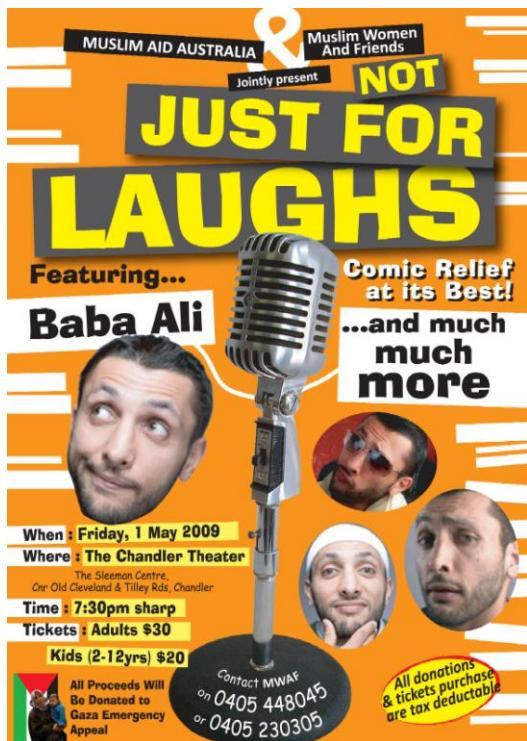


## LET LAUGHTER LEAD THE WAY



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'If you've frequented Islamic websites and blogs over the past year, especially those geared towards youth, you may have come across links to videos of a close cropped young American Muslim speaking feverishly and comically into a webcam about the anomalies and quirks of Muslim life in the West. More accurately, if you haven't seen the young man in question, it would be something of a minor miracle.'

([www.altmuslim.com](http://www.altmuslim.com) 12/6/07)

Since starting video-blogging in mid 2006, Ali Ardekani, more famously known as **BABA ALI** has taken the Muslim world by storm. Attracting a million viewers worldwide by the time his third video was aired, this thirty-something convert was doing something that hardly anyone in the Islamic world had done so successfully before – using humour to highlight and debunk some of the stereotypes surrounding Islam and being a Muslim; whilst also bringing to the forefront issues prevalent in today's society, though hardly discussed, in a comical, sometimes self-deprecating manner. His videos have been translated into numerous different languages, and have even led to conversion to Islam.

Among the many issues covered by Baba Ali in his series of videos aptly called "The Reminder Series" , are Culture vs Islam; Extravagant Weddings; That's Not Hijab; Who Hijacked Islam?; The Art of Complaining...to name but a few! Whilst some call him a comedian, Baba Ali will quickly point out that he has never told a lie just to get people to laugh, "I want for you to smile, people tend to remember things that are funny, but at the same time I want to get a serious message across!"

"**Not Just For Laughs – Comic Relief at its Best!**", an initiative of **Muslim Women And Friends** in affiliation with **Muslim Aid Australia** will kickstart Baba Ali's premier visit to Australia. True to its name, this comedy event, to be held at the Chandler Theatre at the Sleeman Sports Complex on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2009, will also feature the best of our local comedic talents (stay tuned to CCN for more details), whilst raising funds for those afflicted by the war in Gaza.

So be there, or be square – Call **0405 230305** or **0405 448045** to reserve your tickets today!