

PLAYBLOG

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STORE.COMEight Is Quite Enough for Khaja's *Shaheed*

It's once more for the East Coast for Anna Khaja's eight-character, one-woman show, *Shaheed: The Dream and Death of Benazir Bhutto*, which the Los Angeles theatre press garnished with garlands last spring during its world-premiere run.

The play has found a place at the table — Dixon Place, 161A Chrystie Street — at this year's New York International Fringe Theatre Festival. It will be presented there on Aug. 13 at 11 PM, Aug. 21 at 6:45 PM, Aug. 26 at 5:30 PM, Aug. 28 at 9 PM and Aug. 29 at 2 PM.

Shaheed is Islamic for "Martyr" and, thus, an appropriate heading for a drama that addresses the 2007 assassination of Bhutto, the first woman elected to lead a Muslim state and still Pakistan's only female Prime Minister. She became the victim of a suicide bomber two months after returning from an eight-year exile.

Seven other characters who form the prism through which this enigmatic and complex international figure is viewed are also performed by Khaja, a Pakistani-American actress and playwright.

— Harry Haun

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