

# PERFORMERS THEATRE WORKSHOP

## The 2026-27 COMEDY CREW Program

PTW's 2026–27 Comedy Crew is an exciting, expanded, industry-forward program designed for students who want to grow not only as comedians, but as bold, versatile performers prepared for today's evolving entertainment industry.

This enhanced program is collaborative, creatively empowering, and professionally relevant—giving students the opportunity to strengthen their skills in **Improv, Sketch Comedy, Stand-Up, Character Creation, Comedic Writing, and On-Camera Performance** while learning how comedy translates across both stage and screen

### **NEW FOR 2026–27: ORIGINAL COMEDY SERIES + ON-CAMERA TRAINING**

One of this year's most exciting additions is the creation and Spring filming of an **original comedy web series written specifically for PTW's Comedy Crew students** and built around their unique personalities, comedic strengths, and creative voices. Every Comedy Crew student who would like to participate will be featured.

As students develop, rehearse, and film the series, they will receive hands-on training in:

- On-camera comedy performance
- Comedic timing for film
- Scene work for the camera
- Character continuity
- Digital media performance skills

Once completed, the series will provide students with professional footage, portfolio-building content, and valuable real-world on-camera experience. We will also host a friends-and-family screening, and the project will be positioned for network pitching opportunities.

### **SPRING WEB SERIES FILMING DATES** (Tentative)

To provide students with a true production experience, **4 full filming days** have been tentatively reserved:

- Saturday, March 14, 2027 | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, March 21, 2027 | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 4, 2027 | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 18, 2027 | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **2026-27: 2 MAJOR LIVE COMEDY CREW PERFORMANCES**

**Sunday, January 31, 2027 & Sunday, May 23, 2027**

Comedy Crew students will showcase their growth in **2 live performances** highlighting their work in:

- Improv
- Sketch Comedy
- Stand-Up
- Character Performance

These performances are designed to help students build confidence, sharpen comedic timing, strengthen stage presence, and gain meaningful live audience experience

**ADMISSION** Students may join Comedy Crew through **Video Audition Submission** or **Recommendation from PTW Artistic Director Dean Kravitz**

## **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

### **ACTING CLASS** (45 Minutes Weekly)

**Teachers:** Stacey Lawrence, Taylor Gautier, Sherry Harrington, Matt Meixner

Students will strengthen:

- Objective & Obstacle
- Playing Tactics
- Character Relationships
- “Moment Before”
- Raising the Stakes
- Projection, Diction, Tone & Voicework

### **COMEDY & IMPROV WORKSHOP** (45 Minutes Weekly)

**Teachers:** Ashley Adler, Matt Meixner, Stacey Lawrence, Tia D. Hodge

Students will:

- Sharpen listening
- Strengthen spontaneity
- Practice “Yes, And”
- Improve scene work
- Build comedic reflexes
- Strengthen collaboration

### **CHARACTER CREATION & SKETCH COMEDY** (45 Minutes Weekly)

**Teachers:** Ashley Adler, Matt Meixner, Stacey Lawrence, Tia D. Hodge

Students will:

- Create original characters
- Write sketches
- Develop point of view
- Explore physicality, wardrobe & comedic identity
- Perform classic and contemporary sketch
- Incorporate music and rhythm into comedic storytelling

### **PRIVATE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COACHING** (30 Minutes Weekly or Bi-Weekly)

**Teachers:** Ashley Adler, Sherry Harrington, Stacey Lawrence, Tia D. Hodge

Students will:

- Build signature characters
- Practice impressions
- Develop stand-up routines
- Write dialogue
- Perform original scenes and monologues

**Note:** Students interested in stand-up will have opportunities to test their material in front of live audiences.

## **COMEDY CREW MASTERCLASSES** (90 Minutes)

Throughout the year, students will participate in advanced masterclasses designed to deepen their work in:

- Crowd work
- Audience engagement
- On-camera comedy
- Stand-up
- Sketch
- Performance polish

### **2026–27 Masterclass Dates:**

- Sunday, September 6, 2026
- Sunday, January 17, 2027
- Sunday, January 31, 2027
- Sunday, February 21, 2027
- Sunday, March 14, 2027
- Sunday, May 16, 2027
- Sunday, May 23, 2027

### **CORE FACULTY:**

PTW's Comedy Crew is led by an exceptional team of professional actors, comedians, writers, directors, and industry educators:

- Ashley Adler
- Tia D. Hodge
- Sherry Harrington
- Stacey Lawrence
- Matt Meixner

Together, this team offers students high-level training in voiceover, comedy, acting, improvisation, storytelling, character work, and filmed entertainment.

### **TUITION OPTIONS:**

Comedy Crew is a full program. You may elect to have private lessons every week, or every other week.

**\$8,670** – Weekly Private Sessions

**\$7,526** – Every-Other-Week Private Sessions

Discounted Rate for Students Also Enrolled in Professional Track:

**\$7,227** – Weekly Private Sessions

**\$6,083** – Every-Other-Week Private Session

### **EARLIEST BIRD SAVINGS:**

Register by May 20: **SAVE 15%**

Register by June 15: **SAVE 8%**

Additional Savings:

- \$150 Referral Discount for each student referral who enrolls
- No processing fee for zelle/check payments

- Payment plans available

## **WHY COMEDY CREW?**

Comedy Crew is more than a class—it's a professionally designed performance incubator where students build:

Confidence. Creativity. Camera Skills. Original Content. Live Performance Experience.

Whether your child dreams of sketch comedy, stand-up, social media content creation, television, or simply becoming a more fearless and versatile performer, PTW's Comedy Crew offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to train, create, perform, and grow.

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## **LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE**

Call 973-327-2250 or email [ptwstars@gmail.com](mailto:ptwstars@gmail.com) to schedule your audition today!

**PTW COMEDY CREW 2026–27** ~ Where Comedy Meets Creativity, Performance, and Professional Opportunity.

## **Tia Dionne Hodge**

PTW is thrilled to welcome back Tia Dionne Hodge—an extraordinary multi-hyphenate artist whose career as an actor, writer, director, producer, and educator gives students rare access to real-world professional insight across every level of storytelling and performance.

Tia has built an impressive career spanning film, television, theater, and arts education. Her recent on-screen credits include supporting lead Linda in Quinn Shephard's *Not Okay*, Wendy Coleman in Shaquille O'Neal's executive-produced redemption drama *Steps*, guest-starring roles on *FBI: Most Wanted*, the final season of *The Blacklist*, and *Power Book II: Ghost* (Season 4), as well as roles in director Uwe Boll's *First Shift* and Titus Kaphar's *Exhibiting Forgiveness*.

Beyond acting, Tia is a highly accomplished writer, director, and producer. She directed *Walk by the Moon* for Speranza Theatre's touring company and *Blood of the Lamb* for Centenary Stage Company's Women's Playwrights Series. She also produced and line produced *Keepers of the Flame*, and co-wrote, directed, and produced *Big Bully*—created and produced at PTW—which won Best Children's Short Film at the Mediterranean Film Festival Cannes.

Tia's extensive creative leadership also includes serving as Story Instructor at the Montclair Film Festival, and previously as PTW's own Advanced Acting, Improv, Filmmaking Instructor, and Playwright-in-Residence—making her return especially exciting for the PTW community.

Tia holds both her B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from Case Western Reserve University and is the recipient of the Adrienne Kennedy Society's Louis Kent-Hope Award for Excellence in Creative Writing & Poetry. She is also a National Poetry Slam Team Champion, published playwright, essayist, and author whose work appears in *New Monologues for Women by Women*, *Black Comedy: 9 Plays*, and her acclaimed 40-monologue collection for young actors, *PLAY. SPEAK*.

At PTW, Tia brings an inspiring combination of professional excellence, literary depth, industry experience, and heartfelt mentorship. Whether students are working in acting, improv, filmmaking, comedy, or original content creation, Tia empowers students to become stronger performers and thoughtful, creative, and confident storytellers. Her warmth, intelligence, and extraordinary breadth of experience make her an invaluable part of PTW's mission to develop the next generation of artists.

## **Ashley Adler**

PTW is thrilled to welcome Ashley Adler—an award-winning voice actor, actress, singer, and comedy performer whose extraordinary career spans voiceover, animation, commercials, videogames, musical theater, and professional comedy.

Ashley is currently the narrator of Disney *Dreamlight Valley* and the voice of Walt Disney World commercials, with voiceover credits in over 80 national campaigns for major brands including Crest, Walgreens, Oreo, Walmart, AT&T, Old Navy, Honda, McDonald's, and more. She is also one of the industry's top voice-match artists, having matched over 25 actresses in major projects such as *Captain Marvel*, *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, and *Pete's Dragon*. Most notably, she served as the voice double of Disgust in Pixar's *Inside Out*. Her additional credits include *Solar Opposites* (Hulu), *Marvel's What If...?*, *Final Fantasy VII: Rebirth*, *We Bare Bears*, *Atlas Fallen*, and Netflix's *Glitter and Brick*.

In addition to her exceptional voiceover and animation career, Ashley brings an exciting and highly relevant comedy background to PTW. She has trained extensively with The Groundlings, Second City, iO West, and Acme Comedy Theatre—three of the entertainment industry's most respected institutions for improv, sketch comedy, and comedic performance. This elite training, combined with her professional experience, makes Ashley uniquely qualified to help students develop comedic timing, improvisation, character creation, stand-out personality, and on-camera confidence.

At PTW, Ashley will give students real-world insight into the rapidly growing worlds of animation, commercial voiceover, comedic storytelling, and digital content creation. Whether students are exploring character voices, strengthening improvisation skills, building confidence, or learning how comedy translates from stage to screen, Ashley offers a dynamic, supportive, and industry-informed approach.

Ashley's rare combination of professional success, elite comedy training, and engaging teaching style makes her an exciting addition to PTW's faculty—and an incredible resource for students looking to grow creatively, technically, and professionally in some of today's most exciting areas of the entertainment industry.