



***A CurtainUp Report***

**2016 New York International Fringe Festival**

***Qaddafi's Cook***

There are at least three Muammar Qaddafis. One of these, the terrible dictator, has been drilled into us for more than a decade. Another is little known--brilliant pan-African strategist and anti-discrimination advocate. This two-hander highlights the Doctor's sometimes benevolent capriciousness. Sous chef Fredy (Alvaro Flores) adds action and engaging commentary to investigator Paula Madrigal's expressive reading of his boss Sergio's supposed diary of their month-or-so remunerative captivity as Qaddafi's Mexican components of his cooking team. High tension while on weekly duty alternates with abject boredom. Bit players in the Libyan court drama, they are mystified at Qaddafi's never even sampling their culinary creations except for the soup with fideos. Their prized Chicken in Peanut Sauce always gets fed to the staff. They know they've been following supervisor Big Moustache's house rules--no white rice, always flavored--but things seem to be collapsing around them. Under Lynn Lohr's masterful direction, Madrigal has the audience on the edge of their seats by the point in the diary when it seems the pair can gracefully exit the country. Fredy has his suitcase packed in 30 seconds and waits for days for the last ride to the airport. At Venue #4. 1 hour.

By David Lipfert