is well-suited for a wide range of audiences.



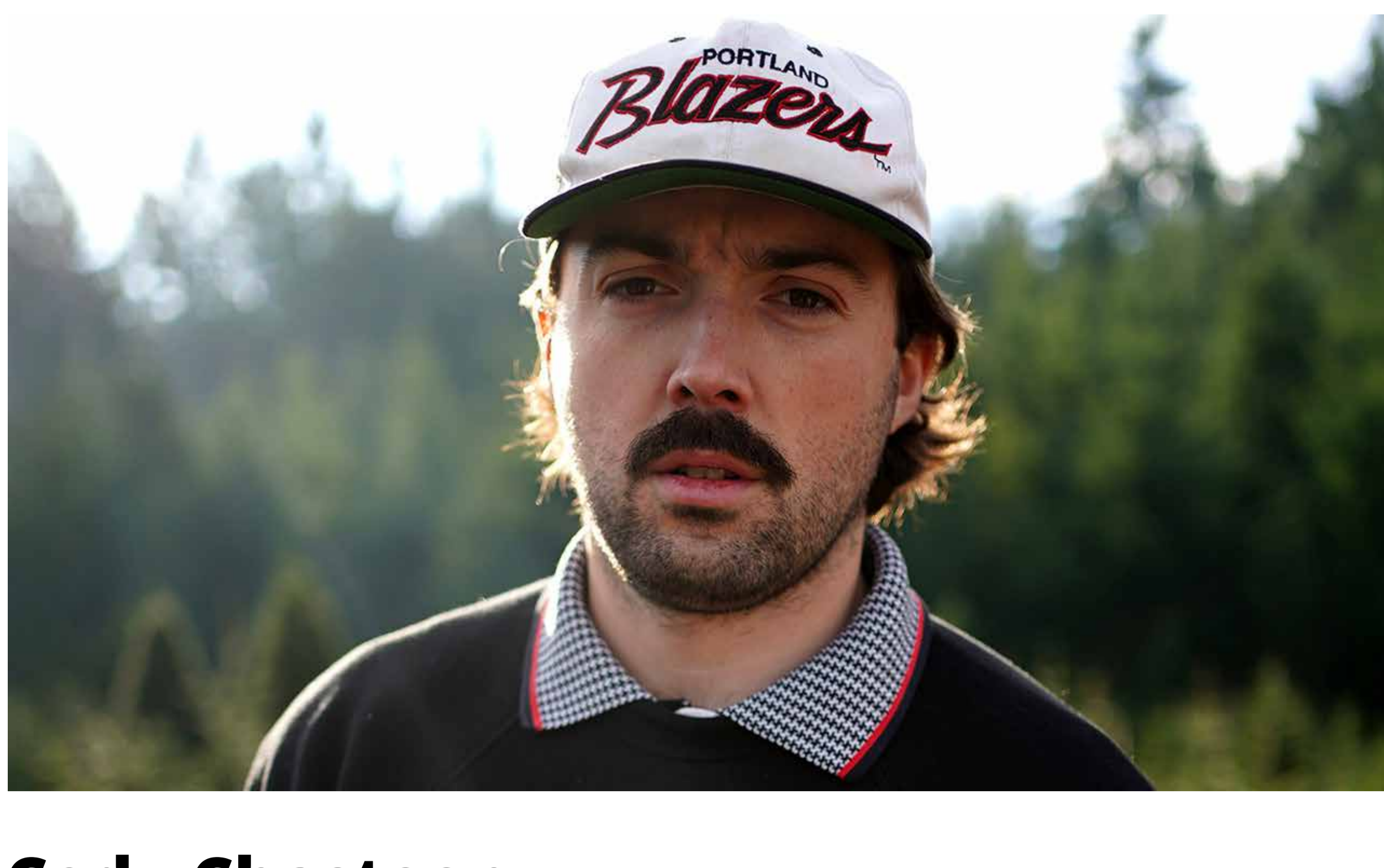
#### **Xander Beltran**

Originating from Southern California, Oakland comic Xander Beltran loves days at the beach, burritos, and great craft beer, but he can't afford any of them. Being half-White and half-Mexican (like Taco Bell) he offers a unique perspective on the world and an uncanny ability to get people to chill out and figure out a way to get along.

Making friends wherever he goes, Xander spends time in all sorts of scenes and hangouts and is able to portray these worlds vividly through insightful storytelling and observational comedy. His laid-back delivery, character creation, impressions and animated act-outs make for incredible comedy.

He currently operates out of San Francisco and performs all over the country. He's opened for Dean Delray, Eric Schwartz, Morgan Jay, Nick Hoff, Erica Rhodes, Jeff Dye, Deon Cole, Jamie Kennedy, Erik Griffin, Zoltan Kaszas and Kel Mitchell. Xander won the 2018 Cobb's Comedy Competition, was a Finalist at the 2019 House of Comedy's Funniest Person W/ A Day Job contest, a contestant in the prestigious SF International Comedy Competition and he's been a featured performer at Big Pine Comedy Festival, Savage Henry Festival and Oakland Comedy Festival.

Xander has been featured in Big Pine, Oakland, Savage Henry and Ventura Comedy Festivals. He's been seen on Hulu, PBS and his debut special with Tiny Pony has amassed 40k+ views in 2 months. He's had multiple clips go viral and is quickly becoming one of the West Coast's top rising comedians. Come for his beautiful hair and stay to see how long into his set he starts sweating.



### **Cody Chasteen**

Cody Chasteen is a comedian from Portland, Oregon, where he's known by a baker's dozen of people as the "Zion Williamson of Comedy"—insane potential, and bad knees.

Grandmothers adore him, others tolerate him, and a decent chunk of people laugh with him.



### **Paul Goodwin**

I was born in Columbus, Mississippi, and spent my first nineteen years of life there. I began to feel the desire to do comedy after moving to Washington state to tell my point of view of the duality of southern living.

I don't judge books by their covers, but I also don't read much.



### **David Louis**

David Louis is from upstate New York. He went to college in Colorado and worked in Chicago/Milwaukee for some years, but lives in Brooklyn now. He's a pretty good harmonica player. He has camping stuff, if needed, to rough it. He likes Kung fu movies. He doesn't really drink or smoke, likes mushrooms, loves mustard, corduroy, and pets.

David listens to a lot of Charley Crockett and Kublai Khan TX. As far as he can remember, the last cool thing he ate was a deep-fried oyster mushroom "chicken" sandwich.



### **Tommy Mellor**

Tommy Mellor grew up in a small Alberta town, moved to Calgary as a 19-year-old, and has been doing comedy ever since.



### **Dez O'Neal**

Dez O'Neal is a laid-back soul from Dallas, Texas, who just loves to make people laugh!



## Jordan Policicchio

Jordan Policicchio is a Toronto-based comedian who pairs sharp wit with easygoing charm. Known for his hilarious takes on everyday life, he turns personal stories into lively, unforgettable performances.



## Tavaris Smith

I am originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and currently based in Los Angeles, CA. I was a childhood actor, former French Horn, harp, and piano player, and I'm currently an absolute monster at cornhole.

The best movie of all time is The Faculty.



## Tyrik Woods

I'm originally from Atlanta, Georgia and moved to the west coast at 18.

I started doing comedy in California before branching out to Washington.

[More Info](#)



All stage work performed by employees represented by I.A.T.S.E., Local No. 15