

For Immediate Release
Contact: Luis Reyes
(310) 666-6588
funkrock@gmail.com



June 9, 2010

In association with Off-Chance Productions...

SHAHEED:

The Dream and Death of Benazir Bhutto

A one-woman show about Pakistan's most controversial leader

New York, NY – In her solo show, writer/performer Anna Khaja illuminates the lives and historical forces surrounding slain Pakistani Prime minister Benazir Bhutto. Brutally assassinated in 2007, Bhutto had just returned to her homeland from forced exile to reunite a nation bitterly divided over the ideals of Islam and democracy. The eight characters depicted by Khaja form the prism through which we view this enigmatic and multi-faceted head of the Pakistani People's Party. Each monologue takes place in the minutes leading up to Bhutto's assassination and illustrate how her life—and eventual death—continue to reshape the world's struggle to reconcile the precepts of Islam with those of democracy, as well as challenge definitions of jihad and martyrdom.

Shaheed will be running as part of Fringe NYC Theater Festival, August 13 through August 29th. Location and times will be forthcoming. Visit www.shaheedtheplay.com for the latest show updates.

Participation in Fringe NY is another exciting marker in the history of this important work, which started in Los Angeles as a reading at the Open Fist Theater, moving on to a workshop production at The Blank Theater Company, then a full Los Angeles run at the Stephanie Fuery Studio Theater, where it garnered a feature article in the LA Weekly, an interview on LA Stage, and a Critic's Pick from Backstage West, as well as an Ovation recommendation. In June, Shaheed was part of the Hollywood Fringe Theater Festival.

Anna Khaja (*Yes Man, House, Flash Forward*) has won two LA Weekly theater awards (one for Solo Performance) as well as two Ovation award nominations. She has appeared in countless productions in 99-seat equity waiver houses as well as larger and regional stages, most notably in David Hare's *Stuff Happens* at Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum.

Director **Heather de Michele** most recently helmed the highly successful web series *The Real Girls Guide to Everything Else* for Off-Chance Productions. She served as Artistic Director for New York's Off-Broadway children's theater American Girl Theater and directed the long-running, critically acclaimed comedy *Lesbian Pulp-O-Rama!* for On the Verge Theatre Company NYC.

