



“You heard all the stories that comics would go to Montreal and get plugged into show business, and that’s what New Faces was. And it changed my life.”
– Pete Holmes (HBO’s *Crashing*)

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Just For Laughs is the world’s leading live comedy festival promotions company. Our Festival, Television and Touring properties feature the biggest stars in comedy, whilst also having an unparalleled ability to launch and champion new comedic talent.

Once a year the biggest heavyweights in comedy descend on Montreal for the world’s biggest and most influential comedy festival – Just For Laughs MONTRÉAL. Within the festival, there is one series of events in particular that the comedy elite and biggest talent scouts from every major network and platform attend: the *New Faces of Comedy* showcases.

NEW FACES

The *New Faces of Comedy* showcases have catapulted the careers of so many of today’s most celebrated comedians. For over twenty years, it has been an unmissable part of our Montreal Festival, giving the most promising undiscovered talent an exclusive platform to launch their careers. This has resulted in the *New Faces of Comedy* series being the most impactful comedy showcase in the world.

The list of previous performers reads as a who’s who of the comedy world: **Kevin Hart, Amy Schumer, Ali Wong, John Mulaney, Michelle Wolf, Kumail Nanjani, Chelsea Peretti, Nikki Glaser, Gabriel Iglesias, Hannibal Buress, Colin Jost, Hasan Minhaj** and many, many more.

Following its highly successful launch in 2022, ***New Faces International*** will be returning in 2023 as part of the incredibly impactful *New Faces of Comedy* series, which comprises of: ***New Faces 1&2, New Faces Unrepped, New Faces Creators, New Faces Characters and New Faces Canada.***

THE OPPORTUNITY

The *New Faces of Comedy* series features as a central part of ComedyPRO, our industry focused conference at the heart of our Montreal festival. ComedyPRO is a must-attend event for North American and International industry making the ***New Faces International*** showcase the chance to be seen by all the key figures in the global industry. This includes Artist Representation and Management, Network Executives and Producers from TV, OTT and film, Promoters and Publicists. Outside of the performance opportunity itself, it is an unrivalled opportunity to setup meetings and network with the people who can help launch careers in North America and around the world.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking to find the most exciting new stand-up talent from around the world (Comics based outside of Canada and the United States) and invite a select group to come and showcase their talent at our Montreal Festival this summer. We are specifically interested in artists who are looking to break (or make further in-roads), into the North American market.

SUBMISSIONS PROCESS

Utilizing a diverse team of talent scouts, JFL will accept and encourage video submissions from artists all over the globe who wish to be considered for the showcases. Every video submission will be viewed and considered by a trusted member of our team. Where the number of submissions warrants and international travel restriction permits, scouts from JFL will look to hold in-person audition showcases in a select number of international locations in the first half of 2023. Diversity and inclusion has been a mainstay for the *New Faces of Comedy* franchise for decades and will continue to be so.

WHAT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS CAN EXPECT

Once the submissions process has closed, a group of 10 comedians will be selected as our International New Faces for 2023. This chosen group will then be invited to our Montreal festival in July 2023, to perform on the *New Faces of Comedy* Showcases.

In 2022, our 10 International New Faces included talent from all over the world including Algeria, Australia, Malaysia, India, Ireland and the United Kingdom who all flew in to join us in Montreal.

Each artist selected will receive a travel allowance to help with the cost of their flights, and receive hotel accommodation for their time in Montreal. The ***New Faces of Comedy International*** showcase will be formed of two shows, one taking place in a larger venue and an encore show at a smaller 100-150 seat venue. Each comedian will perform a set of 6 minutes of material on each show, and the showcase will be hosted by a friend-of-the-festival comedian. To the brand's benefit, *New Faces* is **not** a competition – it is a Launchpad – so each of the 10 comics that are announced as an “International New Face” will be invited to Montreal to appear in the final version of the showcase, and everyone gets equal stage time. It is of the utmost importance to us that the comics chosen to take part in ***New Faces International*** feel confident ahead of the showcases, and we understand that for some entrants it may be their first time performing in North America. As such, the Just For Laughs team will provide support for the chosen New Faces before and during their time in Montreal, ensuring they have a network around them and know they are not on their own at the festival. This will include an orientation ahead of the performance where the artists will be shown the performance space, can meet the other New Faces, ask any questions of the JFL team, and seek access to any resources that will help them have a brilliant festival experience.

Please Note: Although the number of International industry at ComedyPRO is growing, due to the majority of the attendees coming from North America we require the comedians to perform their material for ***New Faces International*** showcases in English. We hope as the franchise grows to be able to include more second language programming.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Who we are looking for, and how to submit to be considered for NEW FACES: INTERNATIONAL 2023.

Who should apply for New Faces: International?

- **What do we mean by International?** – Although we hold festivals and make TV all over the world, in this case International means comedians from outside of Canada and the United States. We have separate New Faces showcases specifically aimed at Canadian and American talent, so please do check our website for details on how to submit if you fall into one of those categories. If you are still not sure which New Faces showcase will fit you best, just ask and we can direct you to the most suitable showcase based on your situation.
- **What do we mean by “New”?** – The aim of the showcase is to introduce the entertainment industry who attend our Montreal festival each summer, to the best talent from around the world who they might not have previously had chance to see perform. This does not mean that we are exclusively looking for brand new artists, rather we are looking for comedians who feel they have yet to make an impact in Canada and/or the United States and really want to develop their careers there.
- **What if you’ve performed in the US/Canada previously, can you still apply?** Absolutely, however we are looking for artists who don’t currently have management/representation in North America. Just let us know any previous experience on the application form and we will make sure the showcase is a good fit.
- **You are a totally new comic or don’t yet have any representation or management in your home country, should you still apply?** Don’t worry if you don’t have representation in your home country, we will watch the tape of and consider every person who applies. We only stress that this is a big industry showcase in a big venue, so we ask artists wishing to submit to make sure they feel ready to come to Montreal and take this next big step in their careers. This opportunity is only suitable for comedians who regularly perform in English and who have the intention to develop their act further in this language. ***We strongly recommend only applying if you have at least 3-4 years of stand-up performance experience.***
- **If you are successful and chosen as a New Face, are you paid to perform?** There is no fee attached to being a New Face, but you will receive a travel buyout as well as hotel accommodation for your time in Montreal. You will also receive an Artist pass which will allow you to attend some great shows at the festival, give you access to all the events at our ComedyPRO industry conference including parties, cocktails and networking opportunities. Alongside this, artists will receive a copy of professionally filmed and packaged footage of their performance to use for future promotion.

Still unsure if New Faces: International is the right fit for you? Please direct any questions to NewFacesInternational@hahaha.com

How to make a Submission for New Faces International 2023

- **Please complete the submission form for yourself (your client) which can be found [here](#).**
- Please note that the preferred format for the submission clip is an unlisted YouTube video. Vimeo or Google Drive also works.
- Please ensure that the link is NOT password protected. We will not download any material such as via WeTransfer.
- Please ensure that the audio and video is of adequate quality.
- There are no content restrictions – send us a set that is indicative of your best work.
- Please note that due to the volume of submissions we receive, you will only be contacted should we like to further enquire about your act.
- **Submissions will close April 30th**, successful applicants will be contacted after this date.
- News and updates on the submissions process will be posted here: <https://comedypro.hahaha.com/en/new-faces-submissions>
- Thank you for your time and effort, we look forward to receiving your submission!

SHOWCASE AUDITIONS

As part of the submissions process we may look to hold some limited in-person showcases in a handful of locations around the world. More information on these showcases will be provided at a future date. Please note that if you are located in a region where we are unable to hold a showcase, this does not rule you out of being considered for New Faces International – we expect to do the majority of the scouting process via the video submissions.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submissions open – January 16th 2023

Submissions close – April 30th 2023

Chosen comedians notified – May/June 2023

Show dates – Week of July 24-30, 2023 (exact performance date(s) TBD)

