

Constitution of Midnight Snack Comedy

Preamble:

Midnight Snack Comedy is a group comprised of Indiana University students, staff, faculty, and community members for performing and practicing any and all styles of comedy. Our mission is produce quality live comedy shows while providing safe and productive outlets for members of all experience levels to perform, practice, develop, and refine their arts.

Article I: Membership

- 1) **Midnight Snack Comedy allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.**
- 2) All students, faculty, staff, and community members at Indiana University are eligible to become members Midnight Snack Comedy. Membership has several roles, responsibilities, requirements, and benefits that come with being a group member.
 - *Cast Members*
 - *Role:* Cast Members are the stars, faces, backbones, leaders, and representatives of the group. They are the first option in performance and the members who make the shows happen and make them good. All comedy troupes need stars to carry them, and each Cast Member must be capable of leading, supporting, and carrying the group. Consequently, they have the largest commitment of all members. Prior experience is not required, but it is greatly appreciated.
 - *Responsibilities*
 1. perform and write original material for comedy shows
 2. attend and lead practices regularly
 3. continuously improve in one's own arts
 4. nurture the growth of other members' talents
 5. promote, advertise, and organize events
 6. appoint, invite, and approve new Cast Members
 7. always be ready to perform in case other performers drop out
 8. share in production, hosting, and setup duties of shows
 - *Requirements to Become Cast Members*
 1. Any student, staff, faculty, or community member wanting to become a Cast Member must be appointed by any one current Cast Member and be approved unanimously. There are two ways to gain an appointment.
 - (a) Complete an in-person audition. Should the candidate demonstrate the desired qualities, the current Cast Members will deliberate and appoint new Cast Members.

(b) Attend regularly scheduled practices as a Guest Member. Should the Guest Member demonstrate the desired qualities of a Cast Member, then a Cast Member can appoint that General Member at any time. In order for the appointment to become official, the other current Cast Members must approve the appointment.

- *Benefits*
 1. Guaranteed a spot in all shows.
 2. Guaranteed a space to practice.
 3. Has the liberty to appoint new Cast Members.
 4. Have a vote in deciding group policies and new members.

3) Grounds for Termination of Membership

Grounds for removal from group will be determined by with all members. Should any member be considered for removal, said member has the right to state his or her case if he or she wishes to remain a member, but the decision is ultimately up to the rest of the group. The decision will be majority rules. Grounds for removal include but are not limited to:

- Obstruction of group activity (e.g., shows, practice, promotion events, etc)
- Member is not a good match for the group
- Endangering safety of group members
- Compromising the enjoyment of group members
- **Unexcused** absence of 6 or more consecutive rehearsals
- **Unexcused** absence of 1 or more consecutive performances
- Rights of all members
 - Right to a safe place to practice
 - Right to offer contributions
 - Right to decline offers

Article II: Executive Officers

All officers are required to be Cast Members. All Cast Members are eligible to become officers immediately upon admission to the organization. All officer terms last for a semester, but there is no limit to how many consecutive semesters any officer may serve. All officers have the right to step down from their positions at any time, and should any officer step down, the Cast Members will appoint a replacement. Officers are appointed by group consensus.

Officer Descriptions:

President – The President is the primary leader, face, representative, organizer, and treasurer of this organization. As treasurer, the President oversees the organization's funds, collects fees from members, and makes purchases for the organization. The President's mandatory responsibilities include but are not limited to organizing group shows, especially reserving rooms, creating and maintaining all group sites and events (like the Facebook and Twitter), heading the advertising of the group

from fliers to chalking, and last but not least handling all group funds and distributing them accordingly. The President has the option to attend Union Board Comedy meetings as Midnight Snack representative, if he/she chooses.

Vice President – The Vice President directs advertising, promotions, and all other business-related aspects of the organization. The Vice President also assumes the President’s responsibility in the event that the President is absent.

Public Relations Chair – The PR Chair is responsible for building and maintaining friendships and professional relationships with other student comedy groups at IU.

Talent Director- The Talent Director is the main teacher of the Midnight Snack Comedy Group. The Talent Director’s responsibilities include but are not limited to: running/organizing rehearsals, assessing talent, finding games/techniques to better the groups talent individually and as a group, and last but not least the head of all auditions. It is the responsibility of the Talent Director to make all final decisions during auditions including: breaking ties on a potential member, veto an unfair judgment put upon a potential member, and planning/running the audition process.

President/Cast Member: Dalton Hartwick - dhartwic@iu.edu

President/Cast Member: Sarah Africk - seafrick@indiana.edu

Public Relations Chair/Cast Member – Alyssa Mathena - @indiana.edu

Cast Member: Andrew Phillips

Cast Member: Max Rezek-TeWinkle

Cast Member: Grace Heppner

Article III: Meetings

Meetings will consist of rehearsals and live shows.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are akin to sports practices, and the goal is to help members continuously improve. All rehearsals are mandatory with exception to family emergencies, important one-time events, hiatus, and personal emergencies (such as an injury or illness). Absence from rehearsals will result in loss of stage time at performances and a loss of solo acts in the performance. Absence from 6 consecutive rehearsals will result in termination from the group and the member will have to re-audition at the next cycle of Midnight Snack Auditions.

Performances

Performances are strictly for the purposes of entertaining live audiences and giving opportunities for all members to perform. Cast Members are guaranteed spots in each show. Guest Members must be invited by a Cast Member and agreed upon by the group. Absence from Performances will result in penalty for the group. Unless otherwise

specified by hiatus, family emergency, or personal injury/illness, absence from 3 or more consecutive performances will result in termination from the group and the member will have to re-audition at the next cycle of Midnight Snack Auditions.

Article IV: Advisor

The advisor will have minimal duties in Midnight Snack. Mostly the advisor will be available to help student leaders organize and administrate at the request of either the student or the advisor. An advisor may serve for as long as the student allow.

Article V: Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VI: Money

There will be no mandatory dues paid, but all members are asked to pay \$10 a semester for group resources (e.g., lighting equipment, sound systems, etc). If we are hired by a group of people to perform, payment will go completely to the group to use for group resources.

Personal Gain Clause: This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from forprofit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article VII: Decision Making

All decisions will be made through honest, respectful, and professional deliberation, and all members in deliberation are considered equal.

In the event of any conflict which must be resolved on a tight deadline, both sides will state their cases in roughly 2 minutes or less statement to the members of the group presently in the room. Afterwards, the floor is opened to any and all questions from any cast member present in the room. A vote is then in effect; if the issue is serious and likely to result in hurt feelings (e.g., termination of membership), then the vote is blind, but if the issue is not so serious, then the vote may be open. In the event of a blind vote, the highest ranking present officer tallies the votes. If the vote results in a tie, the highest-ranking member (President, Talent Director, Seniority) outside of the disagreement will make the decision.

Article VIII: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service

that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from forprofit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article IX: Statement of University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Amendments

If the need to make changes to this constitution in any way arises, a measure may be submitted by any group member, then the group will discuss the proposed amendment as it arises. The constitution will be amended if the group reaches consensus. Each member has the right to block a consensus, but any member who exercises block power must provide compelling reason as to why the group should not amend the constitution. The group will then discuss the blocking member's reasons. If the group then comes to the consensus that the amendment should not be made, then the constitution is not amended. However, if there is an overwhelming agreement that far outweighs the blocking member's objection, then the amendment is made.