

COMEDY**Shazia Mirza**

Soho Theatre

★★★★☆

Bruce Dessau

HAVING first made a splash by performing in Muslim dress and doing terrorism gags, Shazia Mirza has latterly been dipping her toes in the mainstream. She ditches the politics and goes with the crowd-pleasing comedy flow in her new Edinburgh-bound show, *Fun In Paradise*.

There are satirical one-liners ("suicide bomber wanted — no experience necessary"), yet the bedrock is utterly everyday. The Brummie stand-up takes potshots at Robbie Williams, white women who want to be black and Primark: "It's like bisexuality — nobody admits to going there, but everyone has had a dabble."

The thematic title

comes from the fact that Mirza's strict Pakistani parents said fun would start in the afterlife. But in the last year Mirza has thrown herself into the world of fun. Her story of her first reggae gig — well, UB40 — is peppered with tart lines.

She really lets rip for the final section in which she recalls being invited to Buckingham Palace. The tale is full of incident, including an obligatory Prince Philip gaffe. A nervous encounter with the Queen, while surely not completely authentic, deserves its big laugh.

There is nothing groundbreaking, but the relaxed, well-crafted jokes are effective. The only real flaw is the abrupt ending. Five more minutes and a killer pay-off would make this Mirza's least controversial but funniest set yet. **Until tomorrow (0870 429 6883).**