

ART IN THE AGE OF THE DELUSIONAL DIVA

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By Thomas Joseph Carrieri



What makes great Art? Emotion? Compassion? Luck? Talent? These elements are part of what goes into making a great artist. Sure. An artist that can somehow combine social commentary and relate it to the masses in a way that shows not only the sense of community that is eroding around us, but also a sense of real responsibility from the viewer, is in my opinion, a Great Artist. SKY Palkowitz' Broadway-Bound new one-woman show, "CALLING AMERICA: DON'T HANG UP!!" is a look into the zeitgeist of America and what is at its core: Immigrants and different people of all types trying to exist in this supposed land of milk and honey.

Few artists can evoke and provoke an audience the way Los Angeles based Performance Artist, SKY Palkowitz does. As her mainstay character of "The Delusional Diva", she inhabits over 50 different characters with the subtle change of a new accent or piece of clothing, like Felix the Cat and his 'bag of tricks'. SKY pulls out from the crevices of society to call upon the most common of all our struggles: Survival.



As a young girl Sky was on the cusp of entering a Rabbinical Yeshiva, but alas the Synagogue was not a stage big enough to hold her and her many characters, and thus, "The Delusional Diva" was born. As in one of the show's characters, 'Rabbi Rhoda', we see what might have been as we peek into the alternate future of this liberal Jewish lesbian converting the masses to "One Love", hysterical in its open assault on the often male dominated Society, yet true to the teachings that we are all G-d's creatures; and this inclusiveness is a thread that follows throughout the show.

And who better than a Jewish Pot-Smoking Lesbian Punk-Rocker Clown from Long Island to tell the story of America? The Multi-faceted, Multi-Dimensional, Multi-tasking, Multi-Media Artist known as "The Delusional Diva" takes on 50 common, comical, cosmic characters in under 90 minutes, a vast community of people you may know or have known or are yet to know. The telephone operator at the fundraising machine she calls "The Our Founding Fathers Foundation" is calling you to get your money, but there is a bit of a disconnect. When you are on the phone with The Delusional Diva things become distorted and you begin to see the joke, or rather the point, or both?!



The melting pot feeling of “CALLING AMERICA” cannot be overstated, as a telephone fundraiser for a very, very Conservative Think-Tank, the alter-ego SKY, that operates under the alias ‘Christina White’, is able to skewer both the hypocrisy of political fundraising with ‘Obamacare’, and at the same time sympathize with the simple immigrant who comes to America looking for that long-lost dream. Was it ever true? Was there ever really a Dream?? You may leave wondering if the values we have adorned for so long have not surpassed a great many of us...that those of us that have, may not remember what it was like to have not, and that disconnect is much of what is at the heart of “CALLING AMERICA”.

Alienation is a common theme and SKY explores not only the inner reaches of our psyche, but goes so far as the outer heavens and teases us with the greater possibility of an alien connection that will leave you giggling at the silliness of it all, but at the same time you can't ignore the strings she insists on pulling.

The show teeters on a healthy balance of heavy drama and light-hearted humor in the face of great challenge. Take the new Eastern European teenager immigrant working at the local pot dispensary and her father who wants nothing more than to live the American dream for his family, but at what cost? Selling various and dubious marijuana products seems at first commonplace, but the endless supply of products that is offered is at the heart of the over-abundance of choice we have as Americans, and at that point is the piece dead on. Have we reached a point where we can choose to be involved or not and still have the riches and rewards despite the price of those around us who may not have the same advantages?

Along with those that seek out the promise of the endless “work-sleep-work” cycle, there are frightening moments in the piece that catch you off guard, such as the character of ‘Wakim’, the young anti-establishment, Socialist Anarchist boy without a country or a cause, who spews out all the anger and the angst of his generation, to remind you that there are those who are missing out and are acting out.



With a cavalcade of characters that come at you at such speed and unpredictability as a UFO, it is that very aspect of SKY Palkowitz's talents that give the theatergoer the greatest reward. As you leave the theater, when you hit the sidewalk under those bright marquee lights, filling out with all of those characters in your head, and now you see them, before your eyes on the street. Her overall message seems to be, “Love thy neighbor, for they are You.”

SKY Palkowitz's latest phase of her ever-changing, always evolving trans-media solo show, “CALLING AMERICA: DON'T HANG UP!!” under the keen direction of the multi-award-winning Hungarian American film and stage director, Klaudia Kovacs, is not to be missed. Ms. Kovacs is Hungary's most successful documentary filmmaker, currently living in Hollywood, and shares SKY's Hungarian and Jewish roots, passion for theatre, and intent in using the arts to progress social and political awareness and change. One of Klaudia's films, “Torn From The Flag”, was nominated for the 2009 OSCARS for “Best Documentary of the Year.” She is excited to work with SKY and align with the great deal of issues and themes that SKY exhibits and examines in her body of work.

The November 12th Premier is already SOLD OUT, but you can still get tickets to the BESTSELLER second specially added show

on Sunday, November 17th at 7:30pm at THEATRE ROW.

“CALLING AMERICA: DON’T HANG UP!!” is presented by the largest Solo Festival in the World, The United Solo Theatre Festival, IN THE WORLD CAPITAL OF THEATRE, at THEATRE ROW, in the heart of the BROADWAY theatre district, at 410 W. 42nd St. NYC. Tickets can be obtained at www.telecharge.com or 212-239-6200. More info at www.unitedsolo.org/us/2013-callingamerica/

Learn more about SKY Palkowitz, The Delusional Diva, and her upcoming projects at www.DelusionalDiva.com

Critically Acclaimed www.DelusionalDiva.com

CALLING AMERICA: DON'T HANG UP!!

Jewish Pot-Smoking Lesbian Punk-Rocker Clown
Trio-Fundraiser for a Conservative Think-Tank

Written & Performed by Award-Winning **SKY Palkowitz, The Delusional Diva**
Directed by Award-Winning **Klaudia Kovacs**

The New York Premier on **SOLO FOLK, Nov. 12, 9:00 pm**
Sun, Nov. 17, 7:30 pm

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THE CALL IS COMING AMERICA: PICK UP!!

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