



ARS  
NOVA

20

**SHOWGASM**  
**THE**  
**CAMP**  
**EDITION**

# SHOWGASM: THE CAMP EDITION

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**JANUARY 12 @ 7PM ET**

HOSTED BY

**MAHAYLA LAURENCE & MATT GEHRING**

FEATURING

**CATHERINE BLOOM & SOFIA DOBRUSHIN**

**MICHELLE CHAN BENNETT & JOSH NASSER**

**GARA**

**NATALYA SAMEE**

**CHET SIEGEL**

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## ABOUT CAMP

The Comedy Artist Makers' Program (CAMP) is back for its third season developing new work. CAMP is a residency program at Ars Nova that supports comedy-based writers/performers in generating and developing an original show. Over the course of a nine-month period, CAMP participants will meet weekly for shares of work and peer feedback sessions facilitated by Co-Program Directors Mahayla Laurence and Matt Gehring.

CAMP residents join a cohort of peers in constructing a brand new show alongside each other, culminating in a full-length, live performance as part of the spring Bonfire Series at Ars Nova's 99-seat theater on 54th Street. Rehearsal spaces, marketing materials, technicians, and a curated mentor/outside eye are provided by Ars Nova for each resident's Bonfire show.

# ABOUT THE CAMPers

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**CATHERINE BLOOM** (she/her) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer, and comedian. She is originally from Carlisle, Pennsylvania where she won “most witty” as her high school senior superlative alongside the only other Jewish kid in her class. In 2018 she graduated Bard College with a BA in theater and has since shown original work at Second City, iO Chicago, Brooklyn Comedy Collective, Williamstown Theater Festival, The PIT, The Fisher Center, and other places. You can stalk Catherine on instagram at @yeast\_queen, or simply visit her website [catherinebloom.org](http://catherinebloom.org).

**SOFIA DOBRUSHIN** (she/they) is an actor, director, musician, and only child which is why she does all of these things. She has acted in TV shows like Apple TV's WeCrashed and HBO's High Maintenance. Her theatrical work includes: On the Rocks production of Edelweiss at Ars Nova and César Alvarez' The Elementary Space Time Show. Some of their directing work has been official selections of Brooklyn Women's Film Festival, Austin Comedy Short Film Festival, New Filmmakers Festival, and Nobudge. Her music consists of romantic harmonies inspired by The Roches and comedic verses echoing the style of Bo Burnham or Whitmer Thomas. To keep up with her projects and life you can find her on the app that runs our lives aka Instagram @\_neonbabushka\_

**MICHELLE CHAN BENNETT** (she/her) is an NYC-based writer and actor whose work has been featured in Vulture, New York Sketchfest, Montreal Sketchfest, and Chicago Sketchfest. Most recently, you could find her starring as Cheryl Locke in the play The Art of Killin' It. She was an actor on UCB's Maude Night and continues to perform around North America with the team, Yes Chef! She writes and produces digital sketch with Hatched NYC. She also performs original characters on Characters Welcome and around the city.

**JOSH NASSER** (he/him) is an NYC based comedian/musician. His comedy has been featured on Comedy Central's YouTube Channel. Vulture and onmogul.com have both named Josh as one of the best up and coming comedians in NYC. Josh previously co-hosted the NYTimes recommended comedy show, “Oh, Such a Good Show, Oh!” Currently he's a member of the Webby Award winning writing team behind Story Pirates Podcast, which adapts children's stories into musical comedy sketches. You can find his previous work at [joshnasser.com](http://joshnasser.com). And of course his favorite food is plain cheese pizza. He knows that's a boring choice and he will work on it.

**GARA** (they/them) is a performance artist, writer and comedian based in NYC. They started performing in the New York City nightlife scene at 19 and now, 6 years later have shared their stories on many different iconic stages like MoMa PS1, LaMama, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival and more!

**NATALYA SAMEE** (she/her) is officially 5'6, but when you get to know her, she's more like 5'8. She is currently workshopping her Off-Broadway one woman show, Saturn Return, at Ars Nova in New York City, premiering in Spring 2023. In addition, she is an artist-in-residence in SFFILM's 2022 Filmhouse Residency for her project, DOHA GIRLS, an original TV series based on her adolescence in the Middle East. She was formally trained in improv and sketch as a member of Off-Off Campus (originators of The Second City) at The University of Chicago. She previously performed at Leela in San Francisco, and now at Brooklyn Comedy Collective in New York. Born in Pakistan but raised in oil-rich monarchies, Natalya is interested in telling stories that illuminate the world she grew up in. She is currently represented by Colleen Washington and Bella Bagatelos at Fourth Wall Management.

**CHET SIEGEL** (she/her) is an actress, comedian, and cook. Performing credits include - Uncle Peckerhead, Alternatino (Comedy Central), Search Party (HBO), Chicago Med (NBC), and many independent projects that have appeared in Sundance, SXSW, Palm Springs Film Fest, NY Fringe, ANT Fest and other really cool festivals. She directed, wrote, performed, and taught improv and sketch comedy at UCB theater and Magnet Theater, and was the artistic director of Magnet's Sketch Comedy program. She is the co-creator and co-host of the food podcast, Nibbles And Bits, available on Spotify and Apple podcasts!

**MAHAYLA LAURENCE** (they/she) (CAMP Co-Program Director) is a multidisciplinary artist engaging in work that creates space for conversations around mental and spiritual health, joy, humor, stewardship, and community. Credits include: HBO, Clubbed Thumb, Pioneer Works, Gimlet. [mahaylalaurence.com](http://mahaylalaurence.com)

**MATT GEHRING** (he/him) (CAMP Co-Program Director) is a performer, writer and director of comedy. He's been on Amazon, Netflix, Comedy Central and has spent years on the UCB stage. Check out the Broadway-Meets-Sketch show, SHIZ he created with Shaina Taub.

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### **EMPOWERING THE NEXT WAVE OF ARTS PROFESSIONALS**

with our EMERGING LEADERS GROUP, which aims to break down the barriers of unpaid internships and create a more diverse pipeline of arts leaders.

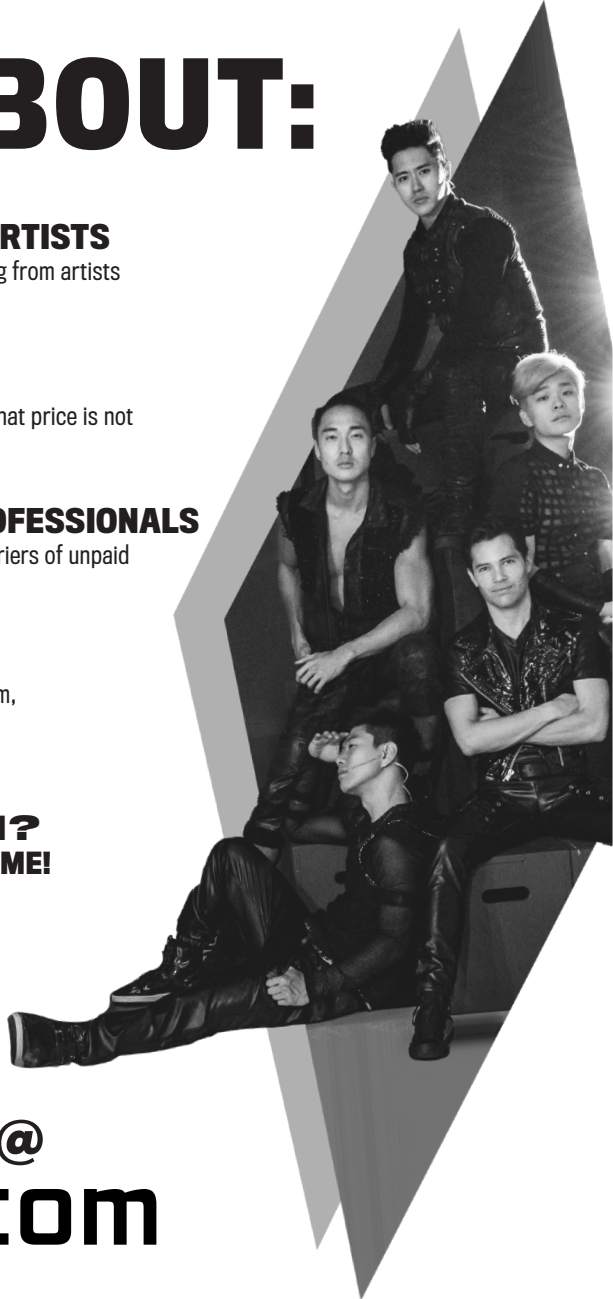
### **FAIR PAY IN THE ARTS**

through our FAIR PAY INITIATIVE, which ensures a living, not just minimum, wage for Ars Nova's artists and staff.

**WANNA KEEP IN TOUCH?  
FOLLOW ALONG AND SLIDE INTO OUR DMS ANYTIME!**



**SEE WHAT'S UP NEXT!  
JOIN THE MAILING LIST @  
ARSNOVANYC.COM**





# **ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

Ars Nova operates on the unceded land of the Lenape peoples on the island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape Homeland.

We acknowledge the brutal history of this stolen land and the displacement and dispossession of its Indigenous people. We also acknowledge that after there were stolen lands, there were stolen people. We honor the generations of displaced and enslaved people that built, and continue to build, the country that we occupy today.

We invite you to join us in acknowledging all of this as well as our shared responsibility: to consider our way forward in reconciliation, decolonization, anti-racism and allyship. We commit ourselves to the daily practice of pursuing this work.

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