

Call for application: Ukrainian youth for MIL stand-up comedy

Get ready and apply for a program where stand-up comedy and the ability to navigate the information flow come together.

Ready to tear apart memes, fake news, TikTok trends and information noise? At DW Akademie's stand-up comedy event performances will expose the truth about the media and social networks, making everyone applaud – live on stage in Berlin; Germany's vibrant capital.

Who can apply?

You are between **12 and 16 years old** and the stage is your universe? Then take your voice, charisma and confidence to the stars!

During the course, you will:

- write jokes with a message—write social media monologues that really hit home.
- spread the truth—show how the information space works and do it in style.
- learn improvisation and comedy at its best: control your voice, breathing and diction, learn about joke structure, storytelling and speech structure, how to connect with the audience and manage stress during performances.
- learn to understand the media—learn to see through fakes, trends and algorithms, get to know examples of fake news in the Ukrainian information space, analyze Ukrainian news, protect your personal data and learn safe online behavior.

The detailed class schedule will be announced once the event begins.

Format

Online rehearsals, working on individual scripts and help with structuring a performance.

October 11 | In-Person Rehearsal (Berlin)

October 12 | Stand-Up Show (Berlin)

Presentation by participants of their own stand-up monologues.

Application deadline: September 7, 2026 Please register [here](#).

Who are your guides?

Svitlana Nemonezhina — stand-up comedian, resident of Pidpilny Stand-Up, participant in the TV show “League of Laughter,” creator of the “Dog Stand-Up” format and instructor of the “How to Write Stand-Up?” course at SKVOT School.

Maksym Albul — stand-up comedian, music festival host, member of the comedy boy band “Biti Baidiki,” producer of the KCHAU YouTube channel and funny mentor for Project Camp!

Viktoria Polchenko — creative producer at “Radio Promin,” a guru of Ukrainian radio. She’s an expert in voice projection and stage speech, infuses the airwaves with energy and supports Ukrainian culture to the max!

Rustam Mamedov — creative producer at Public Broadcasting. For over five years, he has been involved in filming and producing documentaries and audiovisual projects; he developed digital formats for the teen shows “So What?” and “Who’s Talking About What?” and worked on developing formats for “Collider.” For over six years, he has been teaching creative disciplines—including editing, animation, and graphic design—as well as cinematography and the fundamentals of audiovisual production at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the Kharkiv State Academy of Culture.

Yana Babak is a manager at UNICEF’s U-Report, a UPSHIFT trainer and a former producer at Suspilne. A political scientist, she specializes in political psychology and advertising. A meme expert: she categorizes memes, distinguishes between organic and manufactured ones, digs into their background and identifies their intentions and impact on public sentiment and stereotypes.

Lilia Shutyak is a media expert and a media literacy and journalism instructor with over 20 years of experience in communications. An associate professor in the Department of Journalism at Ukraine’s “Hogwarts”—Chernivtsi University—she teaches students how to spot fake news, recognize manipulation, and create content people want to trust. She is a cocreator of the teen TikTok series “Zlyv” about cyberbullying and digital safety, so she knows well what interests teens and how to talk to them about media without boring lectures.

Yulia Petrenko is the host and journalist for the teen TikTok news show “Kto pro Sho.” For two years, she created content for UNICEF’s U-Report and UPSHIFT on TikTok. She won the grand prize at DW’s Ideathon and produced the series on cyberbullying, “Zliv.” She has traveled across Ukraine conducting over ten workshops on media literacy and AI in collaboration with “Collider.” She knows all the tricks of creating viral content and editing, how to feel confident on camera and how to interview Ukrainian celebrities. She has her own TikTok travel blog.