

# Rajyashree Sen

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Neuroscientist, Improviser, and General Life Enthusiast



Photo by Kian McKellar

Hi! I am Rajyashree, a.k.a. Rai (pronounced 'rye' – as in the whiskey). I was born and raised in India, but now I am an improviser based in New York City and a [neuroscientist at Columbia University](#). As a scientist and improviser, I aim to bring my unique combination of skills and experiences to a dynamic and collaborative improv team.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Neuroscience** from University of Vienna, Austria 2012-2017  
(I studied [moonwalking flies!](#))

## IMPROV & THEATER TRAINING

**Magnet Theater, New York** | All levels and select electives 2022-2023  
**Upright Citizen's Brigade, New York** | All levels and select electives 2019-2021  
**iO Theater, Chicago** | Spring One-Week Intensive 2019  
**Washington Improv Theater, DC** | All levels and select electives 2014-2016  
**Studio Theater** | Acting: Principles of Realism 10/2015-01/2016

## HOUSE TEAMS

**Magnet Theater, New York** | Cast of **improv (Megawatt) house-team** Inky 05/2023-present  
Perform weekly  
**Washington Improv Theater, DC** | Cast of **Harold team** Heirloom 05/2018-10/2018  
<https://witdc.org/people/rai-sen/>  
Performed bi-weekly  
**Laugh Index Theater, DC** | Cast of **musical improv house-team** Wonderball 07/2016-03/2017  
Performed bi-weekly at DC Arts Center, DC

## NOTABLE INDIE TEAMS

**Bombay Vindaloo** | Form: A Bollywood movie as a Harold  
Performed at Del Close Marathon 20 (New York), DC Arts Center (DC), Washington Improv Theater (DC), etc.  
**Family Affair** | Form: the Alan Thicke (a character-driven form developed by John Calcerano)  
Performed at Washington Improv Theater (DC).  
**Please And Thank You** | Form: Pretty Flower  
Performed at DC Arts Center (DC), Unified Scene Theater (DC), Dojo Comedy (DC), etc.  
**Jeff & Rai** | (duo-team) Form: the Monoscene  
Performed at Dojo Comedy (DC), Highwood Theater (Silver Spring MD), and once in a sushi bar.

## ACCOLADES

*(Improv and related)*

**Improv** | Upright Citizen's Brigade Diversity Scholarship 10/2019-10/2021

**Science Communication** | Finalist, Young Scientist Seminars Series 03/2020  
Competition, iBiology & Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science

**Advanced Fiction Writing** | Merit Scholarship – 2023 New York State Summer 07/2023  
Writers Institute, Skidmore College, New York, USA

**Science** | MC Hammer retweeted my research once!

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Shooting lasers in mouse brains, making fruit-flies walk backwards, and above average thumb-bending skills.

## REFERENCES

Available upon request, but I can tell you they're all excellent scientists and pretty decent improvisers too!