# Anisa Nandaula brings multicultural perspectives to Australian comedy



Anisa Nandaula, a comedian with a unique perspective shaped by her multicultural background, is making notable waves in the comedy scene with her distinctive style and confident stage presence. Born in Uganda and having moved to the rural Australian city of Rockhampton as a child, Nandaula draws extensively on her experiences navigating cultural contrasts and confronting prejudices in her comedy.

Her set explores a range of themes centred around cultural identity and social expectations, highlighting the differing attitudes she has encountered both as a black woman in a predominantly white rural setting and as someone balancing multiple cultural influences. Nandaula addresses the often startling and inappropriate remarks made to her in rural Queensland, contrasting these with the societal constraints on speech faced by a mainly white audience, suggesting that she occupies a space where certain things can be said more freely.

Nandaula’s comedy touches on familial dynamics, particularly reflecting on her African heritage. She openly shares her envy of the degree of personal independence sometimes enjoyed within white families while simultaneously mining her own family life for material. Her mother is depicted as the archetypal straightforward African matriarch, and her father’s journey from poverty to professional achievement as a doctor, albeit with some ethical ambiguity, provides additional narrative depth. Further layers are added by her relationship with a Chinese boyfriend, broadening the ethnic and cultural scope of her material.

Reviewing her performance, critic Steve Bennett of Chortle highlighted Nandaula’s ability to deliver her stories with a light, conversational tone, punctuated by humour that ranges from the silly to the dark. Bennett emphasised her polished character and delivery, noting her background as a beat poet contributes to her poised and confident presence, unusual for a festival debutant. Her sense of understated mischief and smooth crowd interaction create a sense of fluidity and spontaneity throughout her hour-long set.

While Bennett observed that the show lacked a strong unifying narrative, feeling more like a collection of stand-alone anecdotes than a cohesive thematic journey, he praised Nandaula’s skill and confidence. Notably, she does not shy away from bold moments on stage, such as turning her back to the audience to chant from the Quran, reflecting a fearless approach to performance. Bennett also mentioned her growing popularity in Melbourne, bolstered by a significant social media following, marking her out as a comedian to watch in the coming years.

Anisa Nandaula’s work offers a fresh voice in contemporary comedy, addressing serious social issues through accessible and engaging storytelling, enriched by her multifaceted cultural experiences. Her rising profile in the comedy circuit underlines an increasing appetite for diverse and nuanced perspectives in live entertainment.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.jubileest.com/anisa-nandaula> - This URL supports Anisa Nandaula's background details, including her birth in Uganda, moving to Rockhampton, Australia at age eight, and her early career roots in spoken word and poetry before transitioning into comedy around 2020. It also corroborates her multicultural perspective and growing social media following, which fuels her unique comedic voice.
* <https://www.theaureview.com/arts/comedian-anisa-nandaula-gives-insight-into-her-comedy-journey/> - This source details Anisa's personal journey from Uganda to rural Rockhampton, highlighting her experience with cultural contrasts and rural attitudes, including her reflections on different audience sensitivities in Queensland versus Melbourne, which aligns with her exploration of social expectations and cultural identity in her comedy.
* <https://theatrematters.com.au/features/anisa-nandaula-you-cant-say-that/> - This article corroborates her comedy themes focused on racism, relationships, religion, and class, illustrating how she mines her African heritage and family dynamics for material. It also confirms her significant social media presence and the diversity in her comedic topics, including interracial relationships.
* <https://www.brisbanecomedyfestival.com/events/anisa-nandaula/> - This URL confirms details about her comedy performances including her origin (Uganda, 2001) and move to Rockhampton. It also supports that her material involves adult themes and coarse language, reflecting the boldness and confident stage presence noted in her shows.
* <https://woodfordfolkfestival.com/programme/artist/anisa-nandaula/> - This source highlights Anisa's identity as a Ugandan-Australian comic and poet, confirming her blend of personal and political narratives and her multicultural perspective that shapes the content and style of her stand-up performances.