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“I HEART HAMAS: AND OTHER THINGS I’M AFRAID TO TELL YOU’

Writer/star Jennifer Jajeh and award-winning director W. Kamau Bell

Bring challenging, humorous look at life as a

Palestinian-American to the 2011 HOLLYWOOD FRINGE FESTIVAL

April 20, 2011 (Los Angeles, CA) --- *I Heart Hamas: And Other Things I’m Afraid to Tell You*, a critically-acclaimed raw look at life as a 30-something Palestinian-American woman, will showcase at the **2011 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Jennifer Jajeh’s story will showcase at the Fest with 2 preview performances on **June 9 and 12**, respectively, with 4 additional performances for the public, **June 17-25**.**

Warning: Jennifer was born in San Francisco. Her parents are from Ramallah. She will not have her birth certificate with her. Nor will she defend being a single woman in San Francisco with a cat, or an American wanting sushi while she watches *Sex and the City* in Ramallah. What she will have is a new perspective on why she’s OK with you not being OK with it.

Considering the current ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the threat of global terrorism, and the never-ending negotiations and hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians, it’s hard not to feel overwhelmed by all of the bad international news. That’s exactly how Jennifer feels. And to make matters worse, Jennifer is Palestinian. Well, Palestinian American. Or more precisely: a single, Catholic, first generation, Palestinian-American woman who chooses to return to her parents’ hometown of Ramallah at the start of the Second Intifada.

In her tragicomic solo theatre show, *I Heart Hamas: And Other Things I’m Afraid to Tell You*, Jennifer tries to figure her identity out for herself. Join her on American and Palestinian soil on auditions, bad dates, and across military checkpoints as she navigates the thorny terrain around Palestinian and American culture. Weaving together humor, pop culture references and live theatre, Jajeh explores how she becomes Palestinian-ized, then politicized and eventually radicalized in a fresh, often funny, searingly honest way.

I Heart Hamas: And Other Things I’m Afraid To Tell You, recognized by **NYTheatre.com** as “a fascinating look into a world we don’t often see or hear about,” made its world premiere at **New York’s International Fringe Festival**. Following strong media praise and audience

reception, the play premiered in Jajeh's hometown of San Francisco where it ran for 3 months before moving to Chicago, Minneapolis, Berkeley, Pittsburgh, and Ann Arbor in 2010, with a preview run in Los Angeles in 2011.

Jennifer Jajeh is a Los Angeles based actor and writer. She has appeared in over three-dozen film, television, commercial and theater productions over the past five years, and can be heard on her Internet talk show, **In Bed with Jen Jajeh**. Her work has been profiled on the KRON 4 Morning News, WBAI NYC, Link TV, KTEH's Video I, the Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, NOX Magazine Jordan, and Watani Saudi TV to name a few. She was recently named one of Fen Magazine's Artists to Watch in 2011.

I Heart Hamas is directed by **W. Kamau Bell** (*The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour*, Comedy Central, Live 105). Noted by **SF Weekly** as "smart, stylist, and very much in the mold of politically outspoken comedians like Dave Chappelle and Margaret Cho," Bell was honored as their pick for **2008 Bay Area Comedian of the Year**. As a solo theatre director, Bell has helmed "don't make me look too psychotic", "F**king Handicapped Guy", "Miss-Matches.com", and "Love, Humiliation, Karaoke". He founded and directs SF's Solo Performance Workshop, an incubator for new solo talent.

I Heart Hamas: And Other Things I'm Afraid to Tell You will showcase at the 2011 Hollywood Fringe Festival with 2 sneak-preview performances, **June 9 at 7:30pm** and **June 12th at 2:00pm**. Additional performance will be held on **June 17 at 2:00pm**, **June 20 at 7:00pm**, **June 21 at 7:00pm** and **June 25 at 12:30 pm**. All performances will be held at the **Theatre Asylum Lab**, located at 6320 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90038.

Tickets go on sale on May 1st at <http://www.hollywoodfringe.org>

More information is available at <http://www.ihearthamas.com>

What The Media is Saying About *I Heart Hamas*

"Incredibly funny! Jajeh's talent for storytelling with a combustive blend of humor and pathos is on full display... (Jajeh) has created a fresh, irreverent, and heartfelt take on trans-national identity politics and representations of the Middle East"

- **Flavorpill San Francisco**

"There is a certain sincerity to the show that I do not often see in solo performance. (This) subject matter is often skirted around in the entertainment industry or told from someone else's perspective. Writer and Performer Jennifer Jajeh, gives a wonderful first hand account of her journey."

- **Chicago Critic**

"Editor's Pick"

- **San Francisco Chronicle**

"A wild ride with a lot of humor; stand-up comedy combined with characters and scenes. There's something for everyone"

- **Metro Magazine**

"Look for this author-actor to carve out a national name of great consequence before long"

- **Twin Cities Daily Planet**

"If you don't go, the terrorists win: This witty Palestinian-American girl coolly shows us how her daily life is affected by today's politics"

- **NBC (San Francisco), "Best events in the city" pick**

"By all accounts, the show is calmer and more nuanced than the title; it tells the story of Jajeh's own surprisingly funny encounters in Ramallah and here at home, and addresses the ongoing international holy war from the perspective of a regular, if highly intelligent, young person"

- **SF Weekly**

"The performance is as candid as its title, as Jajeh takes the audience on a humorous and alarming odyssey"

- **Minnesota Daily**