

ALIYA KANANI

Aliya, an award-winning standup comedian, Canadian academy award-nominated actress and writer, captivates audiences globally with her vibrant personality and sharp wit.

Her one-woman show, 'Where You FROM, From?' celebrated for its humor and deep engagement with themes of identity and belonging, has won accolades at festivals including Best of Fest and Patron's Pick. Aliya disarms audiences with her playful mischief, tackling complex topics like race, gender, and social labels with humor, sharing personal stories from her life as a nomad and debunking assumptions. Currently touring North America while developing her new show 'Drink, Pray, Love', Aliya's performances invite laughter while fostering a connection to humanity.

As a standup comedian, Aliya has toured in Canada, Australia, SouthAfrica, UK and USA. She has performed at Just For Laughs, JFL42, Johannesburg International Comedy Festival, Seattle International Comedy Competition, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Chicago's Breakout Festival and more. She was a semi-finalist in NBC's Standup competition in New York and can be heard on CBC's LOL network and SiriusXM.

Notably nominated as Best Lead Actress for the Canadian academy awards for her performance in 'Scarborough', it was also her first role in film. She has gone on to take on roles in films that have landed her at the Toronto International Film Festival three years in a row! The film 'Seven Veils' she played in alongside Amanda Seyfried, directed by Atom Egoyan, will be out in theatres March 2025. You can also catch her in the most recent season of 'Law and Order: Toronto'.

After creating her first web-series, 'Juicy', Aliya has since written for the sketch comedy show 'Abroad' and was a finalist in the Just for Laughs 'Standup & Pitch' competition for her comedy variety series 'HYPE'.

Aliya continues to expand her creative repertoire in comedy, film and television, maintaining a legacy of impactful entertainment.