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Ultra American Tickets On Sale Now

Ultra American: A Patriot Act

Written and Performed by Azhar Usman
Directed by Aaron Todd Douglas

Famed comedian, Azhar Usman, takes to the stage with this brutally honest, unflinching one-man show. *Ultra American: A Patriot Act* explores the tensions and paradoxes surrounding the double consciousness of American Muslims living in an ever-polarizing world.

September 6 - 25, 2016 / Tues - Sun

\$25 Adults / \$15 Students

Performances at Silk Road Rising
77 W. Washington St. | Chicago, IL



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National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of \$10,000 to Silk Road Rising to develop and premiere *Ultra American: A Patriot Act*, starring Muslim American comedian Azhar Usman, in September 2016.

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives...Supporting projects like the one from Silk Road Rising offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

-Jane Chu, NEA Chairman

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Ultra American: A Patriot Act is the result of many years of wondering and wandering all over the planet, trying to make sense of my own existence in a seemingly insane world—a world full of contradictions, paradoxes, and fundamental incongruences.

For the past four decades, I have been negotiating a set of competing identities inside myself: Indian, American, Muslim. What does it mean to be an Indian? An American? A Muslim? In the modern world, no less, where even the questions seem problematic, because I never felt like any of those labels really fit, not as nouns anyway. Perhaps as adjectives. To be Indian is, in a sense, different than calling oneself “an Indian.” Just as being American is a universe away from calling oneself “an American.”

Ultra American: A Patriot Act is a modest attempt to push back, to explore the above-stated, macro/global themes through micro/local examples, in an attempt to make sense of it all. Armed with nothing but personal stories, reflections, jokes, and funny one-liners, it is the most ambitious creative project of my career.

“What choice does an artist have other than to toss a pebble into the ocean, hoping and praying that perhaps it can cause a ripple that will reach the other side of the world?”

-Azhar Usman

It is a tall order, no doubt. But alas, what choice does an artist have other than to toss a pebble into the ocean, hoping and praying that perhaps it can cause a ripple that will reach the other side of the world? It is a task that should properly be considered next to impossible. But as my standup idol and mentor, Dave Chappelle, taught me: “Next to impossible is the precursor to dope.” [Read More »](#)



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