



## Call Me Q!

BY TAFFY JAFFE

August 15, 2013

Chris Rock the comedian said: "...crackhead go with crackhead", illustrating comfort with one's own. "They Call Me Q!" is a one woman show, written and performed by Qurrat Ann Kadwani, (now you know why they call her Q) that continues

Rock's theme. Her family immigrates from India to New York. Instead of living in Queens with similar families they reside in the Bronx, surrounded by Hispanics and Afro Americans. With no other Indian families around, Q is odd man out. This talented actress, through her excellent portrayal of thirteen characters guides us through her life. She changes from person to person effortlessly, with merely a scarf here and there. Her accents and body movements are flawless. I wouldn't be surprised if she had dance training.

The pacing of the show is just right. Often, I lose too much with fast pacing, and can nod off when snails pace. Also, I appreciated the use of music sprinkled lightly throughout. Another example of the just right. I have been known to be jolted by over the top music that took my attention away from the stage. I assume lots of work went into all this detail.

In addition to Q, credit should also be given to the directors Obaid Kadwani, and Claudia Gaspar, and the person responsible for development Ellery Schaar. The show has been performed many times in a variety of festivals, so it is fine tuned. It won the Best Play award at the Maui Fringe Festival, and the Best Actress Award at the Harvest Festival.

The intolerance of difference is shown in a variety of circumstances. Sadly, this looks like the human condition. Q is bullied, fights back, but still internalizes the hatred. If you can't fight them join them. She puts on an oversize pair of gold earrings and emulates one of her Latina oppressors. In this stance she argues with her mother's old world values. The contrast between the two is funny. Her humor shows throughout the play and the audience gets it all. Her mother sticks to her old ways at the same time enthusiastically watching "the wheel of fortune". Q wants to find herself, her mother wants her to find a husband.

She finally decides to visit India where she somehow finds inner peace and all is

rosy. I could have used more exposition here. Often in theater conflicts are carefully delineated, but happy endings fly by. I want more of the secret of getting to the sunny side. We do hear her wealthy friend in India who has followed tradition. She explains her dependent life.."independence is the harder way, when everything is decided for you there is no chance to make a mistake. What's the point of dreaming if it can't come true?" Q doesn't buy it. She returns home and is transformed. Her self doubt and angers are gone. She accepts herself. She is independent and on the road to Oz. I would have liked to walk more with her down the yellow brick road to find her secrets to success. I hope she gets there, I wish her all the best.

Playwright/Performer: Quarrat Ann Kadwani , Directors: Obaid Kadwani, Claudia Gaspar , Development: Ellery Schaar

Running Time: One Hour. Remaining Showtimes: Thursday, August 22 at 7:30, Friday, August 23 at 4:15, Sunday August 25 at 4:15. Location: Sgouros Theater, 115 MacDoougal St. 3rd floor. Ticket price: \$15 to \$18. For Info and tickets: [www.fringenyc.org](http://www.fringenyc.org)

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