



Montréal 21°C
Light rain
Detailed Forecast

huluPLUS

Instantly watch
TV shows & movies

Try it Free ▶

SUBSCRIBE | Subscriber Services | ePaper

Log in | Register | **canada.com** NETWORK ▼

The Gazette

montrealgazette.com



Aislin
Cartoon of
the day
View »

Quick Links: Shopping, Obituaries,
Horoscopes

HOME NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORTS **ARTS** LIFE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRAVEL JOBS CARS HOMES CLASSIFIEDS

Fringe Festival: Kadwani recounts 'angst of growing up different'

BY PAT DONNELLY, GAZETTE THEATRE CRITIC JUNE 20, 2013

[Like Recommend](#) [Tweet 1](#) [Pin it](#) [Comment 0](#) [ShareThis](#)

STORY PHOTOS (1)



Qurrat Ann Kadwani delivers poignant moments as well as laughs in her autobiographical monologue, *They Call Me Q!*

Photograph by: Pierre Obendrauf , The Gazette

MONTREAL - What's in a name? To a child trying to fit in, a lot.

In her *They Call Me Q!*, American actor Qurrat Ann Kadwani says she doesn't mind that her parents chose a distinctive name out of the Koran for her. But having done so, she complains, in the persona of her younger self, they should have stayed in India rather than move to the Bronx where she soon became the butt of many name-related jokes — as well as nasty ethnic insults like "your mother is so dumb she cooks her curry with Old Spice."

Thus begins Kadwani's autobiographical monologue, telling what it was like growing up in the Bronx as the member of a minority scarce there. Wearing a white tank top and black leggings, she revisits the past, acting

MORE ON THIS STORY

- **Micheline Marchildon travelled far to get to Intime et Inconfortable**
- **The gambles pay off in a weekend at the Fringe**
- **Top picks for this year's Fringe**

STORY TOOLS

- [E-mail this Article](#)
- [Print this Article](#)
- Font: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

SPOTLIGHTS

- **Fête nationale: What's open, what's closed**
- **Join us on Facebook**
- **Story tips, photos to share? Click here**
- **Charbonneau Commission coverage**
- **The Gazette turns 235**
- **2013 gardening calendar**

MAKE OUR STORY PART OF YOURS.

Enter the Places with Stories Contest
Just visit our Facebook page, click on the Contest tab and enter your name and email. Then you could win one of three unique Aboriginal Tourism's getaways:

- Land and Water**
A 3-day guided kayak and cultural tour up the pristine Sechelt Inlet with Talaysay Tours
- Art and Culture**
A 2-day getaway to Alert Bay and the U'mista Cultural Centre on Vancouver Island
- Warm Hospitality**
A 2-day getaway to the Quaaout Lodge and Golf Resort in Chase, BC

We're also giving away weekly prizes including Aboriginal Art, tickets and more. Enter at [facebook.com/AboriginalBC](https://www.facebook.com/AboriginalBC) or learn more at AboriginalBC.com.



Montreal Gazette
Like Like
You like this 14,775

MOST READ E-MAILED SHARED

- **Johnny Koulakis arraigned on 2nd-degree murder charges**
- **Customer, friends mourn slain Koulakis**
- **Canadiens buy out Tomas Kaberle**
- **Marois names mediator to help with negotiations**
- **Fête nationale: What's open, what's closed**
- **Loonie's dive will take a toll on cross-border shopping, vacations: experts**

out the roles of childhood friends and enemies, as well as family members, with appropriate accents and costume alterations.

A confident, charismatic performer who earned a theatre degree at SUNY (State University of New York) in Geneseo, Kadwani delivers poignant moments as well as laughs.

She takes us through a rocky childhood to high school (where she found her niche in debating competitions, along with her dance-happy friend, Beanie). At college, she rebels. Then, after a soul-searching trip to India, she comes to terms with the contradictory influences that have been bombarding her. It's an inspiring piece, if not a deeply self-revelatory one.

After Wednesday night's performance, Kadwani urged her fans to stay and chat. Then the former TV host interviewed the willing, asking them, on camera, what they thought of her show.

Asked about her solo, she said it was the first piece she has written herself.

"I wanted to develop a solo play that would encompass the angst of growing up different in a culture that sometimes judges you," she said. "For me, your own culture judges you and the outside culture judges you, and you have to find a middle ground."

They Call Me Q! at Mission Santa Cruz, 60 Rachel St. W., Thurs. at 7:45 p.m., Fri. at 2:30 p.m., Sat. at 9:45 p.m., Sun. at 1 p.m.

Also from New York (partly), is the sexy *Circle*, the only Fringe show I attended where free condoms are offered at curtain call. (Apparently, *La cravate bleue* does it, too. Plus they're distributed to artists and volunteers at Fringe Central.)

Circle is an NYC/Toronto co-production written and directed by American playwright Suzanne Bachner. It stars her husband, Bob Brader, opposite Toronto actor Christel Bartelse, whose look is Julie-Andrews-gone-wild. All three are mature consenting adult artists with substantial resumé's that include awards.

Circle is essentially a modern take on Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde* (1897). It's a necklace of mini-dramas between people who are hooking up, in various ways, through Internet dating, the sex trade, breeding arrangements, etc. Occasionally there's a recurring character. Much of this we've seen before, but probably not done so well. Bartelse and Brader are versatile, daring performers. There's humour, but the tone is dark and cynical, very off-Broadway.

Circle is playing five other Fringes this summer: Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, London, Ontario and Orlando, Florida.

Circle plays the Spanish Club, 4388 St. Laurent Blvd., Wed. at 9:30 p.m., Thurs. at 11.45 p.m., Fri. at 3:15 p.m., Sat. at 10:30 p.m.

After Wednesday's performance of *Urge for Going*, a multimedia musical inspired by Joni Mitchell songs, I spoke with creator, director and performer Bekky O'Neill.

[more »](#)

THE GAZETTE HEADLINE NEWS

Sign up to receive daily headline news from The Gazette.

SUBMIT

[Our Privacy Statement](#)

[Google Drive - Start Now](#)

[google.com/drive](#)

Store all your files in one place. Now get up to 15GB of free storage.

[Concert Tickets](#)

[www.TicketLiquidator.com/Concerts](#)

We Have Tix to All Concerts. Compare Prices. Save 15% or More.

[Tickets To Broadway Shows](#)

[www.Broadway.com](#)

Wicked, Jersey Boys & More Get great seats now at Broadway.com

AdChoices 

A native Torontonian, O'Neil is a Concordia University theatre grad who now intends to study animation. This show is slated to play the Toronto Fringe as well as here. In Toronto, she said, it will have a child-friendly venue (Tarragon Theatre), as opposed to a bar (Cabaret Mile End), which should draw families, she said. Not that Urge for Going is a kid's show. But the narrative follows a young girl from a mourning childhood (her military father was killed in Afghanistan) to her teen years when she breaks from her mother to pursue a folk music career. Along the way, she confides in her trusty puppet fox, Henry.

This is a team effort with two musicians, a tech crew and performers who double as puppet manipulators. Anyone who remembers Ellen Smallwood's Teen Sleuth and the Freed Cyborg Choir at the 2009 Fringe will recognize a similar genre.

Urge for Going plays at Cabaret du Mile End on Thurs. at 6 p.m., Sat. at 2:30 p.m., Sun. at 7:30 p.m.

The Montreal Fringe Festival ends Sunday. Visit www.montrealfringe.ca

pdonnell@montrealgazette.com

Twitter: [patstagepage](#)

© Copyright (c) The Montreal Gazette

[E-mail this Article](#) [Print this Article](#) [Share this Article](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



FROM THE WEB

**MLB's Most Lopsided
Midseason Trades Ever**
ThePostGame



**Montreal International
Jazz Festival: Brubeck
Brothers Quartet**
The Montreal Gazette



FROM THE WEB

**Plastic Surgery
Disasters: Lil Kim, Meg
Ryan & More**
Hollyscoop



**Looks like Selena
Gomez is robbing Will
Smith's cradle**
The Montreal Gazette

Recommended by

LOCAL FLYER DEALS



**Now at The Home Depot:
Brinkmann Grill Special
Buys**
Home Depot Canada



**Get Great Ideas for Family
Game Night**
Toys R Us Canada



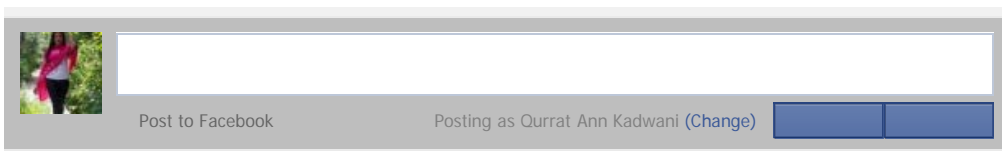
**SAVE 40% on Men's &
Women's Swimwear from
Hudson's Bay**
Hudson's Bay



Create Your Baby Registry
Toys R Us Canada

powered by

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. [Visit our FAQ page for more information.](#)



Post to Facebook Posting as Qurrat Ann Kadwani (Change)

Facebook social plugin

ADS BY GOOGLE

Canada Montreal Hotel
Browse Reviews & Tips From Other Families. Look Before You Book.
FamilyVacationCritic.com/Montreal

Montreal NightLife Travel
We offer all-inclusive packages for a VIP weekend at unbeatable prices.
www.montrealnitelifeours.com/trips

Art Gallery Montreal
3 Floors of Eclectic Works of Art
Klimantiris Art Gallery Since 1978
www.klimantiris.com

INSIDE THE GAZETTE



Gallery: Bright, spacious Forest Hill home, Toronto -- \$6.95M



Gallery: Missoni -- Milan Collections Menswear Spring 2014



Le Mans unlike anything else on Earth



East Side Gallery longest remaining stretch of Berlin Wall



Kate's royal baby: an early labour?



MORE TO SEE, MORE TO READ

Get The Gazette delivered to your door, desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone.

[LEARN MORE](#)

- Home
 - News
 - Opinion
 - Business
 - Sports
 - Entertainment
 - Life
 - Health
 - Technology
 - Travel
 - Jobs
 - Cars
 - Homes
- [Classifieds](#)

DON'T MISS	MOST POPULAR	FORMATS	THE GAZETTE	TOOLS
Gazette 235	Johnny Koulakis arraigned on 2nd-degree murder charges	Sitemap / RSS	About Us	SEARCH
Corruption	Customer, friends mourn slain Koulakis	Contests	Contact Us	
Contracts database	Canadiens buy out Tomas Kaberle	Blogs	Advertise with Us	Search for a Job
Shelter		Columnists	Subscribe	Buy/Sell a Car
Podcasts		Photo Galleries	Green Gazette	Real Estate Listings
West Island Gazette		Videos	The Gazette in the Community	Place a Classified Ad
Off-Island Gazette		Mobile		E-mail Alerts
The Royals		iPad App		Flyercity.ca
Daily Commuter				
Magnotta				
Municipal Affairs				
Interactives				

[Crisis Centre](#)

[Frenghish](#)

[Rock 'n' Roll Life](#)



[About canada.com](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Terms](#) | [Copyright & Permissions](#)

© 2010 - 2013 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.
Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.