



## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES + AUDITIONS

(KICKSTAND COMEDY PRODUCED IMPROV SHOWS)

*Please read the entirety of the (very long, we know) PDF if you are interested in auditioning for upcoming Kickstand Produced Improv Performance Opportunities. If you have any questions, please e-mail [info@kickstandcomedy.org](mailto:info@kickstandcomedy.org)*

**FALL/WINTER 2023 Auditions will be held from 10am-7pm on September 16th & 17th (SUBMISSIONS CLOSE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10th AT MIDNIGHT!)**

After selections, rehearsals will begin as soon as possible, and performances will begin in October/November, pending the completion of construction for the soft opening of the new theater space on Hawthorne. (Official Grand Opening to come in 2024)

Each performance opportunity offers a different level of commitment and asks for varying levels of experience. Friday and Saturday shows will be for more experienced performers with the expectation of a more polished product that brings in larger audiences. All other opportunities are considered part of our development process, and thus do not receive compensation, and may be asked to pay dues to help cover costs. Kickstand will be providing, when possible, coaches, rehearsal space, and marketing along with everything else it takes to produce a show. We will be working hard to set everyone up for success, so we ask for your patience and collaboration. We will provide opportunities for feedback and discussion as we evolve and grow our programming.

**COMMITMENT:** Each opportunity asks for a commitment of a **6 month run** (or possible 3 month run for Aardvark). At the end of the initial run, if performers or teams wish to extend their run, they must re-submit and audition again. It is at the discretion of the Artistic Director and the programming team to renew or cycle out teams and performers to allow new opportunities to our community.

Performers are able to submit for multiple opportunities. Please read the descriptions and consider what commitment level you're able to sustain before submitting.

**ALL PERFORMERS** are required to follow Kickstand's Non Harassment and our Community Accountability Policy. All of our policies are detailed on Kickstand's website here: [Policy Page](#). Anyone failing to uphold these agreements may lose their performance privileges at Kickstand

**PREREQUISITES:** We do not have any mandatory experience or class/institution prerequisites for performers, but we do note “recommended experience” in the descriptions below to give you a sense of where you may fit into these opportunities.

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:** Performers who can improvise in Kickstand's Improv style: a blend of iO patient, relationship-driven, emotionally affected and empathetic play and have a thorough understanding of UCB style game of the scene both through discovery and premise play. Skills include:

- Establishing a base reality and ability to perform grounded scenework
- Ability to develop and play game of the scene organically and collaboratively
- Ability to pull and initiate premise from an opening
- Ability to listen, find agreement on the “unusual” and make “on-game” moves to heighten
- Ability to follow the fun/game/relationship/characters (rather than only following narrative plot points)
- Ability to justify a character’s POV
- Ability to play both the “Absurd POV” as well as the “Voice of Reason”
- Supportive play with your scene partner and group, make each other look good!
- Empathy and caring in your choices (making sure scenes are as fun for everyone on stage)
- Performance, on stage presence, acting ability
- When casting we look to prioritize Female, LGBTQIA+, and BI/POC performers

## TYPES OF AUDITIONS

You will only need to audition **ONCE**, either as an INDIVIDUAL in a group audition or as a TEAM (only if your team is interested in being a Saturday Featured Team, details below).

**INDIVIDUAL Auditions** are required for improvisers interested in:

- Kickstand Cult (Tour Co)
- Harold Skill Teams,
- Secret Aardvark Ensemble
- (details of each opportunity below)

Auditions will happen in 30 minute slots in groups of 8-10 to be assigned based on schedule availability. You’ll warm up together then perform scenes based off a suggestion, followed by a short montage.

**TEAM AUDITIONS** are required for teams auditioning for the **Saturday Team** slots.

Teams will have 15-20 minutes to perform. Teams may also submit a recording of a recent performance for consideration. Performers participating in team auditions who are also interested in Cult, Harold Teams, and Aardvark opportunities **do not** have to participate in group auditions. They simply need to indicate what opportunities they are interested in on the form below.

**\*\*\*\*If you are auditioning with a team, please have each member of your team fill out this form so we have their information and know which opportunities each member is interested in.\*\*\*\***

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTIONS:

### KICKSTAND CULT ENSEMBLE (TOURING COMPANY)

*Cast of improvisers that perform a weekly hour long Friday night Armando show. The Cult also performs corporate and touring shows.*

- **Who is this for?:** Experienced improvisers who have been performing for years looking for a semi-professional, long term, and consistent performance commitment.
- **Show Time:** Fridays at 7 pm
- **Commitment:** 6 month run. Must commit to 2-3 Friday night shows per month. Must be available and willing to do touring and corporate shows when they come up: colleges, corporate, etc. Must attend rehearsals. Must follow Kickstand non-harassment policy.
- **Form:** Armando
- **Rehearsals:** Weekly (to start) on Sunday evenings, eventually dropping down in frequency.
- **Coach:** Kickstand appointed and Kickstand compensated coach.
- **Rehearsal space:** Kickstand provided
- **Recommended Experience:** Performing improv for multiple years. Performed with a team for an extended period of time. Completion of Kickstand level 4 or equivalent at theater with similar style.
- **Compensation:** Performers will receive payment for all shows. Set rate for Friday night shows, varying rates for touring and corporate opportunities. Exact amounts TBD

### SATURDAY FEATURED TEAMS

*Independently established teams that will perform on alternating weekly Saturday night double bill.*

- **Who is this for?:** Teams that have formed independently and wish to make a long term consistent performance commitment.
- **Show Time:** Saturdays at 7 pm
- **Commitment:** 6 month run. Perform a 30 minute set on at least 2 Saturday shows a month.

- **Form:** Determined by teams.
- **Rehearsals:** Coordinated by team, recommended to rehearse at least twice a month.
- **Coach:** Chosen and coordinated by team
- **Rehearsal space:** Kickstand provided if space is available
- **Requirements:** Minimum of 3 performers on the team. Regularly practicing with a coach.
- **Compensation:** Team will receive set fee for every Saturday show. Exact amount TBD
- **Feedback:** Teams will receive scheduled feedback from the Artistic Director after their first show, 3 months in, and at the end of the 6 month run and may receive general feedback throughout the run.

## HAROLD SKILL TEAMS

*Teams of improvisers formed by Kickstand to develop rising talent within our community to perform a Sunday night Harold show followed by a jam hosted by the team.*

- **Who is this for?:** Anyone looking for an opportunity to develop skills and be on a regularly rehearsing team. Improv students, performers newer to improv who maybe haven't had a chance to form a team yet, and seasoned performers who may be newer to the Kickstand style of improv.
- **Show Time:** Sundays at 6 pm
- **Commitment:** 6 month run. Will perform a 20-25 minute Harold set Sunday nights followed by hosting an improv jam at least 2 times per month. Must attend weekly rehearsals.
- **Form:** Harold (opening and style decided by team and coach)
- **Rehearsals:** Weekly (day and time determined by team members' availability)
- **Coach:** Kickstand appointed. Teams will contribute minimal dues to support coach and rehearsal space. Scholarship assistance will be available. This may change as our programming develops.
- **Rehearsal space:** Kickstand provided if space is available
- **Recommended Experience:** Completion of Kickstand Improv Level 4 or equivalent. Understanding of the Harold form (game and relationship based, not narrative/story driven).
- **Compensation:** None. We do offer a consistent place to perform, and marketing for your event. Your dues help us cover the cost of providing a coach and rehearsal space.

## SECRET AARDVARK ENSEMBLE

*Cast of improvisers of varying experience levels performing in Thursday night show. They will be joined by a rotation of students from levels 4-5-6.*

- **Who is this for?:** Improvisers who are seeking more performance opportunities without committing to rehearsals. Seeking a mix of experienced and developing players.
- **Show Time:** Thursdays at 9 pm
- **Commitment:** 3 or 6 month commitment, performing in at least 2 shows per month.
- **Form:** Montage

- **Rehearsals:** None
- **Recommended Experience:** Completion of Kickstand Improv Level 3 or equivalent.
- **Compensation:** None

**[KICKSTAND AUDITION SUBMISSION FORM FOR FALL/WINTER 2023](#)**