

She will have you in splits. Radhika Vaz is a riot and she loves it. Vaz started her career in New York City as an improvisational and sketch comedian. She believes that humour is the best way to talk about sensitive issues in the society. In conversation with **Mridu Chopra**, Vaz talks about her beliefs and issues, which she wants to address through comedy



the comedy queen

Radhika Vaz is a comedian and writer who lives and works between New York and Gurgaon. She gave up a career in advertising to follow her true calling: making people laugh and think. 'Unladylike- The Pitfalls of Propriety' and 'Older, Angrier, Hairier', her one-woman shows, hilariously explore some taboo and everyday subjects close to women's hearts (and bodies). It appears her goal is to get to the bottom of what women really, really want, using real life as the material. The Bombay-born and New York-based Vaz is laugh out loud funny. The enthusiastic comedian talks more about her foray into comedy, where she draws her inspiration from and her story

of becoming a comedian.

JOURNEY SO FAR

Radhika never really thought about becoming a stand-up comedian because she was always interested in penning down comedy films. For her, films were a big draw. In her words, "A comedy movie is a complicated collaboration, there is so much going on in just one frame. I love comedy films because I know how hard it is to translate comedy to that particular medium. There are so many moving parts – the script, the performances, the camera angles." She started her career in New York in improvisational comedy and then decided to make a move from performing in New York to India with her popular show

'Unladylike', which she also wrote. "I always wanted to perform in India, it just wasn't easy while I was living in New York. It was hard to find producers to work with." Having spent a considerable amount of time in the past one year in India however has helped her form a base. "Things are picking up," she says happily.

FROM NEW YORK TO INDIA

As per Vaz, she was hesitant to shift to India like any other NRI but when she saw the overwhelming opportunity to woo Indian audiences she decided to move base. "To be honest I moved here because I could see that my audiences were enjoying my performance. I had a platform here that I wanted to explore