

COMBATING BIGOTRY WITH SATIRE

September 22, 2020 at 4:00pm Hawaii

Speaker Biographies



Ashley DEE

Comedian and Activist, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA @ashleydeecomed

Ashley Dee is a standup comedienne, social media personality and community activist. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, she moved to California in 2011 and relocated to Honolulu, Hawaii in 2019. Ms. Dee's geographical move was the catalyst for her transition to a career in comedy after she performed at a local open mic night in Honolulu. Since her standup comedy debut, Ms. Dee has become a crowd favorite in the Hawaii comedy scene. She has shared the ticket with headliners such as Big Weezy, Comedy Central's 2018 "Up Next" comic Amy Miller, and Netflix featured comedian Beth Stelling. Ms. Dee credits her "colorful life experiences" as the foundation of her success and her ability to deliver countless punchlines that are both relatable and assume a self-assured demeanor, which not only secures the laugh but ignites the transmission of empowerment that she brings to the stage each night. As a student of comedy giants Cory Holcomb, Monique and Eddie Murphy, Ms. Dee is ready to make her own comedic imprint on this world.



Dean OBEIDALLAH

Comedian, Writer and Co-director, The Muslims are Coming; and Host, "The Dean Obeidallah Show" On SiriusXM, New York City, New York, USA @DeanObeidallah

Dean Obeidallah is the host of SiriusXM radio's daily program *The Dean Obeidallah Show* making him the first Muslim American to host a national radio show. He is the co-director/co-producer of the comedy documentary entitled *The Muslims are Coming!* that uses humor to counter anti-Muslim bigotry and build bridges. A lawyer turned writer and award winning comedian, Mr. Obeidallah has been using his skills to both entertain and educate people for years. He writes weekly for *The Daily Beast* and for CNN.com Opinion and has also written articles for various other publications including *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, NBC.com and *The Huffington Post*. Mr. Obeidallah co-starred in Comedy Central's *Axis of Evil* special and has appeared on ABC's *Good Morning America* and *The View*, Comedy Central's *The Nightly Show* and can be seen frequently on CNN and MSNBC.



Jenny YANG

Comedian, Actor, and Executive Show Editor, "Last Man Standing," Los Angeles, California, USA @jennyyangtv

Jenny Yang is a former labor organizer turned standup comedian, writer and actor who is one of *Variety*'s "10 Comics To Watch for 2020." She is currently writing on her second season of the Fox hit comedy *Last Man Standing* and was a writer

and performer for the E! late night talk show *Busy Tonight* with Busy Philipps. Ms. Yang is the co-host of Freeform's flagship podcast *A Little Forward*, and the creator and host of *Comedy Crossing*, a hit standup comedy show held inside the Animal Crossing video game. Since June 2020, *Comedy Crossing* has raised nearly \$20,000 from audience donations for #BlackLivesMatter-related causes and funds. In May 2020, Ms. Yang was a featured performer in the Comedy Central *Covid Is No Joke* comedy special. Taiwan-born and Southern California-raised, Ms. Yang uses her platform to amplify issues around immigration, diversity and media representation, pop culture, intersectional feminism, and social justice. Her unique background as a former student activist, comedian and creative has made her a frequent performer and speaker on the college and university circuit. In 2016, President Barack Obama honored her as a "White House Champion of Change" for her leadership in "Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling." She is also a TV writing mentor for the 2020 cohort of the "5050 by 2020" Disruptors Fellowship. Drawing from her former career in politics, Ms. Yang is a regular commentator on politics and pop culture with contributions and coverage in *The New York Times*, *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, National Public Radio, MSNBC, *The Guardian*, NBC News, BBC News, Al Jazeera America, *Complex Magazine*, *Lovett or Leave It* podcast, South by Southwest, BlogHer, and countless college and industry panels.

Moderator:



Jaweed KALEEM

National Correspondent, The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, USA
[@jaweedkaleem](#)

Jaweed Kaleem is a national correspondent at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he writes about how race and ethnicity shape the evolving understanding of what it means to be American. He frequently reports on policing, civil rights, immigration, prisons and religion, among other subjects. He was a 2018 participant in the East

West Center's International Media Conference and a 2014 fellow in the Center's Senior Journalists Seminar. Before joining *The Times*, Mr. Kaleem was the religion reporter at *HuffPost*, where he wrote extensively on the Roman Catholic church, evangelical Christians, Mormonism and Muslim Americans. From 2007-11, he was a religion and general assignment reporter for the *Miami Herald*. Mr. Kaleem's reporting has been recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society for Features Journalism, the American Academy of Religion, and the Religion News Association, among other groups. He has served on the boards of the Religion News Foundation and Religion News Association. Mr. Kaleem attended Emerson College and grew up in Northern Virginia.