

DESI COMEDY FEST BRINGS A WORLD OF LAUGHTER TO SAN DIEGO NOVEMBER 7

America's largest South Asian comedy festival brings five comedians to The Yellow Door as its nationwide tour reaches Southern California during Diwali weekend.

SAN DIEGO, CA, UNITED STATES, October 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An Indian Jewish comedian, a Pakistani American comedian, a tech professional turned stand-up, and a comedian whose credits include Netflix Is a Joke Festival walk into a comedy club.

It's not the beginning of a joke. It's the lineup for Desi Comedy Fest, coming to The Yellow Door Comedy Club in downtown San Diego on Saturday, November 7, at 7 PM.

America's largest South Asian comedy festival brings together comedians whose backgrounds, experiences and perspectives are as varied as their punchlines. The San Diego show features Vishnu Akella, Priya Puram, Elizabeth Aziz and festival co-founders Samson Koletkar and Abhay Nadkarni.

Akella has performed at Netflix Is a Joke Festival and opened for Hasan Minhaj, Michelle Wolf and Ken Jeong. Puram is an Indian American comedian and tech professional who has performed at SF Sketchfest, finding humor in culture, relationships and modern life. Aziz is a Pakistani American comedian from Chicago who has performed at The Laugh Factory, Zanies and Limestone Comedy Festival.

Then there are the festival's founders, who have unusual relationships with religion.

Koletkar is a Jewish comedian born in Mumbai who performs internationally as Mahatma Moses and was dubbed "The Indian Seinfeld" by The Indian Express. Nadkarni is a Hindu third-culture



DESI COMEDY FEST
THE BIGGEST SOUTH ASIAN COMEDY FESTIVAL IN AMERICA
SOCAL TOUR 2026
— DIWALI WEEKEND —

THU NOV 5	ONTARIO	ONTARIO IMPROV	8 PM
FRI NOV 6	HOLLYWOOD	HOLLYWOOD IMPROV	7:30 & 9:30 PM
SAT NOV 7	SAN DIEGO	THE YELLOW DOOR	7 PM
SUN NOV 8	IRVINE	IRVINE IMPROV	6 PM

ABHAY NADKARNI, AHMED BHARDOCHA, ALIYA KANANI, DJ SANDHU, ELIZABETH AZIZ, FERAZ OZEL, FIZAA BOSANI, KIRAN DEOL, PALLAVI GUHALAN, PARDIS PARKER, PRIYA PURAM, RAJIV SATYAL, SAMSON KOLETGAR, SHAMAN JOHAL, SHILPA DAS, VISHNU AKELLA, ZAHID DEWI, ZAHRA ALI

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GET TICKETS: [DESICOMEDYFEST.COM](https://desicomedyfest.com)

COMEDIANS SEEN ON: NETFLIX, hulu, NBC, COMEDY CENTRAL, abc, HBO, CBS, tbs, FOX, siriusxm

DCF 2026 SoCal Poster

kid who grew up between Delhi, Doha and Bangalore. A Just For Laughs New Face, his comedy special Brown Jesus streams on Amazon Prime Video. Between Mahatma Moses and Brown Jesus, neither has much use for modesty.

TWO COUNTRIES, ONE MICROPHONE

The festival's story began in 2013, when Koletkar, troubled by tensions between Indian and Pakistani communities in the Bay Area and back in India, decided to defuse those tensions through laughter. He brought Indian and Pakistani comedians together for shows around their countries' Independence Days, just one day apart. Two countries, one microphone.

In 2014, Koletkar and Nadkarni turned that idea into Desi Comedy Fest, launching with four sold-out shows in the San Francisco Bay Area. Twelve years later, the festival has featured more than 200 comedians and entertained nearly 20,000 people across more than 30 cities in three countries.

The 2026 nationwide tour has traveled through New York, Boston, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Chicago, six Bay Area cities and three cities in Texas before arriving in Southern California.

"Your phone gives you a comments section. A comedy club gives you a room," said Nadkarni. "It's a lot more fun laughing together than arguing with strangers."

The San Diego performance is part of the festival's final five shows of 2026, taking place during Diwali weekend.



Desi Comedy Fest Logo



Desi Comedy Fest Crowd Shot

The comedians may come from different backgrounds, but the goal is the same: make people laugh.

You don't have to be South Asian to get the jokes. You don't have to share the comedians' experiences to laugh at their stories. Good comedy doesn't require a cultural background check.

SAN DIEGO SHOW DETAILS

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 7 PM

The Yellow Door Comedy Club

750 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Featuring:

Vishnu Akella: Netflix Is a Joke Festival; opened for Hasan Minhaj and Ken Jeong.

Priya Puram: SF Sketchfest; comedy about culture, technology and relationships.

Elizabeth Aziz: The Laugh Factory, Zanies, Limestone Comedy Festival.

Samson Koletkar: Festival Co-Founder; dubbed "The Indian Seinfeld" by The Indian Express.

Abhay Nadkarni: Festival Co-Founder; Just For Laughs New Face.

Tickets: General Admission \$25 | VIP \$40

Show is in English, ages 21 and over, with a two-item minimum.

Tickets & Full schedule: www.DesiComedyFest.com

ABOUT DESI COMEDY FEST

Founded in 2014 by comedians Samson Koletkar and Abhay Nadkarni, Desi Comedy Fest is America's largest South Asian comedy festival. What began with four sold-out Bay Area shows has grown to feature more than 200 comedians and entertain nearly 20,000 attendees across more than 30 cities in three countries. The festival was featured at Just For Laughs Vancouver in 2024.

Samson Koletkar

Desi Comedy Fest

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