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Feb. 7, 2019

## ***Paradise*** **A Study In Love**

*By Wilfred M. Phillips Jr.*

Academy Award winner, Viola Davis (*Fences*) and Julius Tennon's JuVee Productions and American Oasis present the West Coast premiere of *Paradise*, a well-written dramatic and hilarious play by Laura Maria Censabella. The extraordinary play depicts a provocative look into religion, love, culture, science, etc.

Medalion Rahimi portrays Yasmeen al-Hamadi, an intelligent energetic Muslin student; Jeff Marlow portrays Dr. Guy Royston, a discredited biology teacher. The scenes take place in a high school science lab in South Bronx, New York. The time is the present. It opens with Yasmeen (17) wearing her traditional Muslin hijab. She is proud of her nationality, but old family religious traditions in America are hurting her chance to succeed. Yasmeen seeks help from her science teacher who becomes her mentor and assists in her in advancing her education.

In several scenes, Yasmeen challenges Dr. Royston regarding the mating of fruit flies, which turns into discussions on love and true love in human form. Yasmeen researches Dr. Royston's background and discovers that he has written books about love. In her science studies, she also discovers that love first starts with the brain, then physical attraction.

*Paradise*, an intense and complex drama, will definitely provide food for thought. Plus the acting is outstanding. FIVE STARS!!!

*Paradise* ends February 17, at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles, CA 90025. For show times, ticket prices, and reservations call (323) 960-7724 or go to [www.plays411.com/Paradise](http://www.plays411.com/Paradise).