



PLAYBOOK : HOW TO ORGANISE AN IG[®] NOBEL PRIZE CEREMONY WATCH PARTY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, 7:00 PM (CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME)

APPROXIMATE END TIME (8:30 PM)

THE CEREMONY WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

WHAT IS A WATCH PARTY?

- A watch party is an event where people gather in the same place to watch the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony livestream together in September.
- The goal is simple: create a fun, welcoming moment for the general public to discover quirky, surprising research and to share reactions live.
- A watch party can be:
 - Just the screening (the simplest format)
 - A screening with local guests, for example scientists from your area and/or past Ig Nobel Prize winners who can say a few words, answer questions, or just be present

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL WATCH PARTY?

We offer an exclusive license to a limited number of organizations / venues to organize an official Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony watch party (olgNPCwp[®]).

To qualify for an olgNPCwp[®] you need to :

- Pay us a license fee of 500 euro
- Organize an Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony watch party in a public accessible place

When you are an olgNPCwp[®] we will :

- Supply you with a dedicated olgNPCwp[®] logo with your name / venue / whatever / date and time indicating that you are an official Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony watch party
- Help you to contact local past Ig Nobel winners, if any.
- Supply (on line) tech support for set-up at the ceremony day
- Announce your official watch party – live – during the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony
- Wave at you and your official watch party – live – during the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony

Contact watchparty@improbable.com to become one of this year's official watch parties

QUICK CHECKLIST

- Confirm the ceremony date, local start time, and expected duration
- Choose your format (screening with local intro, screening with guests)
- Identify your venue options and book one
- Decide about an entrance fee (ticket price); find a way to sell tickets or make people register
- Decide on the catering options
- Confirm screen + sound + internet and define a Plan B in case of technical issues
- Decide how you will promote the event (channels, partners, timeline)
- Recruit volunteers and assign key roles (event lead, tech lead, welcome moderation)
- Prepare a simple run-of-show and a short welcome script
- Do a full tech rehearsal with the real setup



CHOOSE YOUR FORMAT

Option 1 : Screening with special guests

This is screening, but you invite 1 to 3 guests such as:

- Local scientists
- Ig Nobel Prize winners
- Local science reporters/journalists

Guests can:

- Say a short hello at the start
- Be available for a short Q&A at the end
- Help attract attendees and partners

Your starting time will depend on the talks before

Keep it optional and low-pressure. If guests cancel, the event still works.

Option 2 : Screening with a local intro

- Doors open at least 30 minutes before the screening
- 5 to 10 minute intro before the livestream (Explain what the Ig Nobel is and how the evening will work)
- Livestream
- Quick closing and thanks

FIND A VENUE

The venue can be formal or relaxed. The key is comfort and reliable tech.

Typical venues

- University lecture hall or auditorium (big screen, seating)
- Bar or relaxed venue (friendly vibe, but check noise and screen)
- Community space, library, cultural venue

What you need (non-negotiables)

- A place where people can sit comfortably
- A nice screen (or projector with good visibility)
- Good sound (people must hear clearly)
- Reliable internet (Wi-Fi or wired connection)
- Open bar / food would be nice (people will appreciate)

Venue checklist

- Capacity and seating plan
- Sightlines: can everyone see the screen?
- Sound: can everyone hear without strain?
- Lighting control: can you dim lights enough?
- Noise level (especially in bars)
- Accessibility basics: step-free access if possible, accessible toilets if available
- Entry and exit flow, toilets, water access

STAFFING (MINIMUM)

Even a simple screening needs a few people.

Minimum roles:

- Event lead: overall decisions, venue liaison
- Tech lead: stream, sound, screen
- Welcome: arrivals, info point, moderation



PROMOTE YOUR WATCH PARTY

Before you even create the event webpage, list the channels you can use immediately.

Possible promotion channels

- Your own social media
- Venue channels (bar, university, cultural venue)
- University departments and student groups
- Local science networks and associations
- Local press and newsletters
- Partners who can share the event

What to prepare

- A short event description (what, when, where, why it is fun)
- A simple visual
- Clear practical info: start time, arrival time, accessibility notes

RUN-OF-SHOW (SIMPLE TEMPLATE)

- Volunteer arrival and setup (60 to 90 minutes before)
- Doors open (30 minutes before)
- Welcome (1 to 30 minutes depending on format)
- Livestream
- Closing thanks
- Cleanup and venue reset

