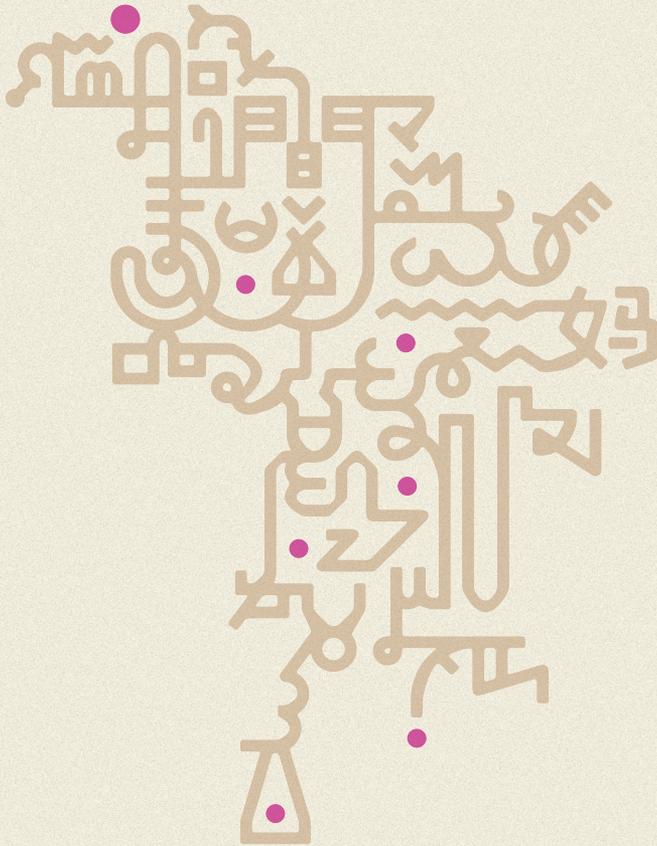




ISF2020 DIGITAL SEASON 
SATURDAYS: MAY 16 — JULY 18

10th ANNIVERSARY
10 WEEKS
10 EVENTS



POWERED BY



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We had big things planned for our 10th anniversary edition, and were just about to unveil a magical lineup when it became clear that the COVID-19 crisis was going to change all that. We had to choose either to cancel the festival, or to undertake a difficult reinvention, and continue to serve our community in the way we know best. One thing the crisis only strengthened is our belief in the transformative power of the arts. And it was clear right from the early days of the pandemic that people have turned once more to the arts, for levity, for solace, and to make sense of our predicament and imagine our futures.

So we decided to take our events online, participating with care and consideration in what is already a crowded space. We present a series of carefully curated events that we hope will help our audience feel a sense of solidarity and purpose in creating a post-pandemic world that is not a return to normalcy as we knew it, but as we can reimagine and remake it.

Indian Summer Festival has built its reputation on its loving and audacious curatorial punch, and this 10th anniversary edition sees a stunning global cast of talent applying its creative power to address this unsettling time. From Grammy Award- winning musicians to emerging poets, Nobel Prize-winning economists, to visionary environmental warriors, this year's programming spans literary dialogues, intellectual debates, musical performances, and interactive culinary experiences.

We miss our in-person gathering that has become such a part of the summer in Vancouver, but we offer you instead a digital season of ten substantial, specially curated-for-screen events. We are excited by being able to bring people together in digital community when we need it more than ever, to remove more barriers to accessibility, and to reach and engage an international audience. Our thanks to our loyal artists, audience members, sponsors, funders and donors, who each in their own way, have assured us that they will be there for us as we find new shape for our work.

What's exciting about a digital season of course, is that the final week of our festival is really when the program is finally revealed in its entirety. So there is still a sense of culmination during our usual July dates, and of course, our events can be viewed online for free, whenever you wish. I welcome you to our 10th anniversary digital edition, or rather, I hope you welcome us into your homes, on a screen near you!

*“Celebrating arts, culture and ideas as
Canada’s community-engaged
research university.”*



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ENGAGING THE WORLD

SFU is proud to be Founding Partner of ISF
www.sfu.ca



SIRISH RAO

MESSAGES FROM OUR SUPPORTERS



As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2020 Indian Summer Festival.

The 10th anniversary edition will be new in several ways: it has moved online, to allow everyone to stay connected to arts, culture, and community while staying home; it takes on an exciting and in-depth exploration of linguistic expression, from our legacies of oral history and sign language, to haiku, graffiti, and hip hop; and, most impressively, the festival has expanded from 10 days to a season lasting 10 weeks!

I can't thank the artists, organizers, and audiences enough for coming together through these unusual times and continuing to enrich the lives of those around us, even at a distance. I have no doubt that this year's showcase will be a model of what our diverse and talented creative leaders can achieve when we all take the time to uplift, support, and appreciate the skill and determination that makes British Columbia such a wonderful province to share.

Please accept my warmest congratulations on a decade of innovative fun — and enjoy the shows!

*THE HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA*



On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to send my sincere best wishes for the Indian Summer Festival. Vancouver is proud of its vibrant multicultural community, one which Indian Summer Festival both promotes and advances. This vibrant festival offers an incredible platform for emerging artists, along with Nobel, Pulitzer, Grammy and Oscar winning global artists. Our city is enriched by the incredible dialogues, performances and collaborations, and the caliber of the artists. I want to thank everyone who works so hard to make this event a great success. Have a wonderful festival.

*KENNEDY STEWART
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER*



As the Festival's founding sponsor, Simon Fraser University is delighted to welcome you to this tenth annual celebration of arts, culture and ideas. True to our mission as Canada's Engaged University, we are thrilled to be part of an extended online program that has been designed to foster connection and inspiration during this challenging time. Warm greetings to our friends near and far. We look forward to engaging anew at the festival and beyond.

ANDREW PETTER

PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Indian Summer Festival takes place on the unceded Coast Salish territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səl'ílwətał (TseilWaututh), and x̣ṃəθkwəy'əm (Musqueam) Nations. As a festival celebrating diverse perspectives, Indian Summer Festival offers our gratitude to the Coast Salish people who continue to steward these lands and waters.

ACCESSIBLE INDIAN SUMMER

At the heart of Indian Summer is a desire for an inclusive, diverse, and culturally-rich society. We aim to not only remove barriers to access our events, but to also celebrate and normalize diverse entry-points to enrich the festival programming as a space for everyone. We strive to meet access requests, particularly online in this digital season, and continue to reflect on and develop our accessibility programming.

An online festival has opened up new ways of accessing our events for our audiences. We made two decisions for this year's festival, and invested in ensuring that 100% of events had a free to attend option. And 100% of Indian Summer Festival's 2020 Digital Events are live captioned on all streaming platforms.

VOCAL EYE PARTNERSHIP

Indian Summer Festival & VocalEye Watch Party!

This watch party will centre the experiences of Blind and partially sighted audiences, and will include a sampling from various Indian Summer Festival 2020 productions.

During this watch party, visual artworks and performances will be described by VocalEye and Indian Summer Festival staff with plenty of time for pausing, asking questions, and adding context and background information.

Sunday July 26th, 1:30pm. FREE, register by emailing info@vocaleye.ca Please let them know your viewing location and if you identify as a member of the blind/partially sighted community or as a sighted guest.



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**VANCOUVER
BIENNALE**

BEGINNINGS SONIC TRIBUTES

SATURDAY MAY 16

Before we had language, we had music. Researchers suggest that music may have allowed our distant ancestors to communicate before the invention of language (it is after all, defined as ‘sound that conveys emotion’).

Music has always provided the social glue that brings people together, and in this time of isolation, some of Vancouver’s musical treasures bring us together virtually in a special event to kick off ISF’s 10th anniversary season. This is at once an ode to the city that we love (and miss) and a tribute to the wealth of musical languages that exists here.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qk0qpylNoSnM>

FEATURING:

Salia Joseph
Amarjeet Singh + Baljit Singh
Lasya Vankayala + Curtis Andrews
Ruby Singh + PIQSIQ
Sejal Lal
Mohamed Assani + Jeanette Bernal-Singh
Tarun Nayar
Sunny Matharu + Ashwin Sood
Jhalaak

VANDANA SHIVA & DAVID SUZUKI

THE VIRUS IS A WAKE-UP CALL

SATURDAY MAY 23, 7:01PM PDT

"The COVID crisis is a crisis for human beings, but the climate crisis is a crisis for life on the planet." — David Suzuki

"The real economy is an economy of care, for the planet and for each other" — Vandana Shiva

Legendary environmental warriors Vandana Shiva and David Suzuki, come together in this rare conversation across continents. Both are past winners of the 'Right Livelihood Prize' often referred to as the 'alternative Nobel', and have had enormous local and global impact through their work.

Now, in the middle of a global pandemic, they invite us to consider the opportunity we have to change our ways of being as a species, and how we must truly be "all in this together".

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EABBDs2TFd0>

EVENT PRESENTING PARTNER





IT COULD BE VERSE POETRY FOR A PANDEMIC

SATURDAY MAY 30, 7:01PM PDT

PRESENTING PARTNER



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For centuries, poetry has been the literary form that has told the stories of our times. Poets have been the chroniclers of our battles, the heralds of our celebrations and the ones who have offered us solace in times of need. A series of intimate readings by outstanding poets from around the world, offer us literature as shelter, medicine and mirror.

Join hosts Anjalica Solomon (poet, spoken word artist, organiser) and Sirish Rao (ISF Artistic Director) as they take you around the world to listen to:

- Shabana Azmi** – Indian cinema icon and theatre actor
- Sadhu Binning** – Bi-lingual author, editor, educator and influential advocate for Punjabi literature
- Christie Lee Charles** – Global Musqueam performer and Poet Laureate of Vancouver
- Jillian Christmas** – Celebrated poet, organizer, and activist
- Ivan Coyote** – Award winning author and natural born storyteller
- Tishani Doshi** – Writer and dancer, winner of the Forward Prize for poetry
- Phinder Dulai** – Noted author of three books of poetry
- Arthur Flowers** – Novelist, performance poet and literary bluesman
- Meharoona Ghani** – Writer, poet, public speaker, truth seeker
- Sheniz Janmohamed** – Writer, spoken word artist and land artist
- Chelene Knight** – 2019 Writers' Trust 'Rising Star'
- Aja Monet** – Surrealist blues poet, storyteller, and organizer
- Bif Naked** – Celebrated and notorious performer, and tireless humanitarian
- Shazia Hafiz Ramji** – Winner of the City of Vancouver Book Award
- Ajmer Rode** – Winner of the 'Best Overseas Punjabi Author' award
- Renee Saklikar** – Poet Laureate of the City of Surrey
- Leanne Simpson** – Renowned Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, writer and artist
- Jeet Thayil** – Booker Prize nominated writer, poet and musician

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8nWbGNz4So>

JOSEPH STIGLITZ PEOPLE, POWER, & PROFITS WITH ARJUN JAYADEV

TUESDAY JUNE 9, 7:01PM PDT

"Joseph Stiglitz got the Asian financial crisis right, foresaw the bubble that caused such havoc in 2008 and is advocating global answers to a host of problems that can no longer be solved at the local or national level... his work goes on challenging us all to rethink our ideas, he will always be a controversialist wherever he goes." — Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the UK

Joseph E. Stiglitz is a professor at Columbia University, and one of the world's most renowned economists. He is the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, and has served as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers for President Clinton and as the Chief Economist for the World Bank. The title of this event is taken from Prof. Stiglitz's 2019 book 'People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent', an authoritative account of the dangers of the unfettered markets and monied politics that result in wealth through exploitation rather than wealth creation.

In this special event for Indian Summer Festival, he speaks with the brilliant Indian economist Arjun Jayadev who has worked extensively on income distribution and inequality, and was the Co-Editor of 'The Journal of Globalization and Development'.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK2ehrVF5sl>

EVENT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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NIGHT OF THE RAGA

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 7:01PM PDT

"Amjad Ali Khan is god-like in his dramatic powers on the Sarod" — The Edinburgh Herald

"Shubha Mudgal is one of the foremost Indian classical musicians of today" — Businessworld

"Each time I listen to L. Subramaniam, I am carried away in wonderment." — Lord Yehudi Menuhin

There is no single English word that can be used to easily translate the meaning of the word 'Raga'. It is not quite a musical scale, it is not really a tune, it isn't exactly a musical mode, but in many ways it is all of these things. To go to its root, raga means 'to colour', but also to be moved, to be affected and the intention of a raga is to evoke a mood, or a certain feeling in its audience. To feel raga in all its variety, ISF2020 goes to some of the most outstanding classical musicians in India. In the middle of a nation-wide lockdown, they dig deep into their repertoires and offer us songs of solace, inspiration and empathy. This is a rare chance to visit these outstanding musicians in the intimacy of their homes and, thanks to technology, sit with them virtually in the same room, rather than the giant concert halls that these musical legends usually fill.

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Amaan and Ayaan speak to kinship and family bonds. They were all, happily, in the same place when India announced a strict lockdown. They take us to the source of their music – their home. They are sixth and seventh generation musicians, and their instrument sarod, is a member of the family.

Shubha Mudgal and her partner in music and life Aneesh Pradhan, are separated in two different cities. They still manage to collaborate from a distance for this event, and bring us songs from 'Baramasa' a poetic and musical tradition, fittingly speaking of intense love and longing.

Dr. L Subramaniam, the 'God of Indian Violin' is known for his landmark collaborations with classical Indian musicians, jazz musicians, western classical orchestras, Hollywood and Bollywood films. From the stillness of his home, he still travels musical worlds, offering us a glimpse of his astonishing range, with a special appearance by his wife, the celebrated multi-platinum singer Kavita Krishnamurti.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gy1dyblkPU>

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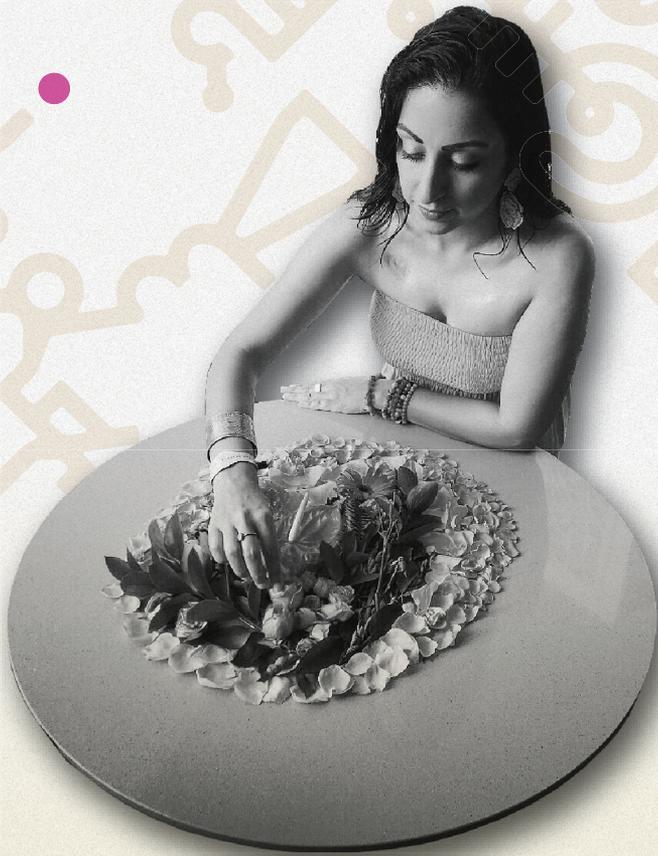
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Investing for Generations*

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FASKEN





MANDALA WORKSHOP WITH SHENIZ JANMOHAMED

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 12:30PM PDT

#ISFMandalaProject is a digital community arts-meets-volunteerism campaign, inspired by Sheniz Janmohamed's "mandala a day" project. https://www.instagram.com/p/B_YYxUlgy4C/.

Volunteers are invited to learn about principles of mandala making, intuitive design, and how to document their creations from Sheniz Janmohamed.

The mandalas are then offered as a form of visual meditation and reflection to the public through instagram with the hashtag #ISFMandalaProject and on indiansummerfest.ca

BOONOOONOUS HAIR! AND OTHER STORIES FOR DIVERSE LITTLE HUMANS

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 11AM PDT

This is a special Saturday morning read-along session with some of Canada's best loved children's book authors. Join Olive Senior, Paul Yee and Sirish Rao reading aloud from their books in this special 30 minute online event for children 3-6 years old.

Kids will enter the fabulous world of Commonwealth Writer's Prize-winning Jamaican writer Olive Senior's books where they meet Jamila and her electric, kinetic, twirly, whirly, fuzzy, snappy Boonoonous hair. Governor General's Literary Award-winning writer Paul Yee will take them to China to meet a farmer called Bamboo, and his wife Ming's magical bamboo grove. ISF's very own co-founder Sirish Rao introduces children to the quirky Indian artist Siena Baba in his Sunday Times Best Children's Book 'That's How I See Things'.

 <https://bit.ly/302zyMw>

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*"Books can be windows into other
people's lives and mirrors of your own"*
— Rudine Sims Bishop

5X15 GLOBAL EDITION

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 11AM PDT

"An event that Socrates would have loved..." — Bettany Hughes

5x15 is a speakers series that originated in London, with its home in the Tabernacle in Notting Hill, a beautiful heritage building where Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones used to rehearse. Indian Summer Festival has hosted the only Canadian iteration of 5x15 every year. In the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, when global cooperation is needed more than ever, we come together to present a special global edition, curated and hosted jointly by Eleanor O'Keeffe (co-founder of 5x15) and Sirish Rao (co-founder of ISF).

5x15 GLOBAL SPEAKERS:

Ben Okri, the Booker Prize-winning novelist and poet talks about racism as a failure of humanity. **Anita Anand**, the award-winning journalist, speaks about her book *The Patient Assassin* and one man's revenge against the brutality of empire.

Sanjay Kak, noted filmmaker and writer talks of photography as a vital contemporary art form in Kashmir.

Marianne Nicholson, of the Musgamakw Dzewada'enuxw Nation speaks about her work of recording stories of her people on the land.

Aza Raskin, speaks about his Earth Species Project, and decoding animal communication using Artificial Intelligence techniques.

Kritika Pandey, winner of the 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize talks about the hybridity of language.

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 <https://bit.ly/2CWVBVHM>

5x
15

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TIFFIN TALKS

ZANANI / ZAMANA / ZAMEEN

SATURDAY JULY 4, 12:00PM PDT

Zanani / Zamana / Zameen – Feminist thinking, society, and place

Zanani (za-na-ni): the feminine

Zamana (za-ma-na): time, age, period

Zameen (za-meen): place, ground, land

Join writer Shauna Singh Baldwin, filmmaker Baljit Sangra, and visual artist Sandeep Johal for an in-depth discussion moderated by Sivi Bains on how place and society affect how we imagine the feminine. The speakers reflect on the clash of tradition and modernity within the context of patriarchy and gender inequality and share how their work creates space for South Asian voices. Hear their perspectives on cultural identity, storytelling, and place in South Asian culture, and how these themes inform their artistic practice. The talk will be followed by a virtual Q&A session with the audience.

 <https://bit.ly/3OSkBf1>

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VIJ'S AT HOME

A MASTERCLASS WITH VIKRAM VIJ HOSTED BY AGAM DARSHI

SATURDAY JULY 11, 7:01PM PDT

"Vikram is a strange and wonderful mix of idealistic hippy and smart businessman" – Anthony Bourdain

Vikram Vij is a Canadian culinary gem. Anyone who has experienced Vikram's trademark hospitality knows that he always manages to create a distinct dining experience. In this special online event for Indian Summer Festival, Vikram gives a masterclass in Indian cuisine, creating a seasonal plant-based meal together with you in real time, in the intimacy of your own kitchen. Leo Award-winning actor Agam Darshi plays host, drawing out Vikram's life story, and the deeper things that a cuisine signifies – culture, gathering, affection, relationships... not for nothing is food referred to as 'the sixth language of love'.

 <https://bit.ly/331Z1aK>

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VIJS

NANAK



10TH ANNIVERSARY CLOSING PARTY

SATURDAY JULY 18, 7:01PM PDT

"There's not another event like it on the summer calendar in Vancouver."
– The Georgia Straight

It's a celebration! For those of you who've been missing our legendary art-filled parties, we've put an online version together that comes as close as you can to the real thing (yes, food as well!). This is going to be an evening of magic on many levels.

This special evening starts with Tributaries, an evening of outstanding new music curated by Jarrett Martineau, host of the award-winning show 'Reclaimed' on CBC Radio One and hosted by CBC Vancouver's Michelle Eliot. Those experiencing the full tangible experience will receive a home delivered multi-course meal by award-winning Chef Tushar of Indian Pantry and access to our Zoom afterparty.

Featuring Grammy award-winning artists, rising stars, and future voices, Tributaries claims space for brown love, Black joy and self-acceptance. The concert features new music and unreleased songs from voices across the continent including:

- Acclaimed singer-songwriter **Madison McFerrin**, one of Pitchfork's 2020 'Artists to Watch.'
- Multiple Grammy and Juno Award-winning artist and producer **Pranam "Chin" Injeti**
- **Sangha**, an ensemble featuring brilliant multi-instrumentalists Gord Grdina, Neelamjit Dhillon, Hidayat Honari, and Hamin Honari performing remotely from Vancouver, Los Angeles, Montreal, and New York.
- Rising pop and R&B singer **Neela** from Vancouver with music from her forthcoming EP.
- Beloved Vancouver **DJ Lil India** and rising Desi rapper **Horsepower**, bring the sonic bounce of Bollywood into their HipHop-infused set.

 <https://bit.ly/39wtuz3>

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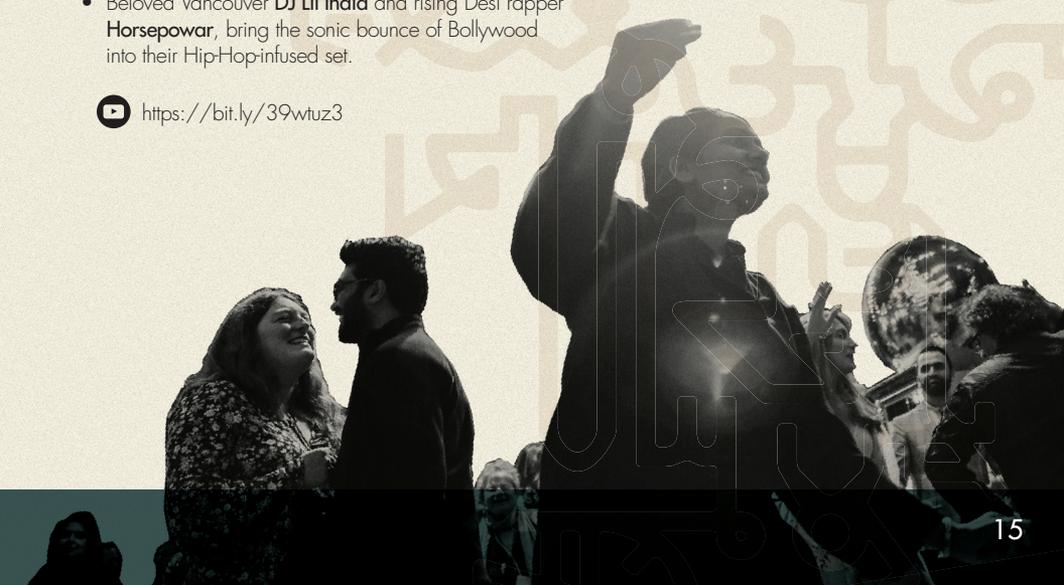
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FEATURED ARTISTS

MUSTAALI RAJ & MINAHIL BUKHARI

Mustaali Raj and Minahil Bukhari are a creative duo currently based out of Vancouver, Canada. Mustaali is an independent art director and designer whose focus lies at the intersection of interdisciplinary concept development and visual communication. Minahil is a visual artist with an interdisciplinary practice working with installation art, sound, video, sculpture, and painting. Her artworks are poetic gestures that enable a sense-feeling about the topics which cannot be fully approached, comprehended or described within the capacity of language. They come together to collaborate on projects bringing diverse perspectives from their respective fields.

Mustaali and Minahil created the cover art of this program as a special commission for ISF2020, in response to the theme 'River of Language'. The artwork integrates scripts from languages across the world, flowing together into one river of language.



PHOTO CREDIT: DOAA JAMAL



JAALI: PATTERNS OF SPEECH

AN ONLINE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

"The first thing to consider is that, in fact, thinking can be independent of language. When bilinguals are riding a bus, walking down the street, or exercising, their thoughts may not be in a particular language." - Aneta Pavlenko

JAALI – Patterns of Speech is a digital public art project created by Mustaali Raj and Minahil Bukhari for Indian Summer Festival's 10th Anniversary edition. Jaali is a perforated screen, typical of Indo-Persian architecture, used as windows or interior room dividers, allowing light and air to enter a room. The intricately carved geometric designs create a subtle play of shadow and light, emphasizing the characteristics of symmetry and the illusion of infinity.

Taking inspiration from this, Raj and Bukhari have created an interactive web-based project, inviting people to share how they use language, by asking the simple questions: "In what language do you: speak/think/feel/dream". Based on the answers, a visual scriptograph or geometric pattern gets generated. A pattern made of the languages an individual uses, that is unique to every individual but at the same time, is part of a larger community. Everyone's language patterns come together to create a tapestry of interwoven patterns. A window into our linguistic hearts – JAALI.



OUR PATRONS CIRCLE

We are proud to be a patron-powered festival, made possible largely because of the generosity and support of a community of individuals who share our vision for a diverse, inclusive and culturally-rich society. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to this visionary group:

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Ravi Sidhoo & Asha Fraser,
East India Carpets

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The festival depends on people like you who have felt the exhilarating power of our work and want others to experience it too. With your donation of \$1000+, you join our Patrons Circle and enjoy numerous benefits, including exclusive invitations to festival galas and Patrons Circle events, festival tickets packages, charitable tax receipts, VIP experiences, recognition, and more.

Join our circle at indiansummerfest.ca/join-us
Or email connect@indiansummerfest.ca or phone (604) 283-9172



SUPPORTERS

You can play a direct role in amplifying the voices of diverse artists whose work addresses some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Become a supporter today, with a gift of \$25 - \$999, and your donation will be used to ensure these voices can be heard by everyone. Your dollars go towards:

- Offering a lovingly curated program of events
- Enabling this content to be shared for free online to the widest audience
- Fairly remunerating artists and crew

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FROM LEFT: ALMIRA BARDAI, GILLIAN COFSKY, SIRISH RAO,
LAURA JUNE ALBERT, LAURA BYSPALKO, PAWAN DEOL,
ROB ECCLES, JULIA PREZOTTO, CARMEL TANAKA, MIMI ABRAHAMS

Indian Summer Arts Society is a Vancouver-based charitable, not-for-profit secular arts organization. Our mandate is to offer daring multi-arts events that catalyze and inspire audiences and artists in a spirit of dialogue and global citizenship. To achieve our mandate, in 2011 we founded the annual Indian Summer Festival.

Our curatorial practice is to center and amplify South Asian voices in conversation with other artistic communities. Each year, the festival presents provocative arts events that feature some of the best artists and visionaries from Canada, South Asia and beyond. From novelists to DJs, social entrepreneurs to Bollywood stars, Indian Summer Festival has presented emerging artists as well as Nobel, Booker, Grammy and Oscar prize nominees on its stages.

INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL IS PRODUCED BY
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ESTABLISHED IN 2011 IN VANCOUVER, CANADA.
SOCIETY NUMBER 808864409RR0001

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to our fabulous artists, partners, patrons, sponsors, advisors and team, the festival has been made possible with the support of many well-wishers whom we acknowledge with deep gratitude.

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Allan Dawe
Alvina Yeung
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Shushma Datt
Steph Kirkland / VocalEye
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EventBrite

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Bespoke Audio Visual
Proshow Audio Visual

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Tech Butlers Support Ltd.

VIDEOGRAPHY TEAMS

Soulfood Productions Inc
Pool Service Productions
Third Eye Productions

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