

Comedian Nina G at the Accessible Futures Conference, June 2025

[00:00:00.07] - Nina G

All right.

[00:00:02.08] - Interviewer

Okay, everyone. Hi. Welcome back. I hope you're enjoying lunch. Today's lunch session features a comic who's been breaking barriers with every punchline. She is the San Francisco Bay Area's only female, stuttering stand-up comedian and a proud disability activist. Her stand-up special, *Stutter, Interrupted*, is free on YouTube, and you can find her on social media @Nina G on all accounts. Through humor, she challenges stereotypes, centers lived experiences, and reminds us that accessibility includes joy and laughter, too. Please join me in welcoming Nina G.

[00:00:41.19] - Nina G

Thank you so much. Hello, everyone. It's so good to be here. Hi. This has been good? You guys? Yeah? All right. Great. I've heard great things about the conference. I know that my friend Jade was here yesterday, so happy to be I'm part of this. Yes, I'm actually Northern California's only female, stuttering stand-up comic. I'm part of a comedy troupe called the Comedians with Disabilities Act. When I first became part of the group, about 14 years back, it was a guy who used a wheelchair, another guy who was blind and another guy who was a little person. When I first joined it, people were stuttering and dyslexia because I also have dyslexia. Those are Real disabilities, you shouldn't be in that comedy troupe. I tell them, if you look at the definition of what a disability is, it's a physical or mental impairment that substantially results in having to deal with assholes. Pretty sure it qualifies. I keep hoping to retire that joke, but it never becomes that way. Also, I should describe myself for accessibility purposes. I am a white woman in a a cactus dress, or a dress that has cactuses on it, I should say.

[00:02:36.22] - Nina G

That doesn't make sense the other way. Also, I have brown hair and brown eyes. I have Italian-American features. I know you can't tell I'm Italian because I'm educated and my skin is an orange, okay? It's not the kinds of Italians that they... Those are the kinds of Italians that they put on TV. It should be like us, right? It should be like us. It's not. I just want to say, as a middle-aged Italian-American woman, I can't believe that our President wears more bronzer than me. I

don't know how to... And JD Vanson, his eye makeup. More than me. More than me. For this next part of the description, I need silence. Here we go. Here we go. That's me patting on my tummy. That is five layers of spanks, everybody. One more time. Five layers of spanks. Some of you, some of you don't know what a spank is. It's a sausage casing for a woman, okay? You put it on, and the sound it makes, it goes... You know what happens at the end of the day when you take off the spanks? You know what happens? A mushroom cloud of farts come out.

[00:04:13.08] - Nina G

Because they've been marinating the entire day, marinating. It can impact the ozone. It's a methane. It can impact the ozone. If it rains tomorrow, we know that I had a busy week in comedy. A lot of Spanks, a lot of Spanks. Even with this layers and layers of makeup, layers of Spanks, I also have a push-up bra, which all of this is a third of what Christie Nome wears to an ice raid. There's that as well. I had to bring a little bit of that into it. Yes, I have special on YouTube called Stutter or Interrupted. I would love for you to check out my YouTube channel, not necessarily for the content, but for the YouTube comments. Oh my God, the comments of a female stuttering stand-up comic. There's stuff on there like, You should really try weed for that speech problem of yours. Yeah, because stand-up would go much better if I were more paranoid. Okay. I'm thirsty. Knew that would hit with this audience. No, but there was this one guy recently who saw a video of me doing stand-up, and he wrote, Oh, my God. A stuttering stand-up comic. This is the bravest thing I have ever seen.

[00:05:55.28] - Nina G

So brave. So brave. I just want to say, in your face, 9/11 first responders. In your face. Because who's brave? Is it people who put their lives on the line to save others? No, no, no, no, no, it's me. Stuttering dick joke teller. That's who's brave. That's who's brave. I grew up in the Bay Area. I'm from Alameda and grew up in Alameda, in San Leandro. I went to UC Berkeley. Well, I transferred there. I'm a community college transfer. That's always the way to go. Transfer is the way to go. Anyway, I perform everywhere. I perform in Berkeley a lot, and I love Berkeley. But when I perform there, sometimes the able-bodied people, it gets a little weird because Berkeley is so politically correct that they are afraid to laugh at the disabled person even when they're telling jokes. Okay? Oh, my God. Because sometimes in the Berkeley audience, I get Berkeley impats. Okay? I don't know if you know what that means, but it's a person who takes in other people's experiences. They do this. I don't know why they do this. Experiences. They make those experiences about them, because in the midst of my act, I'm trying to entertain.

[00:07:45.29] - Nina G

I'm trying to be funny. I'm going to give you an example of one of the jokes I do. Here is an Exhibit A. I'm asked a lot of weird questions about my speech. One of the things I'm oftentimes asked is, do I stutter when I... Or... Do I stutter when I... Orgasm. Am I following Follow-up question is always, Which lips are you talking about? Okay. Zip it A. All right. Those are the jokes I'm doing. What do the super-empaths do in the audience? They don't look at me. They make eye contact with their friends to make sure everyone's looking, and they do this. They pitymoan me. These people, they pity-moan me. Now, the thing is, I love sympathy just like each and every one of you. I just don't know why that sympathy has to come in the middle of How am I at? Now, we're going to do it now? Because it's not my everyday life. It's not like when I go to Starbucks and I place my order and I say my name and the barista asks, Is that Nina with five Ns? Where's my pity moan then? The five Ns thing actually did happen in my whole life, but it wasn't at Starbucks.

[00:09:32.00] - Nina G

I was introduced to a guy when I was new in comedy, and he asked my name, and I said, Nina. And that's when he said, Oh, is that Nina with five ends? And I was like, No, that's Nina with two ends. And I did this, two ends. I'm flipping off on both hands for accessibility.

[00:10:06.00] - Nina G

That's a slight exaggeration because I actually said that's Nina with one N because I also have dyslexia and forgot I had two Ns in my name. There's that, too. I hope you guys are talking about dyslexia and transportation, okay? You better be talking about that because a bus and Bart's schedules are dyslexical. We cannot read those. It is only second to the Dewey decimal system. Those are both Dyslexicals, so make sure you include that. Let's see. Well, we talked about Berkeley, we talked about that. Oh, yes. So when I perform, something that oftentimes happens is people think that I'm fake the stuttering like it's for the comedic effect. I just want to be very clear, everybody, that I have a rule that I don't fake my stuttering and I don't fake my orgasms. No matter how long either one of those two things take. They'll take really long. Now, the two have a lot in common, too, because if the other person would just shut up and stop interrupting me, I'd finish a lot faster. That's how that works. Having a disability, there's this thing that happens, whether you stutter or whatever you got. That is, as soon as someone meets you, they suddenly have a PhD in the thing you have.

[00:11:52.19] - Nina G

Oh, my God. One segment on NPR, suddenly everybody knows what you have and what you need to do. In the Bay Area, it's always like, Oh, maybe you should take gluten out of your diet.

That's going to help my dyslexia. All right? With me, the free advice is always stuff like, Just slow down and breathe. Are you breathing? Breathe. I've been stuttering since I was eight. I've never thought of that. I guess I've been breathing this entire time. No, but the advice always comes in strange ways. Once I was on a radio show, I was on KGO, actually, and a woman called up and she said, I have a friend who She was stutter, but she found true love. Now she doesn't stutter her anymore. Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that beautiful? Isn't that the biggest bunch of Love, Disney. Disney love cures everything. Bullshit you've ever heard? That's exactly what that is. The bad advice comes from even professionals I have a friend who statters, and this happened a few years back, and he was seeing a therapist, a Bay Area cycle therapist who told him... Well, also my friend, he was 23 at the time, and he hadn't had sex yet.

[00:13:37.26] - Nina G

It's not that it was a big thing for him. It just hadn't happened yet because he don't just want to do it with anybody. He wanted it to be special, and he waited. It wasn't a Bible thing or anything. It hadn't happened yet. So his therapist tells him, once you start having sex, you're I'm not going to stutter anymore. I know. I know. I was like, You know that that's some bullshit, right? He's like, I'm willing to try it out and see. I'm not with me, but good luck on that. No, but he started to date this woman he met. After a couple of weeks, I could tell that it was going somewhere. One Sunday morning, I looked at my phone and I got a text. The text read, I still stutter. You guys are fast. Because he did. He did it. And I texted back, Keep trying. He has, and he married that girl and still stutter. So there you go. So something about me. Growing up, my grandma was an old-school prescription drug addict. So you guys know what that means here? She was addicted to Vicodin A and Valium and the lady pills of the 1970s.

[00:15:06.20] - Nina G

For the young people, you should know that they drugged women in the '70s so that they wouldn't want their rights. That is what They did in the '60s and '70s, and my grandma was part of that. That was an issue all of her life. I'm the first one in my family ever to go to college. Very, very first one. Okay, so the three, four people who applauded and the interpreter that did this. More support than most of my family gave me, okay? So thank you. No. After my undergrad, I went on and got my doctorate. When I finished school, I thought that my grandma would be so proud of me, right? Like the first one in the family. I went to Catholic school, okay? With with a stutter and dyslexia. I always say, You should never pity me for having a disability, but you can't pity me for going to Catholic school with a disability in the 1980s because that sucked. Okay, that sucked. My grandma knew all of this, and I called her up and I thought she'd be so proud. I said, Grandma, I'm a doctor. You know what she said first Can you prescribe?

[00:16:33.02] - Nina G

I was like, No, Grandma, I'm not that doctor. I'm the doctor who's 100 grand in debt, makes seven bucks an hour. It was 2000. That's what I made then. It's based on truth. For 20 years, I lived in Oakland, and I had rent control. For those of you who have had rent control, you know what that means. In Oakland, it meant that your rent can only go up a teeny tiny bit every year. It also meant that there were two people on the face of the Earth who were rooting for my death, my landlord and his wife. I held on to that rent control for a very long time, but recently I moved in to my dad's place because my mom died, and there are white people who actually do take care of their elders. I moved to Pleasanton, nowhere to eat now. But I moved to Pleasanton in a 55 and over mobile home park. Okay, so very different from my rent-controlled place in Oakland, where I could get to San Francisco show in 15 minutes, all of that. I'm bored there. I'm bored. So I started growing cactus or cacti and succulents. A lot of times, comics, after a show, they will want weed or cocaine.

[00:18:18.05] - Nina G

I will take a succulent cutting, okay? All right? That is where I'm at in my life right now. I want to make sure that I got everything here. Okay. A couple of things. Like I said, I do have dyslexia, and I don't know if you know this, but the governor of our great state also has dyslexia, which he has talked about for years and years and years, and he's been a speaker on that. Another thing I share with him that we have in common is that we are both Bay Area, born and raised. We also both have great hair. I I'd say the main difference between me and Governor Newsom is I wholeheartedly support the disability community. There's that. I can't believe we have to fight federally, and we have to fight through the state, and we have to fight in our cities and towns. I appreciate all of you being here and being part of that Community is such a big piece of this. I love it when there's cross-disability, because a lot of times, the stutterers will only go to the stuttering conferences and stuff like that. For those of you that don't know, a lot of times there are conferences just based on disability, and they are incredible because you can see yourself and you are reflected everywhere you look.

[00:20:03.03] - Nina G

To go to a restaurant with people who are like you is just such an important experience to have. I know for people who stutter, it's at the exact same time as the Little People of America conference. It's very much that same vibe. I also know that blind people have their conference. Going to these conferences What I have found is, aside from that reflection of yourself and seeing who you are and what your potential is, it's also 800 people with the same disability getting drunk and trying to hook up with each other. That is a spiritual thing. I just want to say that. I go to a lot of NA and AA conferences because my friend Dave, who also is a comic,

Mean Dave, he is in recovery, and I get to do a lot of shows. I just want to say same deal goes on there, except it's Red Bulls and Hooking up. It's so important to have those experiences. I thank you all for having me. I can only hang out for a teeny bit because it is California, and I have to get back to work. Thank you all, and thanks for having me here.

[00:21:36.03] - Nina G

Love you guys.