

Negin Farsad presents...

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: A ROMANTIC COMEDY

An American show that might just bring peace to the Middle East makes its European debut. 'The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy' tracks the notorious Middle Eastern Conflict back to a botched one-night stand at the 1948 Geneva Convention.

The newly formed country and the aspiring territory totally had sex, then Israel didn't call, then Palestine got angry, then Israel argued with Palestine's friends, and then some land was occupied... But somewhere in the middle of all the chaos, in the middle of all the wars, and the embarrassing run-ins, rebound relationships, and pint-after-pint of ice cream therapy, Palestine and Israel may have found LOVE.

- "naturally funny... a gutsy idea... fearless and hilarious" – *nytheatre.com*
- "unconventional and inventive... Critic's Choice" – *TimeOut New York*
- "it doesn't get much funnier than this" – *Backstage*
- "smart, funny, and fascinating" – *Wall Street Journal*
- "Critic's Choice!" – *Chicago Tribune*

'The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy' first won critical acclaim and sell-out success on the New York Fringe in 2007. Negin Farsad, the show's author and one of its performers, is a comedian who wins awards all over the US for her work in film, TV and stand-up (see below). Its music was written by award-winning Broadway composer, Gaby Alter.

Writers and performers (also see Cast Notes)

The show was written by Negin Farsad and Alexander Zalben, who, as the "kinetic and clever" sketch comedy duo, Madame Funnypants, were nominated for Best Comedic Duo at the Emerging Comics of New York Awards, and have been featured around the country as an official selection of the Chicago and New York Sketch Comedy Festivals and the Los Angeles, Atlanta, & Miami Improv Festivals, among others.

The Edinburgh show is performed by Negin (as Palestine) and Mike Mosallam (as Israel). Negin is a Californian-raised Iranian-American with a comedy pedigree including current award-winning feature film *Nerdcore Rising*, extensive writing and performing credits for Comedy Central, MTV, IFC and PBS, and live stand-up on- and off-Broadway as well as in major venues around the US. Mike has appeared on Comedy Central as well as in notable venues (like The Kennedy Center); he received an MFA in musical theatre from the Boston Conservatory.

'The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy' features "hilarious"* original music by Gaby Alter, winner of the FringeNYC Songwriting Award for his "electric and inventive score"*** for *Young Zombies in Love*. His new show, 'Band Geeks', has just opened at the Goodspeed Theatre, Broadway's testing ground for new musicals.

(* *nytheatre.com* ** *The New York Sun*).

AT EDINBURGH FRINGE 2010

Dates: shows daily 7-25 August

Time: 5.15pm (one hour)

Tickets: free, as part of PBH's Free Fringe

Venue: Whistlebinkies (main space), 4-6 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL
(or enter via 7 Niddry Street, EH1 1LG)

Venue telephone: 0131 557 5114

MEDIA CONTACTS for more information, hi-res images, interviews, and to reserve a seat:

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