**Rajyashree Sen**

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Neuroscientist, Improviser, and General Life Enthusiast

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| *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](https://www.axellab.columbia.edu/rajyashree-sen). As a scientist and improviser, I aim to bring my unique combination of skills and experiences to a dynamic and collaborative improv team. | | | | |
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| EDUCATION | |  | | | |
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| **PhD in Neuroscience** from University of Vienna, Austria  *(I studied* [*moonwalking flies*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFPO02v1yKY)*!)* | | *2012-2017* | | | |
| IMPROV & THEATER TRAINING | | | | |  |
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| **Magnet Theater, New York |** *All levels and select electives* | | | | | *2022-2023* |
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| **Upright Citizen’s Brigade, New York |** *All levels and select electives* | | | | | *2019-2021* |
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| **iO Theater, Chicago |** *Spring One-Week Intensive* | | | | | *2019* |
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| **Washington Improv Theater, DC |** *All levels and select electives* | | | | | *2014-2016* |
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| **Studio Theater |** *Acting: Principles of Realism* | | *10/2015-01/2016* | | | |
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| HOUSE TEAMS | |  | | | |
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| **Magnet Theater, New York|** *Cast of* ***improv house-team*** *Behemoth* [*https://magnettheater.com/people/rajyashree-sen/*](https://magnettheater.com/people/rajyashree-sen/)  Perform weekly | | | *05/2023-present* | | |
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| **Washington Improv Theater, DC|** *Cast of* ***Harold team*** *Heirloom* [*https://witdc.org/people/rai-sen/*](https://witdc.org/people/rai-sen/)  Performed bi-weekly | | | *05/2018-10/2018* | | |
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| **Laugh Index Theater, DC|** *Cast of* ***musical improv house-team*** *Wonderball* Performed bi-weekly at DC Arts Center, DC | | | *07/2016-03/2017* | | |
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| NOTABLE INDIE TEAMS | |  | | | |
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| **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. | | | | | |
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| **Family Affair |** *Form: the Alan Thicke (a character-driven form developed by John Calcerano)* | | | | | |
| Performed at Washington Improv Theater (DC). | | | | | |
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| **Please And Thank You |** *Form: Pretty Flower* | |  | | | |
| Performed at DC Arts Center (DC), Unified Scene Theater (DC), Dojo Comedy (DC), etc. | | | | | |
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| **Jeff & Rai |** *(duo-team) Form: the Monoscene* | |  | | | |
| Performed at Dojo Comedy (DC), Highwood Theater (Silver Spring MD), and once in a sushi bar. | | | | | |
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| ACCOLADES | |  | | | |
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| *(Improv and related)* | |  | | | |
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| **Improv |** Upright Citizen’s Brigade Diversity Scholarship | | *10/2019-10/2021* | | | |
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| **Science Communication|** Finalist, Young Scientist Seminars Series Competition, iBiology & Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science | | *03/2020* | | | |
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| **Advanced Fiction Writing |** Merit Scholarship – 2023 New York State Summer Writers Institute, Skidmore College, New York, USA | | | | *07/2023* | | |
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| **Science |** MC Hammer retweeted my research once! | |  | | | |
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| ADDITIONAL SKILLS | |  | | | |
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| Shooting lasers in mouse brains, making fruit-flies walk backwards, and above average thumb-bending skills. | | | | | |
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| REFERENCES | |  | | | |
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| Available upon request, but I can tell you they're all excellent scientists and pretty decent improvisers too! | | | | | |