



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES American and British Muslim Women in Comedy

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ Post-9/11, a growing number of American and British Muslim women have entered the comedy scene in order to debunk hegemonic views about Muslim women and shed light on what it means to be a Muslim.¹
- ❖ *The Muslims Are Coming!* is a 2013 comedy documentary that is co-directed by Dean Obediallah, a Palestinian-Italian comedian, and Negin Farsad, an Iranian-American writer, comedian, filmmaker, and actor.²
- ❖ The three-day Muslim Funny Fest, the first-ever American Muslim Comedy Festival, debuted in the summer of 2015. It is co-organized by Dean Obediallah and Maysoun Zayid, a Palestinian-American actress, comedian, actor, and writer.³
- ❖ *Dirty Paki Lingerie*, a one-woman comedy show about what it means to be a Muslim and a Pakistani woman in America was produced by Pakistani-American comedian and actor, Aizzah Fatima.⁴
- ❖ *HaLOL*, the first British Muslim Comedy Show, was created in March 2015 and features Muslim comedians like Shazia Mirzi, who work to combat stereotypes about Muslims in the UK as well as the role of women in Islam.⁵
- ❖ *The Allah Made Me Funny: A Brief History Tour* began in 2003 and is the longest-running artistic collective of Muslim comic performers. The comedians have toured over 30 countries and a documentary was created in 2008 to document their experience.⁶
- ❖ The one-woman shows called, *All Atheists are Muslim* and *Hijab and Hammerpants*, fight common misconceptions about Muslim women and Islam along with elicit laughs from these misconceptions. Iranian-American comedian, Zahra Noorbakhsh developed the shows and has performed at the New York International Fringe Theater Festival, San Francisco Theater Festival, and Solo Performance Workshop Festival.⁷
- ❖ PBS' "Stand Up: Muslim American Comics Come of Age" follows five American-Muslim comedians and their journey into the comedy world in the United States. The documentary focuses on how these comedians have battled dominant stereotypes and other forms of hatred toward Muslims following 9/11.¹
- ❖ *British Muslim Comedy*, a BBC-created series, consists of 5 shorts that were released during Ramadan 2015 and showcases a few of country's well-known and upcoming comedians.⁸

¹ http://www.pbs.org/weta/crossroads/about/press_release_standup.html

² <http://themuslimsarecoming.com/about/a-longer-synopsis/>

³ <http://www.religionnews.com/2015/07/21/muslim-funny-fest-using-comedy-combat-hate/>

⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/oct/23/sellout-show-stories-muslim-american-women-pakistani-american-actor-aizzah-fatima-dirty-paki-lingerie>

⁵ <http://www.media247.co.uk/showbiz/london-comedy-store-hosts-muslim-eid-comedy-show-2015>

⁶ <http://www.allahmademefunny.com/about/index.html>

⁷ <http://www.sfgate.com/performance/article/All-Atheists-Are-Muslim-Boy-meets-girl-dogma-3163671.php>

⁸ <http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/jun/15/catch-up-tv-guide>