



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WOMEN AND POC TAKE OVER THE COMEDY SCENE AT THE RUBY LA *Is comedy dead? Maybe not.*

**Los Angeles, CA - March 27, 2018:** The Nerdist School is relaunching as The Ruby LA, an inclusive comedy theater and school, openly founded on the principles of intersectional feminism. To celebrate the launch, The Ruby Assembly, a big comedy & arts festival from noon to midnight, with acts from all over the city, will take place on Saturday, April 7th, 2018.

The Nerdist School, most recently helmed by Jen Curran (*Harvard Sailing Team*), Lindsey Barrow (*Casual*), and Randy Thompson (*Loose Canon Collective*), was sick and tired of business as usual. As the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements gained momentum, these Nerdist School higher ups decided to take a different approach. With an intersectional, feminist mindset leading the charge, inspired by values like equality, diversity, and inclusion, The Ruby is trashing the old-white-guys-at-the-top idea. They're bringing in women, people of color, and queer voices to round out leadership and faculty positions, while also creating and producing shows by underrepresented voices. The Ruby aims to reflect the fundamental shift happening in America right now; it is a creative community for everyone, brought to you by feminist women and men who believe it's long since time for a change in the comedy scene.

The Ruby's co-founders, Barrow, Curran, and Thompson, are actors, comedians and writers in their own right; and join The Ruby LA from previous faculty and administrative positions at places like Nerdist School, UCB LA, The PIT NYC, and NYU Tisch. Faculty at The Ruby will include veteran comedians and creators in the industry, like Dwayne Colbert (*Silicon Valley*), Rebekka Johnson (*G.L.O.W.*), Muriel Montgomery (*Quick & Funny Musicals*), Melissa Pryor (*Big Little Lies*), Ashley Ward (*Baby Wants Candy*), Patricia Villetto (*Dreamworks TV*), Bill Posley (*G.L.O.W.*), Steph Garcia (*The Catch*), Ptolemy Slocum (*Westworld*), and more. The Ruby's theater space is managed by comedian/producer Lauren Bancroft.

The Ruby will offer an updated course curriculum to support comedians with more of the tools they need to be well-rounded creators. "We're offering improv and sketch classes, and we're also teaching you skills so you're fully prepared to work in the industry. We've got exciting new classes about pitching in a room, audition prep, marketing, discovering your unique voice and lots more," stated Barrow, Artistic Director.

Among other big and small initiatives, The Ruby will offer an inclusion scholarship, and a scholarship for women. Plans are also in the works for a feminist podcast network broadcasting from The Ruby under the direction of Samee Junio (*Historical Roast*), as well as a digital production arm featuring inclusive, female driven content. The Ruby Assembly is sponsored by Stepforward.

**THE RUBY:** The Ruby is a feminist and inclusive comedy theater and school located at 7518 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. [TheRubyLA.com](http://TheRubyLA.com). Contact Jen Curran: [jen@TheRubyLA.com](mailto:jen@TheRubyLA.com)

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