

Streamyard Guide v2

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1 Introduction

This document acts as somewhat as a tutorial for the streaming software Streamyard. It can stream to YouTube and Facebook. It is assumed that the reader of this document is going to be the Streamyard host of a performance. During a show, it would be extremely hard to have a smooth show when the Streamyard host and the performance host are the same person.

At the time of writing this document, all URLs are correct. Should you have any issues, please [feel free to send me an email](#). You can access this PDF at <https://hussesmail.xyz/guides/vcp/VCP-Streamyard-Guide.pdf>.

1.1 Required Software

To be on Streamyard (host or guest), you need one of these browsers: Google Chrome, Brave, Opera, Firefox.

1.2 Getting Started

When you go to <https://streamyard.com>, there isn't a login and password. Instead, you type in the email of the account (in this case that is Brian Goldenberg's email, bgolden@yorku.ca), and a code is emailed to him. He then can give you that code so that you can log in. Though, if you don't log out when you're done it should still be logged in when you come back.

2 Managing What the Audience Sees

2.1 First Glance

When you open the correct broadcast, you will see a big blue rectangle in the top left corner. That is what the audience members see during the stream. Below that is the "backstage", where guests remain before they are brought onstage by the host. If you bring multiple peoples' video feeds onstage, you can use the row of video arrangement buttons between the stream screen and the backstage members.

To access other panels like the chat or branding options, there is a toolbar to the very right of the screen with the buttons, Comments, Banners, Brand, Private Chat, and Settings.

One thing to note about broadcasts, is that they will automatically go away after you've "gone live" and exited Streamyard, but this doesn't delete anything because of Branding (see the Branding section for more info).

2.2 Virtual Backgrounds

Streamyard does have an option to have virtual backgrounds. To select it, go to "Settings (gear icon on right-hand side) > Virtual Background". Here you can select if you have a green screen or not. The allowed file types are .png, .jpg,

and .jpeg. I don't recommend changing your background mid-show because it may take a few seconds to update. If you do need to change it during a show, be off-screen and allocate time to do this within the Stage Manager's prompt book.

Of course it goes without saying, but only you can change your own virtual background, so if actors need to change their backgrounds, each of them need to do so by themselves.

2.3 Assets

2.3.1 “Banners”

In the “Banners” tab, you can make as many banners as you want. You can only have one be onscreen at a time, and you can have it on for as long as you want (you have to manually turn it on and off). This is great for saying what the performance name is during the performance or who is performing. They can be rearranged in order and sorted into folders depending on what show it belongs to.

2.3.2 “Branding”

In the “Branding” tab, there are many options on what you can display. You can change the brand colour (by using a colour picker or inputting a hex code), add a logo to the top right corner of the screen, add an overlay to the entire stream feed, play video clips, and change the background image. For all of these asset types, you can add as many as you want.

For the logos and overlays, it is highly recommended that you have some transparency in these because it would look bad if there isn't. Especially for the overlay, because otherwise that would be the only thing the viewer would see if it was on.

Keep in mind the only supported video format for uploading video clips is .mp4. If it's not that, you will need to convert it somehow. When you play video clips, it starts playing on the stream right when you click it, and do not provide any warning for how much time is left. In previous shows, we would use videos as the intro and outro, and when a specific image was on, what would be our queue to go live and when to end the recording. Another issue with video clips, is that if there is a banner onscreen, that must be manually turned off if you want to play a video, or else it will still be on top of the video clip as well.

For the background images, it is recommended to have something dull like a solid colour so that it isn't distracting from the stream itself. If there is no background image, it will be solid black, which doesn't look too visually appealing.

3 Managing Performers

3.1 Inviting People

To invite people to the stream, at the bottom of the window beside the “Leave Studio” button, there is a button “Invite”. When you press this, a pop-up appears with a link. This link can be sent to anyone joining the stream. If people are prompted to sign in through YouTube or Facebook, the best thing for them is to sign in through YouTube with their Passport York account through Google. When they join, they go to the backstage of the stream, and to be onscreen, they have to be added by the Streamyard host.

The best way for people in the show to communicate with the host is to use the private chat if you’re backstage, or to talk out loud if you’re on the stream.

3.2 Maximum Logged In Users

Streamyard has a limit of 10 people at a time. This includes everyone including those that are not currently on the stream. If you have a show that has more than 10 people including the host(s), you need to coordinate when people will exit and enter, such as tagging people in a single Microsoft Teams thread. These enters and exits should also be in the Stage Manager’s prompt book.

3.2.1 Kicking Out Users

If someone doesn’t exit the stream quick enough, the host of the stream can also kick them out. First you should make sure that they are removed from the main video feed. You can do this by hovering over their individual stream on the backstage area, click the 3 dots on the top right corner, then click “Kick from Stream”, not “Ban from Stream”.

3.3 Stream Comments

When streaming to YouTube, stream comments on YouTube can show up on Streamyard, and you can also click comments to feature them on the stream video feed, by clicking them on then off. The issue is if you want to show multiple comments one after the other, you have to click each one on and off.

3.4 Camera Views



These first 4 camera views have been nicknamed from left to right are below. The last 3 are not used as much as they all involve screen-sharing.

1. SOLO
2. SPLIT

3. SQUARE
4. SPOTLIGHT

When users' cameras are onscreen, there are many options for how you want to display their feeds. You can try out each of these during the tech run, just note that the 2nd view does not look too good with 3 people because each person has to be in the middle third of their camera which might not look well. You can also drag screens around, and the viewer will not see anything until you let go of what you are dragging (they will not see the overlay animation that shows up for you).

On each person's video feed in the backstage section, each top left corner has a "Solo Layout" button. When this is turned on, that person's feed will take up the whole stream screen. When it is turned off, the layout will revert to whatever it was before it was turned on. If Solo Layout is on for one person, then another person's is turned on, their screen will replace the Streamyard feed.

While on the topic of peoples' individual buttons, when a specific person is not on the stream, you can kick them out of backstage. Instructions on this is in the **Maximum Logged In Users (3.2)** section on page 5.

4 Making Your Prompt Book for an Online Performance

When writing your prompt book for a show run on Streamyard, it's recommended you put in each change like putting on/taking off a banner, changing camera views, displaying suggestion comments (if doing an improv show), and when to add/remove specific peoples' cameras from the screen all as stage directions, so that the Streamyard operator can follow it during the show.

4.1 Example by Shania Mendes

Here is an example excerpt of a prompt script provided by Shania Mendes, with other names removed for privacy reasons.

Shot Choices: SOLO, SPLIT, SQUARE, SPOTLIGHT

Pre-Show:

1. IN STREAM - <Actor 1>, <Actor 2>, <Actor 3>, <Actor 4>, <Actor 5>
2. SHOT - SOLO - <Actor 1>
3. BRAND - BRAND COLOR - #yellow
4. BRAND - THEME - DEFAULT
5. BRAND - LOGO - VIC LOGO
6. BRAND - BACKGROUND - BLACK

7. BRAND - SHOW - DISPLAY NAMES OFF

START SHOW
OPENING

1. BRAND - VIDEO CLIPS - OPENING VIDEO
2. GO LIVE - START
3. UNMUTE - <Actor 1>

Rest of prompt script...

From **OPENING** to the end of that section can repeat for as many acts/performances you have. The format of each item in the numbered list is generally followed by this format:

1. <Tab> - <Subtab (optional)> - <Action>. *Examples:*
 - (a) BRAND - BRAND COLOR - #yellow
 - (b) BRAND - SHOW - DISPLAY NAMES OFF
 - (c) BRAND - VIDEO CLIPS - OPENING VIDEO
2. <Action> - <Action Specification (optional)> - <Action Target>. *Examples:*
 - UNMUTE - <Actor 1>
 - SHOT - SOLO - <Actor 1>