

The Second City
TRAINING CENTER

**CONSERVATORY
GRADUATION SHOW**

NICE SHIRT

**AUGUST 31
SEPTEMBER 8
SEPTEMBER 14
SEPTEMBER 21
ETC THEATER**

**Directed By: Jeff Bouthiette
Musical Director: Darwin Noguera
Stage Manager: Vicky Diaz-Escobar**

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Second City Conservatory is an advanced six-level program dedicated to the art of utilizing improvisation as a tool to create a Second City-style revue, the cornerstone of The Second City Training Center.

Students in the Conservatory program build upon the fundamentals of improv, advance their scenic and character skills, explore forms and styles and learn how to turn improvised scenes into written material for a satiric comedy revue.

PERFORMED BY:



Alyssa Dawson



Todd Douglas (he/him)

Todd Douglas is a Chicago-based comedian, writer, and actor originally from Indiana. A recent MFA graduate in Screenwriting from DePaul University, he has taken the stage at top venues including The Laugh Factory, Zanies, and The Comedy Bar. Todd is also currently writing and producing his own original web series.



Jack Finnegan (he/him)

Jack Finnegan is a up and coming standup comedian originally out of Greensboro, North Carolina. Jack has been doing standup since he was in high school and moved to Chicago at 19 to pursue his comedy dreams. Jack enjoys writing, baseball, movies and tv, and music. You can find Jack performing throughout the Chicago standup scene as well as waiting for public transit.

PERFORMED BY:



Gerard Fogarty

Gerard Fogarty is from Wilmington, Delaware, and graduated from Columbia College Chicago with degrees in Comedy Writing and Performance and Broadcast Journalism. Before joining The Second City conservatory, he appeared in productions including the 19th Annual Punxsutawney Beauty Pageant as the piano-playing Dee Phlat and Miracle at Century High as the curmudgeonly ghost of Charles Dickens. Follow Gerard on Instagram @gerardwfogarty for galavanting, catastrophizing, and cartoons!



Joshua Hogan (he/him)

Joshua Hogan is a Chicago based performer and Indiana University Alum. Josh does work across all platforms including on stage with Jeff nominated comedy "Die Hard 4 Your Luv"(Factory Theater), "Monger"(Chicago Dramatists), voice acting with Audie awarded SAG production "The Ernie Pyle Experiment", sketch shows "The Breakfast Klerb"(Second City Writing 6 Show), "New Kids On The Blockbuster"(Second City Sketch Ensembles), film work including too many indie horror/cult movies, and commercial work on "The Bear", "Harry Potter Store Chicago", and "Six Flags Great America". Outside of performing Josh loves scuba diving, rock climbing, and painting. Joshua is represented by BNB Chicago and a proud member of AEA and PBK.@hoshjogan.



Ben House

Ben House is a Comedian from Chicago, Illinois! He performs sketch, standup, and improv in various theaters around the city such as the iO, Annoyance Theater, and Second City. Ben wants to dedicate a special thanks to his partner Emma, family, coworkers, friends, magic the gathering commander pod, and cats for believing in him. He is very excited to work with a cast that values the power of stupid.

PERFORMED BY:



Frank Rizzo (he/him)

Frank Rizzo is a Chicago-based actor and improviser of Italian-Irish descent with a background in marketing and computer science. He has trained at The Second City and Acting Studio Chicago. Inspired by Cassavetes, Kubrick, Bergman, Seinfeld, and mockumentary comedy, Frank brings grounded characters, sharp instincts, and the belief that improv is one giant inside joke among friends, whether the audience realizes they've been included or not. He appears in the short mockumentary *Waiter Boys* (2025) alongside former classmates from earlier in his improv training. Follow him on Instagram at @heyfrank.



Cole Steeves (he/him)

Cole Steeves is an actor with experience across theater, film, commercial and interactive work. He earned his BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. A multi-platform performer, Steeves has appeared on stage and on screen, with credits including Candle House Collective's interactive thriller *Claws* and State Farm's *Rookie Move* campaign. FUN FACT! Cole was born in Salem, Massachusetts on July 13th, and was raised on Gallows Hill!



Prim Stonebraker (she/her)

Prim Stonebraker is a comedian and writer from Kansas City, Missouri. She performs regularly throughout Chicago and is a member of The Wretched and iO Theater's first-ever Sketch House Team. She studied Digital Storytelling at Mizzou and is currently looking for a job. See photos of her English Bulldog on Instagram @primstonebraker.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Director - Jeff Bouthiette

JEFF BOUTHETTE is a Chicago-based director and music director of theater and comedy. They recently served as director at the Second City New York where they directed *Wreck the Halls* and *The Second City Swipes Right* (devised comedic shows), *Sketch and the City* (scripted comedy), and *Salt Pepper Ketchup, Everything Festive All at Once*, and *Reindeer Games* (improvisational comedy). Jeff serves as an adjunct professor at the DePaul Theatre School and directed *Everything You're About to See is Normal and Okay* (devised) and *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*. For a decade, Jeff served as the Head of the Music Program at the Second City Training Center in Chicago, where they directed over a hundred student productions. Jeff is a sought-after director of sketch comedy and new musicals, and in Chicago directed the premieres of *Altered Boy* (Pride Films and Plays), *Choice! The Musical* (MCL Chicago), and *Miami Nice!* (Gorilla Tango). Jeff got their start as Founding Co-Artistic Director of Bare Boned Theatre, producing the long-running LGBTQ+ soap opera *The Ville*. They directed five episodes of the soap opera, as well as serving on the writing staff and overseeing the artistic product. They also directed Bare Boned Theatre's adaptation of Euripides' *Hecuba*, *The Hecubae*.



Music Director - Darwin Noguera (he/him)

Hailing from Managua, Nicaragua, pianist and composer Darwin Noguera is an eclectic artist who continues to enthrall and excite listeners with rich compositions and his improvisational prowess. He is currently a musical director at The Second City of Chicago, as well as a teaching artist with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. In 2017, the artist made his Carnegie Hall debut, along with contemporary icon Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Bigband, and garnering a Grammy Award Nomination for their acclaimed recording, "*West Side Story: Reimagined*" live at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Darwin is also a furious bandleader, who fuses his native Nicaraguan folk music, Afro Cuban Jazz and hip hop. The artist is swiftly becoming an emerging voice in the Latin Jazz scene, with commissioned works, performances and masterclasses worldwide.



Vicky Diax-Escobar (any/all)

Vicky is a Chicago-based stage manager who has worked at The Second City as a studio stage manager since 2018. Here and at other theatres around town, Vicky works on a mix of variety shows, sketch, improv, and plays. Before Chicago Vicky studied directing and stage managing at TCU in Fort Worth Texas. (Go Frogs!). Vicky is excited to work on another Grad Review 3 show this term with this talented group of actors!