



## DAI (ENOUGH)

*at the Culture Project*

Playwright and actor Iris Bahr chose a cosmopolitan café in Israel as the setting for her one-woman show dealing with, as she terms it, the “splintered Israeli psyche.” It’s the sort of place that foreigners, tourists, and the odd local may frequent, and, as it turns out, it’s also the prime target for a Muslim suicide bomber.

Director Will Pomerantz has created a simple, intimate scene of café tables with clothing draped over chairs. Bahr begins as a fast-talking, ball-busting British journalist looking to interview Israelis about their opinions toward Palestinians. She then dons a blue tracksuit top and her accent changes to no-nonsense female California actor, although her delivery remains at a machine-gun pace. That monologue concludes with a loud sound of an explosion and screams; Bahr collapses slowly and then fluidly takes over the next chair, the next costume piece, and her next character, a cheery old man with a thick Israeli accent. The cycle continues—monologue exposing human emotion and desire only to be snuffed out by bomb sound—10 more times as Bahr masterfully becomes a Russian prostitute; a female Palestinian professor; a rabid American mother and settler; a peace-loving, ecstasy-dealing Dutch party girl; and an evangelical Christian developer ready to usher in the new Jerusalem.

The breadth of characters is distinct and unusual—Bahr successfully paints a vivid portrait of a diverse Israel—but she and Pomerantz would have done well to limit the number of characters and slow the pace down. A few reflective pauses and moments of silence would allow the audience to absorb the wonderful writing and Bahr’s trenchant characterizations more fully.

One caveat: Because all of the café’s occupants are summarily killed, they are effectively cast as innocent victims—the Palestinian bomber a cruel and unknown terrorist. Thus, despite Bahr’s attempt at presenting competing points of view equally, she has left out one important point of view, the effect of which ultimately reinforces an ideology that leaves little room for questioning.

*Presented by Allan Buchman*

*at the Culture Project, 45 Bleecker St., NYC.*

*Opened Nov. 14 for an open run. Tue.–Sat., 8 p.m.*

*(212) 307-4100 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).*

**Reviewed by Jerry Portwood**

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