

Side for Auditions Play title: Fatima & Maama Writer: Asher Wyndham

Synopsis:

Fatima Halawani, a 15 year-old Iraqi American in Michigan, wants to attend the Homecoming Dance in order to impress some bullies. Her mother says no. The divide between modern daughter and traditional mother is further widened, and the trauma of economic hardship and racism is exposed.

Characters:

Fatima Halawani, 15 year-old Iraqi American. Not bi-racial. Loves dancing. Wears the hijab and big geeky eyeglasses. Can be played by someone who looks young.

Maama, her traditional mother, late 30s-40. She is dishevelled and tired. Works at the Fuel Shop.

Side:

Note: a slash / indicates that the other character starts speaking.

(FATIMA wipes the floor clean with a kitchen towel and then she “takes it to the street.” After a moment, appropriate dance music accompanies FATIMA’s dancing—music in her head.)

MAAMA

Fatima, stop dancing! Fatima! Neighbors will bang on the walls, again! Fatima, stop!

(MAAMA stops FATIMA from dancing. Music stops.)

FATIMA

I’m awesome, right?

MAAMA

Sit down and chop baadenjaan [eggplant].

FATIMA

I need to go!

MAAMA

Chop. Respect your Maama. Good and dutiful. *Always.*

FATIMA

(chops and then stops; she tears up)

Maama. . . M-Maa/aama.

MAAMA

Slices way too thick!

FATIMA

(stabs the eggplant and just misses her MAAMA's hand)

I wanna just be beautiful—normal.

MAAMA

Gimme the knife! You almost killed your maama. Fatima. Listen. *Listen*. You're perfect the way you are.

FATIMA

Perfect? Me? Not yet perfect. I wanna be the bomb!

MAAMA

The bomb!?! Like a *shahida* at a Beirut discotheque?! / That's not funny!

FATIMA

Whoa! I didn't mean like that! I wanna be an Explosion of Awesome Beauty. . . Yes.