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'Arabs Gone Wild' comics playfully jab at prejudices, politics

Ursula Watson / The Detroit News

Three comedians will challenge negative misconceptions and educate with humor when the "Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Revolution" tour comes to Henry Ford [Community College](#) for two shows on Sunday.

Maysoon Zayid says negative misconceptions can come from Arabs and non-Arabs, Muslims or non-Muslims. In fact, she says, people often are shocked to discover she's a comic.

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"I get two different ends of the spectrum where people are super surprised that I exist and no one has killed me yet or they don't want to include me in a comedy lineup because I don't fit their image," says Zayid, who also lives with cerebral palsy. "People try to pigeon-hole me."

The comedian, who has appeared in the [movie](#) "You Don't Mess with the Zohan" and the PBS special "Muslim Comics Come of Age," is co-producer (along with touring partner Dean Obeidallah) of the annual "New York Arab-American Comedy Festival."

Zayid, who says her comedy idols are Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby, George Carlin and Michigan native Gilda Radner is touring along side Obeidallah and Aron Kader.

Both men were featured in the 2007 Comedy Central special "Axis of Evil." Obeidallah also serves as the co-producer of the Amman Stand-Up Comedy Festival, which he calls [the Middle East's](#) first and only annual stand-up comedy festival. Kader has appeared on "Comics Unleashed with Byron Allen," CNN and performed comedy across the Middle East.

Politics and current events here and abroad, especially the various revolutions happening in the Middle East and North Africa, make great fodder for jokes, says Kader.

"For example Egypt can go one way or the other. You're not sure what's going to happen but the trick is to figure out how to write a joke that will still be good next year," says Kader.

"I make jokes on how long some these guys like Mubarak (former president of Egypt) and Libya's Moammar Gadhafi have been in office. Gadhafi has been in office since 1969, the original 'True Grit' was released in 1969."

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'Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Revolution'

Henry Ford Community College Auditorium
7 and 9:15 p.m. Sunday
5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn
Tickets \$25
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Maysoon Zayid said people often are shocked to discover she's a comic. (Better Than Nothin' PR)

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