

"The Muslims are Coming" Aims to Build Bridges in Murfreesboro

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn.- A traveling comedy show meant to bridge religious divides is making a stop at MTSU. The show entitled, "The Muslims are Coming," is a way for four Muslim-American comedians to show that they are just like everyone else.



The comedy tour began in

Gainesville, Florida. Since the show began, less than two weeks ago, they've made stops in Georgia, Alabama and now in Tennessee.

At each stop they spend time talking to the community, promoting their show and engaging residents in conversations about what they say are misconceptions about their religion.

"As comedians we make light of certain fears people have," show producer and comedian Dean Obeidallah explained. "We talk about ourselves, our families, our mother our father..."

They're compiling video from all of their shows for a documentary set to premier next spring featuring their tour.

"When I say it's been great, the audience has been really good," Obeidallah added. "Meeting people in each of the towns we go to and I think [they're] being honest. They're not like yelling anti-Muslim slurs. They're saying these are the issues we have with the Muslim-American community."

Saturday's stop at the Murfreesboro farmers market was sparked by the intense controversy over the planned expansion of the Islamic Center's mosque.

"I've actually heard the accusations several times that it's training terrorists," a man who agreed to be interviewed by the comedians explained. "[But] a lot of people here from Murfreesboro support the mosque."

It's a topic that's really no laughing matter.

"Maybe bringing humor to the situation might warm some hearts you know," another Murfreesboro resident said.

They say laughter is the best medicine. It's something these four Muslim-American comedians prescribe before every show.

The next "The Muslims are Coming" show is at Mercy Lounge in downtown Nashville on Sunday, August 14th. They say their material is family friendly and each show is free.