

ComicSeen — Project Testing Report

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Introduction

Target Audience. ComicSeen serves two personas: stand-up comedians seeking stage time, bookings, and a professional presence, and show producers who create shows, discover talent, and manage lineups. Both are everyday web users with varied comfort with technology who should be able to navigate the platform without instruction.

Changes to Initial Objectives, Approach, and Deliverables. Our core objectives, an event-driven notification system, in-app messaging, an availability calendar with booking, and EPK profiles, remained stable while scope evolved with our mentor. Notifications expanded to include show cancellation emails and add/remove/replace lineup notifications, all deployed. Messaging grew to include producer-to-producer conversations. The availability feature moved to phased delivery: the dashboard calendar shipped to production, while the booking workflow, though feature-complete, will deploy behind an upcoming paid subscription tier, a sequencing decision by the platform owner. Testing also grew beyond the proposed unit tests to include frontend coverage with a CI gate and backend suites for the notification, messaging, and availability systems.

Current State of the Project. All four features are complete and merged, and the platform is live in production at ComicSeen.com. Event-driven emails cover signups, drops, bookings, cancellations, and lineup changes. Messaging supports real-time conversations with role enforcement, unread tracking, and email notifications. EPK profiles give comedians a shareable press kit producers review before booking. The dashboard calendar is in production; the availability booking workflow is feature-complete, pending integration and deployment behind

the subscription tier. Backend and frontend test suites are in place, with frontend tests gating deployment.

Individual Contributions. Yusra built the event-driven notification system, the show lifecycle emails, and a 22-test backend suite. Sam built the in-app messaging system end to end, including message email notifications, a search performance fix, and a 24-test backend suite. Shane built the availability calendar and booking workflow, including the dashboard calendar now in production, with backend unit tests. Vivian built the EPK profile feature and introduced frontend test coverage with a CI step. For this assignment, all four members contributed: the team conducted the tester sessions and each member authored the results for their feature area, with Yusra coordinating and assembling the report.

Project Testers. Four testers matched ComicSeen's two personas. Abdullah tested the producer workflow, fitting the show organizer persona: comfortable with technology and experienced coordinating events. Aline, Sabrina, and Steven acted as comedian-persona testers: everyday web users comfortable with technology and social platforms, representative of aspiring comics new to the platform. Each tester thought aloud while a team observer took notes, with the workflows exercised on the live production platform and the availability booking workflow on a development build.

Testing Tasks. Comedian tasks: (1) sign up and complete account setup; (2) create an EPK profile; (3) find a show and view its details; (4) receive and reply to a producer's message; (5) receive and recognize the platform's email notifications. Producer tasks: (1) sign up and complete producer setup; (2) create a show; (3) find comedians and add one or more to the lineup; (4) message a comedian; (5) cancel a show, with notifications reaching all parties. EPK-focused tasks: (1) review a comic's EPK and identify its purpose; (2) find the comic's

upcoming shows; (3) edit an EPK, including social links, a photo, and a video. Availability tasks (development build): (1) view a comedian's availability; (2) complete a booking request.

Testing Results

Report on Task Completion. All four testers completed all of their assigned tasks. Aline and Sabrina completed signup, EPK creation, show discovery, message reply, and email verification. Abdullah completed producer signup, show creation, booking one and then multiple comedians, messaging, and cancelling a show. Steven completed the EPK tasks, identifying the profile's purpose, locating upcoming shows, and editing an EPK end to end. Abdullah also completed the availability tasks on the development build, viewing a comedian's availability and sending a booking request. No task ended in failure.

Report on Where Testers Got Stuck. Two consistent friction points emerged. First, Abdullah, Aline, and Sabrina each clicked “Sign Up” and were routed to the Login page, having to find the “Sign up” link at its bottom to proceed. All three recovered within moments (“oh, I have to press sign up from here”), but the consistency marks a genuine onboarding defect; investigation traced it to the homepage button linking to the show-slot signup route instead of registration, a small routing fix planned before the festival. Second, after Abdullah booked the comedians, their dashboards did not reflect the booking; Aline and Sabrina had to search for the show to confirm they were on the lineup, and both appeared unsure the booking had succeeded until they found it.

Report on General Tester Feedback. Feedback was otherwise positive: setup, EPK creation, finding comedians, and show creation proceeded without hesitation. Testers observed the full notification loop live: an email on message receipt, the unread badge, and the show lifecycle emails (“You’ve Been Added to a Show,” the cancellation notice, and the producer’s confirmation) all arriving within moments. On the EPK, Steven and Aline both found the term

unclear (“I don't know what EPK is”), though Steven recognized its promotional purpose, called the design simple, praised the required-field feedback, and found mobile more natural than desktop, noting small desktop fonts and that the Upcoming Shows tab was hard to find.

Messaging Results. Across the sessions, all three testers completed their messaging tasks without getting stuck: producer Abdullah successfully sent a message to a comic, and comics Aline and Sabrina each received and replied to a producer’s message. Role-based access worked exactly as intended, with searches correctly scoped to Producer–Comic pairings only. On message receipt, testers observed both an email notification arriving within moments and an unread badge appearing live on the Messages icon in the navbar, confirming the real-time notification path end to end. Testers had no negative feedback on the messaging UI and described the flow as straightforward. As an additional safety net not directly exercised in these sessions, a daily digest email also checks for any unread messages and notifies users who may have missed the real-time alert.

Calendar and Availability Results. The calendar and availability feature was tested in two parts. The dashboard calendar, deployed to production, rendered correctly during the main sessions with the current-day indicator. The availability and booking workflow, feature-complete on a development branch pending deployment behind the upcoming subscription tier, was exercised in a development-build session: Abdullah browsed a comedian's availability and completed a booking request without getting stuck, describing the flow as straightforward and easy for checking a comedian's availability.

Improvements Based on Testing. Before the festival: route the “Sign Up” button directly to registration, and surface bookings on the comedian dashboard so comedians need not search to confirm their status. Longer term: introduce the EPK term with a brief explanation (“your

comedy profile”), since two testers paused at the label; add an in-app notification center and notification settings; deploy the availability booking workflow with the subscription tier; and pursue the EPK interface refinements from testing (shows visible on scroll, larger desktop type), noted for sponsor review since interface changes require the platform owner's approval.