

Fade To Brown Comedy Club Review

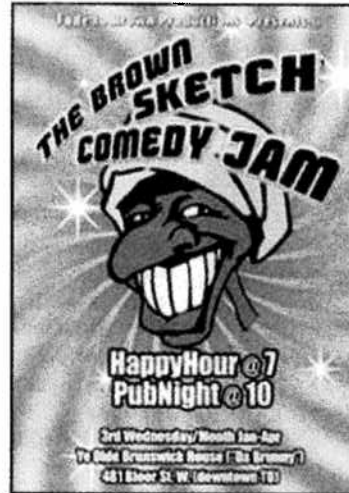
By Nitin Gonsalves

: Fade To Brown. Explode Into Laughter. That was the general consensus of the audience at the Brunswick House on Wednesday night. The comedy crew consisting of Shawn Ahmed, Jessie Gabe, Amish Patel, Devika Singh, Daniel Stolfi, and Bobby Umar had the audience giggling and chortling throughout the night.

The group, predominantly South Asian in their members, never settles for the cheap chuckles aimed at the usual stereotypes of Indian culture. Instead, they probe deeper and find the hilarity in immigrant issues,

terrorism and Bollywood all the while incorporating elements of mainstream humour.

The PC-MAC commercials become Hollywood-Bollywood comparisons instead, with different 'commercials' acted out at various points during the show but tied up neatly in the end. The travails of qualified professional immigrants in Canada are sketched hilariously but hints at the frustration caused by the health care system are also touched upon. The crowd was up in great guffaws of laughter over the 'CBC Special Interview' clip on the terrorist ("I leave discrimination at the door") who felt alienated by the rest of so-



ciety. It turned out to be both a parody on terrorists as well as a humorous take on the ridiculousness of political correctness in North American culture. And just when you thought you had seen every parody there's been of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Fade To Brown finds another to fit their skits perfectly.

The comedy crew was founded by Amish Patel in August of 2006. The rest of the members auditioned for parts and have generally settled into their own role within the group. As Umar disclosed to CanIndia, he, the 'Sugar Daddy' is the director, singer and voice over for the skits; Jesse

Gabe, the 'Token White Girl' is their primary writer and the brains of the group's astonishing creativity (They perform with a new set of skits devised every month). But it is the comedic versatility of Patel, the crew's founder, executive producer, and 'adrenaline' which earns the crew their biggest laughs. The group could use a technical engineer/prop artist to make their transition from one skit to another smoother to eradicate the choppi-ness. All in all though, it's a promising start for this young team of talented young comedic-actors and one of Toronto's own.