



LOUD AND PROUD

Fierce feminist podcast Chuski Pop is raising hackles with its truth bombs

“Desi women who speak openly about sex, like Qandeel Baloch, seem to suffer very real consequences.” Anonymous Indian-origin podcasters, copywriter Sweety (32) and artist Pappu (33), know more than well the risks that come with disturbing the status quo. So, with their pseudonyms, they have chosen to keep the spotlight off them and on Chuski Pop, their popular podcast about “women’s issues, bad art, sex, drugs, Bollywood, puppies, bunnies, unicorns and rainbows”. We reached out to them to find out how it became their way to stick it to the system.

ELLE: You both have known each other since you were kids. So, what led to this podcast?

Sweety: Bollywood. I felt very confused about sex, growing up. I watched '90s movies full of rape scenes and item numbers—they really messed me up. It was okay for movies to have extended graphic scenes, but kissing had to be done behind a rose bush. Sex was always shown as non-consensual or forced, because God forbid a woman should ever feel desire. We wanted to change that. So this podcast is about taking back the sexual

narrative by promoting healthier conversations about sex.

ELLE: Did growing up in the Middle East have a role to play too?

Sweety: In the Middle East, being Indian is bad, but being an Indian woman is a double disadvantage. In Vancouver [where she lives now], I have the freedom to voice my dissent, and be proud of my ethnicity and femininity.

ELLE: What’s been your most successful episode so far?

Sweety: This year’s Valentine’s Day special. I think listeners just like hearing desi women talk about masturbation.

ELLE: What’s one misconception about feminism you’d like to change?

Pappu: That the fight is the same for all women. It is not. Us desi feminists face different struggles from our white counterparts. It’s called intersectional feminism, and it’s compounded by our culture and race, so it’s important for us to address it.

Chuskipop.com



TUNE IN

THREE SAUCY, SNARKY PODCASTS TO LISTEN TO



ANOTHER ROUND WITH HEBEN AND TRACY

Heben Nigatu and Tracy Clayton touch upon everything from race and religion to pop culture and bad jokes. They even flip the switch sometimes: in *White Devil’s Advocate*, they look at racism from the perpetrator’s point of view. If it doesn’t provoke, it’s not Heben and Tracy.

Soundcloud.com/anotherroundwithhebenandtracy



GUYS WE F**KED

Krystyna Hutchinson and Corinne Fisher have one message for you: own your sexuality. Their anti-slut shaming podcast deals with sexual health, racial discrimination, domestic violence and rape. The goal is to encourage women to feel more comfortable in their skin, and be able to enjoy more shame-free sex.

Soundcloud.com/guyswef**ked



#GOODMUSLIMBADMUSLIM

Tanzila ‘Taz’ Ahmed and Zahra Noorbakhsh examine what it means to be caught in-between: to be seen as ‘bad Muslims’ (who don’t pray) by some and ‘good Muslims’ (for not being criminals) by others in a post-9/11 world. So, they define themselves by poking fun at both sides.

Goodmuslimbadmuslim.com

— NEVILLE BHANDARA