

Unscripted Reality Series

CUT-THROAT COMEDY WARS

Emerging comedians are taken out of their comfort zones and tossed curve balls while battling it out through challenges and dares to see who can survive the **Cut Throat** Comedy Wars!

Season One
New York

Season Two
Miami

Season Three
Atlanta

Venues
TBA



This series, put together by comedian kingmakers and behind-the-scenes power players, is sure to pull us out of our isolation, political strife, and economic stress through anticipation and most of all laughter!





FORMAT:

One-hour comedy competition, 20 episodes

COMPS:

AMERICA'S GOT TALENT meets LAST COMIC
STANDING

VENUE:

New city, new venue every season

PRIZE:

The winning comedian will win a monetary
prize, the opportunity to sign with a
Hollywood agent/manager, and open for a
headliner.



THE SHOW

Twenty **emerging** passionate, diverse comedians are highlighted to audition. They are quickly reduced to eight by a process of elimination that includes placing the competing comedians in situations that take them out of their individual comfort zones, tossing in curve balls, interruptions, dares, and mini-challenges. The final eight duke it out to the end until there are only two left for the **Cut Throat Wars** Season Finale.

The competing comedians are chosen by a panel of industry professionals:

- comedy veteran [Danny Mora](#)
- comedy writer [Robert Gosnell](#)
- a well-known comedian (TBD)
- [Micheal "Eppy" Epstein](#) ([My Father's Place](#))
- industry reps [Susan Ferris](#) and [Justin Ross](#) ([Bohemia Group](#))

The show follows the comedians as they work their comedy craft, learn timing, read the audience, compete with other comedians, schmooze the club owner, and try to balance regular day jobs, personal relationships, and family with their late-night struggle of performing comedy, until one is chosen the winner.

The winner will be offered a management contract with [Bohemia Group](#), a monetary prize, and an opening slot for a headliner.

SHOW ELEMENTS

LOCAL HOSTS/COMEDIANS:

A series, celebrity comedy host (TBD like Ray Ramano) will introduce the comedians, tell jokes, work the audience, and conduct the interviews, creating a fun and fast-paced show. One local host comedian from each club/town will join in on the fun, alongside the series host.

STAND UP

GUEST COMEDIANS:

A different well-known guest comedian will serve as a coach and perform their own comedy material in the final episodes. Possibilities include Bronson Pinchot, Dave Attell, and others. **a list of guest comedians will be forthcoming.*

Varying guest comedians will mix things up in the earlier mini-challenge and dare episodes.



JUDGES



Michael "Eppy" Epstein

Legendary Promoter and Kingmaker

“Eppy” Epstein is the Founder of My Father’s Place, the legendary rock club on Long Island that launched the careers of Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Aerosmith, Billy Joel, Eddie Murphy, and Billy Crystal to name just a few.

“Eppy” Epstein's My Father's Place is one of the most historic rock and roll venues in the country. The club originally opened on Memorial Day 1971 with a concert by Richie Havens, and the club would go on to influence music for decades to come. Between 1971 and 1987, My Father’s Place presented a range of talent in rock, jazz, fusion, country, punk, soul, reggae, folk, and comedy. The club was known as a place for aspiring artists such as Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Aerosmith, Billy Joel, Charlie Daniels, Linda Ronstadt, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and Tom Petty. Plus young comedians like Billy Crystal, Eddie Murphy, and Andy Kaufman who also got their start there.

COMEDY

JUDGES



Danny Mora

Hollywood Actor and
Comedian

Danny Mora began his forty-year-plus career as a stand-up comic in Hollywood and performed extensively both locally and on tour. Hired by Mitzi Shore at the world-famous Comedy Store to run the Monday Night Open Mike showcase for new talent, Danny introduced the likes of Robin Williams, George Lopez, Yaakov Smirnoff and Bla Sadia Azmat ke Clark to the stage. As an actor, Danny has a long list of TV and film roles, including the comedy **Chico and the Man** and dramas **Hill Street Blues** and **Madam Secretary**, among many others. His film credits include **McFarland, U.S.A** and **Mr. Mom**.

As a writer, Danny worked on staff for Garry Marshal's hit comedy "**Laverne and Shirley**." He utilized his experience on the show to create his Sitcom **Bootcamp** for aspiring sitcom writers. Danny's current passion is in coaching and mentoring actors, comics, and writers on an individual basis, through his Peergroup Workshop at his company Peer Group Productions.

COMEDY

JUDGES



Robert Gosnell

Hollywood Comedy Writer and author of
THE BLUE COLLAR SCREENWRITER

A professional screenwriter for over thirty years, Robert Gosnell has produced credits in feature films, network television, syndicated television, basic and pay cable, and is a member of the Writers Guild of America, West, and the Writers Guild of Canada.

Robert began his career writing situation comedy on the staff of the ABC series **Baby Makes Five** and freelanced episodes for **Too Close for Comfort** and the TBS comedies **Safe at Home** and **Rocky Road**. In cable, he scripted the Showtime original movie **Escape from Wildcat Canyon**, the serialized M.O.W **Just Perfect**, and other projects for the Disney Channel. His feature credits include the Chuck Norris/Louis Gossett Jr. film **Firewalker** and the independent features **Tiger Street**, **Dragon and the Hawk**, **Siren**, and **Juncture**.

Robert currently conducts screenwriting classes and workshops in the Denver area. Information on classes and Robert's book "The Blue Collar Screenwriter and the Elements of Screenplay" can be found on his [website](#).

COMEDY

JUDGES



Susan Ferris

CEO, Bohemia Group

Susan Ferris is the CEO of international talent management company Bohemia Group as well as the company's development and production arm, Bohemia Group Originals (BGO).

A Boston native with a degree in theater and film from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Ms. Ferris began her entertainment career in music, honing her skills in sales at A&M Records working with such artists as Soundgarden, Janet Jackson, and The Neville Brothers. Susan was assistant manager to legendary rock group Slayer before starting Bohemia Group in 1992.

What began with 3 actors and 2 bands out of a one-room office has now expanded into nearly two dozen managers and hundreds of talent (writers, actors, directors, and more) with offices stretching from Bohemia's Los Angeles headquarters and across the United States to such locales as London, South Korea, Japan, and New Zealand.

Susan's passion is for great people and great stories. She is a lobbyist for performer rights and has sat as chairperson and board member of a number of organizations. On Sundays, you can usually find Susan curled up with a stack of books, a great cigar, and her lovable cats. Susan resides in Los Angeles.

COMEDY

JUDGES



JUSTIN ROSS

Executive Vice President of
Development and Production
Bohemia Group

Justin Ross is the EVP of Development and Production at Bohemia Group Originals where he championed the company's first feature, A DARK PLACE (distributed by Gravitas Ventures); named "Best Thriller" at the Manhattan Film Festival. Further credits include Associate Producer on the Spike Lee Executive Produced SON OF THE SOUTH and co-Executive Producer on the award winning, theatrically released film THE LAST DEAL (2023). His screenplay for RETURN TO FEAR was made into a feature film in 2023 by director Michael Sarna. Current projects include a feature film based on MR. PARADISE by the incomparable Elmore Leonard and the limited series UNTRAINED which is slated to begin production in the spring of 2024.

COMEDY

JUDGES



Comedian

TBA

COMEDY

HOSTS

- The series will have one host for the duration of the series that will guide the episodes, the mini-challenges, comedians, guests, interviews, and judges.
- There will be one season-long host from each nightclub. This will be a new host each season/city. This host will announce the competing comedians and play off the main host.



TBD



TBD



EPISODE CONTENT

The show will follow the comedians as they compete in a local comedy venue. A panel of judges chooses the initial comedians.

Comedians will face obstacles like hecklers, dares, interruptions to their set, and mini-challenges. They will be taken out of their comfort zones and asked to perform other types of comedy, such as skits with props, impressions, and physical comedy. They will be asked to steal jokes, confront club owners, and perform in front of prisons, classrooms, military bases, and more.

One comedian is slated to be ousted by viewers in an online voting format in conjunction with the judges until the final Cut Throat Championship.

The show will expose the comedians' lives, dreams, failures, sacrifices, struggles, how the venue plays a role, and how they interact with other comedians, as well as the audience.

Possible Episode Content:

- Stealing jokes
- Fights outside the clubs
- Personal infighting
- Drama from the club owners and managers
- Hecklers (both staged and real)
- Struggling through unfunny sets
- spur of the moment on the streets comedy routines
- Trying out new jokes
- Recovering from forgotten punchlines
- Badmouthing other comedians
- Drunk club patrons
- Personal lives of the comedians, just to name a few!



SERIES OVERVIEW

HOW THE EPISODES/SEASONS WORK

EPISODE 1:

Intro to the season: sets up the stakes, and foreshadows the comedy challenges, personalities, and the inner workings of the comedy circuit.

EPISODES 2-5

Pushes the comedians out of their comfort zone by exposing them to comedy experiences outside their usual set, producing laugh-out-loud moments as they are forced to acquire new comedy skills.

EPISODES 6-9:

Tasked with curve balls and given dares meant to disrupt their focus and provoke quick thinking on their feet.

EPISODES 10-13:

Through a series of mini-challenges tension and competitiveness are heightened as comedians are whittled down to our finalists.

EPISODES 14-19:

Through coaching with comedy experts and famous comedians, a closer glimpse is given into the competing comedian's career struggles and life stories; and a deeper dive into their skills, goals, and dreams.

EPISODE 20:

Our grand finale **Cut Throat Wars** championship episode -- One winner is chosen!



EPISODES

PILOT KICK-OFF EPISODE

(This is Comedy Wars)

EPISODE 1:

Laughter is Good for the Soul – By the end of the pilot episode, 20 comedians will be chosen to duke it out to the end of the season. Only one will survive the Comedy Circuit. Episode 1 gives us the season at a glance and hypes up the viewers for what's to come, teasing with snippets of footage -- comedians competing, audience and judges reactions, backstory, and more!

The series host introduces the comedy venue, the local host, and the judges. Short bio videos on the judges and local host. The lay of the land, so to speak.

A video montage of stand-up comedian interviews as they are lined up to audition for the contest with comments by the judges and short clips of the wishful comedians' auditions (of those who didn't make it).

All culminating in a video montage of the 20 comedians chosen from their auditions (having been pre-selected by producers of course).

EPISODES

“OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE” AUDITIONS

Episodes (2-5) **same format for all 4 episodes*

EPISODE 2: Impressions (20 Comedians Compete) – The hosts interview the comedy club owner alongside a well-known Impressionist who will interact with the hosts throughout the episode.

Comedians perform an impressions comedy routine. (They must use voice and body impressions to imitate others.) Given these comedians will be Stand Up Comedians, some will be out of their comfort zone; some may have never performed impressions before, while some may have it nailed -- this will balance out over the next three episodes through varying “comfort zone challenges”.

A short bio video on some of the comedians before they perform.

Each comedian is scored by the judges as well as an online viewer text in system on a combination of factors (charisma, good nature, ability, and the like). The judges reveal the scores, and one unlucky comedian stands to be voted off unless they can pull the score up by the end of the “Out of Your Comfort Zone” episodes. At the end of Episode 5, 4 comedians will be voted off after a tally of their collective scores.

EPISODE 3: Physical Comedy (same 20 Comedians Compete) – The hosts show a short piece on how a comedian gets a spot at a local club to perform. A well-known Physical Comedy Comedian will weigh in his/her/their thoughts. Comedians perform a physical comedy routine. (They must use their body and gestures.) Again some will ace this segment, some will not. A short bio video on a few of the comedians before they perform.

EPISODE 4: Props Comedy (same) – The hosts will share the trials and tribulations of making it in the comedy circuit. A Props Comedian will share the secret of their own personal success. Comedians perform a props comedy routine. (They must use props.) A short bio video on some of the comedians before they perform.

EPISODE 5: Instant Jokes (same) – The hosts will educate viewers on what it means to pull off an instant joke. A well-known comedian will set the stage for what’s to come for our comedians. Comedians perform an instant joke routine. (They are given the comedy topic right before they perform or are given 15 minutes to write them.) A short bio video on some of the comedians before they perform.

EPISODES

CURVE BALLS & DARES/INSTANT DEATH

(Episodes: 6-9) **same format for all 4 episodes*

** Example dares.*

EPISODE 6: Undercover Audience Curve Ball (16 Comedians Compete) – Plants: The competing comedians wait in line outside the venue and pretend to be potential audience members at different venues, heckling, interrupting performances, telling the comedians they aren't funny, and being a comedian's worst nightmare. The comedians are each given dares before entering that will dictate the role they play. Can they be the jerk, the tomato tosser...can they charge the stage, yank the mic, and show the comedian "how it's really done!" -- and more! Maybe it will be their guts that save them, or for some, maybe it will actually be the heart behind their "no, I can't do that to a fellow comedian." The judges will contemplate and decide.

Each comedian will also have their own chance to perform a portion of their routine while being heckled by the other competing comedians.

Well-known guest comedians give their own experiences dealing with a rowdy audience, haters, and the like.

The judges vote one comedian off in an instant death fashion, no redemption, no viewer weigh-in for the instant death segment.

EPISODE 7: In Your Face Dare (15 Comedians Compete) – How Do Your Jokes Hold Up: The comedians perform their routines in the streets of NYC, in prisons for inmates who may not be laughing, in front of military bases, in front of classrooms, and convalescent homes, trying desperately to make their audiences laugh. It's going to be hell for the comedians who aren't prepared for children (the toughest crowd, yet), not to mention a PG-13 audience! Dares are given, and well-known guest comedians give their two cents.

EPISODE 8: Trading, Choosing & Writing Jokes for Others (14 Comedians Compete) – The judges choose comedians to write stand-up routines, skits, and even choose impressions for others, while asking some to trade routines.

EPISODE 9: Complaint to the Club Owner Dare (13 Comedians Compete) – The comedians perform their routines. The judges deal out the dares: to make a complaint about the venue to the club owner, tell an insulting joke to an audience member, or accuse the bartender (from stage) of spitting in customers' drinks, etc.

EPISODES

THE MINI-CHALLENGES EPISODES

(Episodes: 10–13) **same format for all 4 episodes.*

EPISODE 10: Hecklers (12 Comedians Compete) – The hosts interview and prepare mock crowds of actors and performers to pretend to be audience members. The hosts prepare the competing comedians for an entirely different experience. They mislead and distract the comedians from being able to focus on their routines before sending them out to the faux wolves. All the while viewers are taking it all in and sitting on the edge of their seats as the competing comedians take the stage, knowing full well what's about to take place!

Hecklers from the audience try to distract and disparage the comedians as they perform their routines using the prompts we've all been waiting to see how the comedians will handle.

A short clip on the comedians' backstage interactions and reactions as they come off stage.

Each comedian is scored by the judges as well as an online viewer text system on a combination of factors (charisma, their attitude, their ability not to crack under pressure, and if they did, did they rebound and take it in stride, and the like).

The judges reveal the scores, and one unlucky comedian is booted off.

EPISODE 11: Joke Stealing (11 Comedians Compete) – A short clip on how comedians shape their jokes and how it affects those they joke about. A line-up is given to the comedians. Each comedian who performs is given a joke to steal from the comedian who goes after them. This is set up by producers/coaches beforehand and viewers are privy to the evil pre-plan and join in the angst watching it unfold as planned. The comedian starting the line-up will have one of their own jokes stolen by the very coach who set the whole plan in motion.

EPISODE 12: Drunken and Disorderly (10 Comedians Compete) – A short clip on the audience of a comedy club. Drunken audience members throw things/come on stage/fall into tables/cough and clear their throats as the comedians perform their routines. *same format as above*

EPISODE 13: Disruptions (9 Comedians Compete) – A short clip on the comedians interacting with the audience. Table talking and not paying attention/the other comedians disrupt from the audience as the comedians perform their routines.

EPISODES

THE CELEBRITY COMEDIAN AND PANEL COACHING EPISODES

(Episodes 14-19) **same format for all 5 episodes*

** The Final Eight*

EPISODE 14: Comedic Timing (8 Final Comedians Compete) – Two comedians' personal lives and dreams of success are highlighted. The hosts introduce a guest comedian who coaches the comedians on comedic timing. The guest comedian will do a 5-minute set, and the competing comedians will each do a 2-3-minute set. Highlights of the previous episodes and what the competing comedians went through to get to this stage are sprinkled throughout the episode. The viewing audience votes online. Judges compare notes, and the contemplation begins. Do they agree with the audience's recommendation? Hilarity ensues as the debate. We are left hanging with a few teasers and a lot of suspense.

EPISODE 15: Stage Presence (7 Comedians Compete) – The hosts announce the comedian voted off. Two comedians' personal lives and dreams of success are highlighted. Another guest comedian coaches the comedians on stage presence. The guest comedian will do a 5-minute set, and the competing comedians will each do a 2-3-minute set. Highlights are shared. The viewing audience votes online. Judges deliberate, and once again, we wait...

EPISODE 16: Joke Set-Up (6 Comedians Compete) – The hosts announce the comedian voted off. Two comedians' personal lives and dreams of success are highlighted. Another guest comedian coaches the comedians on setting up a joke.

EPISODE 17: Reading the Room (5 Comedians Compete) – The hosts announce the comedian voted off. Two comedians' personal lives and dreams of success are highlighted. Another guest comedian coaches the comedians on reading the room.

EPISODE 18: Getting Cash for Jokes (4 Comedians Compete) – *same format as above with the exception of --* Another guest comedian coaches the comedians on getting paid for stand-up sets. A short clip on what comedians sacrifice in their lives to perform their comedy.

EPISODE 19: A Joke Bomb (3 Comedian Compete) – *same format as above with the exception of --* Another guest comedian coaches the comedians on handling joke bombs. Hilarious short clips of handling joke bomb "fails" are shown.

EPISODES

PILOT KICK-OFF EPISODE

(This is *Cut-Throat Comedy Wars*)

Episode 20:

Comedy Dreams – This is it, the Grand Finale.

The hosts announce the CHAMPIONSHIP comedians and the prizes: agent/manager, cash amount, and opening for a headliner.

Pre-recorded interview clips on how winning would change their lives and the reveal their ultimate comedy dreams.

Unseen highlights of the final two competing comedians are shared.

The competing comedians must each pull a member from the audience to use in their skit. This is an impromptu surprise and must be made up on the spot.

The guest comedians who coached the competing comedians, as well as Danny Mora, will each perform before the final 2 comedians do their last performance.

The winner of the **Cut-Throat Comedy Wars** Championship is announced, and representation with Bohemia Group is awarded.



Unscripted Reality Series

CONTACT

COMEDY

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