



IN THE NAME OF LOVE
 7th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009 • 7:30 pm
Oakland Scottish Rite Center
 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland

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Hello Oakland!

Priyanka Sharma-Sindhar
 Last Updated on July, 30 2008 at 02:43 PM



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 the back patio**

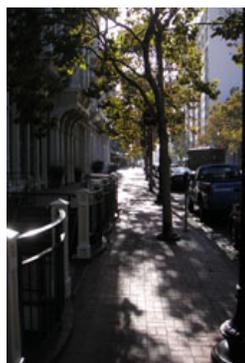
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**talk
 back**

Mateen Kemet finds his Oakland

She still doesn't know who sent her that e-mail. Erinn Anova was living in Los Angeles, working in theater and music, when she got an e-mail that was a casting call for the lead part in a film called Oakland B Mine.

"How random? I live in LA.," she remembers thinking. "Why would someone send me an e-mail about an Oakland part?"

The e-mail read:

OAKLAND - mid 20's - Mid 30's. Beautiful but real, not a Supermodel but not Ghetto Fabulous; chocolate, sultry, radiant and exuding Soul, that hard working Isley brother's soul, that Whispers balladeer, soul that just makes you fell good all over, a woman who can make our fingers snap and hands clap with one glance. Oakland is many things at once-- misunderstood, dangerous, progressive yet unrefined, Sexy, playful, green, sunny, naughty, ELUSIVE, disappointing at times but pregnant with potential possibilities. I am looking for this woman NOW. If you can carry the weight... Holla.

Anova's grandma had moved to Oakland in 1941. Her family had lived in Oakland until she was 8, when they moved with her to Sacramento. But her summers and weekends were filled with trips

to Oakland to visit her family and relatives. As a teenager, she came back to participate in Oakland’s Links Cotillion debutante ball. After she graduated, she moved back to the East Bay for a short time to be in a band. And now, she was looking at a casting call that could take her back to Oakland. If she got the part, she wouldn’t just be going back to Oakland, she would be acting *as* Oakland in a 15-minute-film commissioned as part of the Port of Oakland’s public arts program.

“I love Oakland so much, and it seemed like such an interesting project, I couldn’t resist. I submitted my head shot and wrote about why I should be representing Oakland,” says Anova, who is in her mid-thirties.

She wrote about her family history, about the Oakland music that inspired her --Tower of Power, the Whispers, Richard "Dimples" Fields, Hammer, Tony Toni Tone, En Vogue, and others -- and about how Oakland represented her personality. “I’m a little bit hippie, a little bit bougie, a little bit ghetto.”

She got the part. She would be the face that travelers landing at the Oakland Airport would see on the 30-foot screen next to the baggage claim as they waited to pick up their bags.

The film shows a visitor traveling around Oakland and gradually falling in love. Oakland is shown as a woman - played by Anova. “It’s a love letter to Oakland,” she says. “The man is falling in love with this woman he’s seeing as he’s going around the city.”

Mateen Kemet, the director who got his share of fame on the Steven Spielberg/Mark Burnett reality show [On the Lot](#) in 2007, shot the film in a week across 16 locations. (If you didn’t read about the genesis of this film in the OakBook magazine, issue 2, you can read about it [here](#).) He expects to have it up and running by the end of September.

See photos of the shoot by clicking on the slide show icon below.

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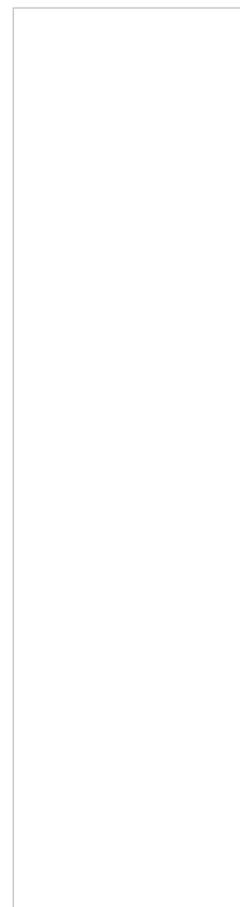


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