DESI COMEDY FEST MAKES ITS TEXAS DEBUT IN HOUSTON ON OCTOBER 14

America's biggest South Asian comedy festival kicks off its first-ever Texas tour at Punch Line Houston

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, September 22, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After 12 years of sold-out shows and expansion across North America and India, Desi Comedy Fest — America's biggest South Asian comedy festival — is coming to Texas for the first time.

The festival launches its inaugural Texas tour at Punch Line Houston on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 PM, bringing together five South Asian comedians for a night of stand-up comedy performed entirely in English.

The Houston lineup features Sanjay Manaktala, Malay Vyas, Vishal Krishnasami, Abhay Nadkarni and Samson Koletkar — five comedians whose backgrounds and comedy span India, the Middle East, the American South, New York, California and, fittingly, Houston itself.

SANJAY MANAKTALA is an Indian-American comedian, writer and tech veteran who helped pioneer India's modern stand-up comedy scene after



DCF 2026 Houston Poster


Desi Comedy Fest Crowd Shot

moving to Bangalore in 2010. His stand-up, sketches and digital content have amassed more than 45 million views, and he has performed thousands of shows around the world, including alongside international acts such as Russell Brand.

MALAY VYAS brings a hometown connection to the festival's Texas debut. The Houston-based stand-up comedian, immigrant dad and mechanical engineer approaches Indian and American life with what he describes as a "satirical heart and statistical brain." Performing in Gujarati, Hindi and English, his comedy explores culture from an outsider's perspective.



Desi Comedy Fest Logo

VISHAL KRISHNASAMI was born in India, raised in North Carolina and is now based in New York City. His comedy draws on growing up in a deeply religious, conservative family and navigating life in the American South. He has appeared on Amazon Prime and performed at The Stand, New York Comedy Club and Don't Tell Comedy.

ABHAY NADKARNI, born in Delhi and raised in Doha and Bangalore, brings a global perspective to American absurdity. He was featured as a New Face at Montreal's Just For Laughs, has performed at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and has more than 100,000 followers online. His debut comedy special, Brown Jesus, is streaming on Amazon Prime.

SAMSON KOLETKAR blends his Indian upbringing, Jewish roots and American life into a cerebral and refreshingly clean style of comedy. He has performed across the U.S., Canada and India and has been featured on NPR, NBC, CBS, NDTV, The Times of India, Ha'aretz and more.

Founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2014 by Abhay Nadkarni and Samson Koletkar, Desi Comedy Fest was created to showcase South Asian comedic talent and bring audiences together through laughter. What began as a Bay Area festival has grown over the past 12 years, with sold-out shows throughout the region and performances across the United States, Canada and India.

Now, Desi Comedy Fest is bringing that experience to Texas for the first time. Houston opens the three-city Texas tour, followed by Austin on October 15 and Dallas on October 17.

“Texas has an incredible South Asian community, and we’ve wanted to bring Desi Comedy Fest here for a long time,” said festival co-creator Abhay Nadkarni. “After 12 years of building the festival in the Bay Area and taking it to audiences across the U.S., Canada and India, it’s exciting to finally bring it to Texas — and Houston is the perfect place to kick things off.”

“When we started Desi Comedy Fest, the idea was simple: put funny South Asian comedians on stage together and let audiences see just how many different voices and perspectives exist within our community,” said festival co-creator Samson Koletkar. “Twelve years later, we’re still discovering new comedians, reaching new audiences and taking the festival to new places. Bringing it to Texas for the first time is another exciting chapter for us.”

Desi Comedy Fest brings together comedians from across the South Asian diaspora, with comedy spanning family, relationships, immigrant experiences, culture, careers, identity, religion and the everyday absurdities of American life.

Whether you’re Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Nepali, Sri Lankan — or simply a fan of great stand-up comedy — Desi Comedy Fest offers a night of diverse voices, relatable stories and one common goal: making you laugh.

All performances are in English.

EVENT DETAILS

Desi Comedy Fest – Houston
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | 7:30 PM
Punch Line Houston
1204 Caroline St.
Houston, TX 77002

Tickets & Information: DesiComedyFest.com

ABOUT DESI COMEDY FEST

Founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2014 by comedians Abhay Nadkarni and Samson Koletkar, Desi Comedy Fest is America’s biggest South Asian comedy festival. The festival showcases South Asian comedians from around the world while bringing together audiences through a shared love of stand-up comedy.

Over the past 12 years, Desi Comedy Fest has presented comedians from across the globe, with sold-out shows throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and performances across the United States, Canada and India. The 2026 tour marks Desi Comedy Fest’s first-ever performances in Texas.

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