



## BRING SKETCHWORKS COMEDY TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Comedy Acting and Writing for all ages!

### - ABOUT SKETCHWORKS -

Sketchworks Comedy is Atlanta's premier live sketch comedy theatre company featuring some of Atlanta's top working pros. Through sold out live shows and hilarious online videos, we have been making audiences laugh with the finest sketch comedy since 2001.

We've won numerous awards, including most recently BroadwayWorld Atlanta's "Best New Work (Non Professional)" for our 2018 production of *Vape the Musical*, a parody of *Grease*. We offer comedy entertainment and training for Kids, Teens, and Adults - including live shows, online content, classes and workshops, kids and teens summer camps, and corporate and private events.

### - WHAT WE OFFER -

Our Education Program extends to teaching children ages 4 to Adult, and includes training in Sketch Comedy Acting, Writing, Filming, and Editing. Our classes combine all aspects of creating an original comedy show, including writing, acting, and behind-the-scenes stage and/or film production, and use elements of improv to create characters and write original scripts. The students themselves are responsible for creating their content and producing their show with their Coaches as guides. We promote all original, all funny content.

We offer both virtual and in-person classes. Virtual classes work in our favor when addressing on-camera acting technique, writing for film, and basic film production and editing.

In-person classes follow our regular class curriculum. In addition to the skills covered in our virtual classes, our in-person classes allow us to focus on stage presence, acting technique for stage, and writing for theatre. Furthermore, these classes allow students to experience the magic and the support of working as a theatre ensemble.

Find us at [www.SketchworksComedy.com](http://www.SketchworksComedy.com) and [www.SketchworksKids.com](http://www.SketchworksKids.com)  
Email us at [classes@sketchworkscomedy.com](mailto:classes@sketchworkscomedy.com)

## - WHO WE ARE -

Our Sketchworks Coaches are working professionals, with experience working at improv and comedy theaters, writing, performing, and directing for both film and stage. Our Performers, Writers, Coaches, and Directors are products of the training we provide and work professionally in the TV/Film/Theatre industry.

### Maria Liatis, B.A. Theater, UGA | Sketchworks Director of Education

Maria is an actress, coach, writer, and director in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's degree in Theater. She was an acting coach at The Actor's Scene for 7 years, and has been a part of the Sketchworks Education Department and ensemble since 2013. She is represented by People Agency and Carol Shaginaw Talent Agency.

She started her career on stage and in front of the camera, but now is also focused on creating her own projects. She owns two production companies: Cart Reel Films, LLC, dedicated to creating original footage for actors to use in their demo reels; and Puppacorn Productions, LLC, for producing sketch comedy videos. Check her out on instagram @marialiatis, IMDB, Actors Access, Facebook, and MariaLiatis.com. Or, just come see her in a show, because isn't that really what this is all about?!



### Sanna Erica, MFA Media Studies, Brenau University | Head Acting Coach

Sanna has always had a special place in her heart for Sketch Comedy. Growing up watching Saturday Night Live, Mad TV, All That, The Amanda Show, and The Muppet Show made her a big fan of sketches early on. Sanna has been performing and creating comedy for years, and has enjoyed performing with Sketchworks since 2017.

Sanna started acting professionally when she was 14 years old. She has been coaching acting since 2011, soon after she made the move to Atlanta, GA. Sanna loves teaching actors of all ages, and considers it a huge privilege to be able to teach! Along with Sketchworks, Sanna teaches acting for the camera at The Actor's Scene in the greater Atlanta area.

She holds her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Azusa Pacific University, studying Theatre/Acting, Film, Screenwriting, and Animation. Sanna also holds her Master of Arts in Communication and Media Studies from Brenau University. Sanna's previous credits include Coca-Cola, Tyler Perry Studios, Hulu, Netflix, and Warner Brothers. Sanna is a member of SAG-AFTRA in good standing and is represented by Houghton Talent.

Be sure to check out Sanna's website at [www.sannaerica.com](http://www.sannaerica.com). Sanna also hangs out on TikTok - be sure to follow her @SunnaErica!



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## Kirsten Krehbiel, Represented by East Coast Talent Agency | Acting Coach

Kirsten was born and raised in a small town in Kansas. After graduating with a Performing Arts degree, she bounced around before settling down in Atlanta. Kirsten did her master class with Sketchworks in 2016 and has done several shows with them since including: "From Russia with Sketch", "Love, Family, Mars", and "Vape". Kirsten works as an Acting Coach for the Sketchworks Kids Summer Camps.

When she is not on stage, you can find her piddling around her house with her cat Dobby.



## John D. Babcock III, 15+ year writing professional | Head Writing Coach

John's comedy career started when he wrote and performed sketches in his backyard for neighbors. John joined Sketchworks Comedy in January 2017 as a cast member of LAUGHTER REHAB.

In addition to writing and performing for Sketchworks, John writes murder mystery plays for Murder, Mystery and Mayhem at Petite Violette, The Mystery Café of Indianapolis, and Laughing Matters. He also contributed on-air scripts to Turner Classic Movies - having written for the late Robert Osborne, and Ben Mankiewicz. His play INDEPENDENT, about filmmaker John Cassavetes, received its world premiere at Essential Theatre's 2017 Summer Festival.



### – BASIC PROGRAM BREAKDOWN – WORKSHOPS AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Prior to booking our theatre company for your school's extracurricular program, we will provide a Program Breakdown to include the base curriculum and covered topics. Communication will continue as needed via email or phone between the Education Director and your school's contact. Regardless of whether you are looking for a one-day workshop, an ongoing afterschool program, or a supplement to an existing extracurricular program, our goal is to customize our program based on you and your students' needs and goals.

Our contractor fees will be dependent on duration of program, content of program, and number of students enrolled. Keep in mind, we require at most a 6:1 ratio of students to instructor.

The following is a broad breakdown with the skills and topics you may consider when requesting your program:

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## THE BUILDING BLOCKS

### FOCUS ON ACTING

- Improv and character exercises
- Physicality and vocal exercises to discover character
- Character breakdown
- Stage vs. on-camera acting
- Comedic timing

### FOCUS ON WRITING

- Basic writing elements
- Tips for writing comedy
- Formatting for film versus stage
- Brainstorming exercises for writing
- Comedy premises breakdown and discussion

### FOCUS ON VIDEO CREATION

- Filming basics (*recommend to simply use cell phone*)
- Storyboarding and creating shot lists

## THE PRODUCTION

### FOCUS ON ACTING

- Improv exercises to create original sketches
- Character exploration with physical and vocal changes, mask work, wig/prop inspiration
- Ensemble work and rehearsal process for solo and group sketches
- Basic stage management, set design, costuming, and other show prep

### FOCUS ON WRITING

- Creating original comedy content, including solo characters monologues, blackout sketches, multicast sketches, and satirical news stories
- Experience working as an ensemble writing group - the writers' room

### FOCUS ON VIDEO CONTENT

- Filming and editing tips for creating comedy content
- Film production and post-production in practice

*Depending on what you're looking for, programs may conclude with the premiere of a video sketch(es) and/or a live sketch comedy show.*

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## - THE BENEFITS OF COMEDY -

So, why comedy? Exploring the world of comedy provides several benefits. For example, improv games promote creativity, active listening, critical thinking, and risk-taking. Working as an ensemble creates a safe, nurturing environment where students feel eager to explore and share original thoughts. The skills gained from working together directly translates to social situations; these skills further include teamwork, effective communication, and creative collaboration. As you can see, we could keep going, but maybe we should just show you what we're talking about.

## - HOW TO CONTACT US -

If you are interested in booking Sketchworks Comedy for your school or community, please contact our Education Director, Maria Liatis, at [classes@sketchworkscomedy.com](mailto:classes@sketchworkscomedy.com). We look forward to working with you!



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