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Inside Move: Three comics and a cause Trio mines Mideast tensions for laughs

By [ALI JAAFAR](#)

An Egyptian, a Syrian Jew and a Palestinian Mormon walk into a club...

Sounds like the opening line of a gag, right?

It's actually the makeup of a comedy troupe that's been garnering raves at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Calling their show the Axis of Evil tour, the Arab-American threesome, all hailing from Hollywood, are better known as **Josh Nasser**, **Aron Kader** and **Ahmed Ahmed**.

"We're still looking for a North Korean," Ahmed quips.

With material riffing on everything from gay terrorists to the difficulties of flying in America post-9/11, the group has been playing to packed houses and glowing reviews.

Ahmed even won the inaugural **Richard Pryor** Award, a new honor -- judged by the legendary comedian himself -- to encourage more comedians from minority backgrounds to come to Edinburgh

Though they've been working the U.S. stand-up circuit since 1999, they say it's still hard to find wide acceptance Stateside.

"It's been a bit of a struggle in America on the mainstream comedy circuit because people don't want to laugh with the enemy," Ahmed observes. "God forbid you laugh with the enemy -- because you can't hate someone if you're laughing with them.

"But at the end of the day funny's funny. It doesn't matter what you are."