

## An Early Start

■ At 23, Rehana Mirza is possibly amongst the youngest writers to debut with a full-length drama script. Her pan-Asian drama, *Barriers*, dealing with the South Asian perspective of the backlash that grew out of 9/11, opened in Manhattan last week. Residing in the vicinity, Mirza was house-bound for a week as the authorities closed down all commute in lower Manhattan. "There was a lot of thinking on it at that time. My training helped me work through all of it," says the artiste who studied dramatic writing at New York University. The flip side was that Mirza decided to channelise her energies into telling a story through a play. "The reason my play is a pan-Asian drama is because I feel it is important to bring together all communities. My mom is Filipino and my dad is Pakistani, so I firmly believe in the value of diversity." Looks as though she has a headstart in life.



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