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# South Asian festival strives to be the best

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By: Chris Clay

**June 12, 2009 11:57 AM** - When it comes to arts events, Mississauga doesn't deserve to be second best. Telus Mosaic 2009 South Asian festival director Asma Arshad Mahmood said Mississauga sometimes is forced to settle for events that could be considered less than the best in terms of the arts. She was speaking last night at the festival preview, held at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. She hopes to change things with Mosaic, which is celebrating its fourth anniversary this year. The festival, which should attract 50,000 people, runs June 19-21 at the Civic Square. Admission is free. "This year, the line-up is the best of any free festival happening in the GTA," said Mahmood. Mahmood said organizers have secured some top-notch talent starting with bands and musical acts such as RDB, Nindy Kaur and Swami. There will also be performances the Kathak dance duo Vidha and Abhimanyu Lal, Cassius Khan, Kreuger Singh, Ustad Irshad Khan and the Fusion Ensemble Shiamak's Indo Jazz, Mississauga's Sampradaya Dance and Sri Sanskriti Dance, DK Bollywood, Nachdi Jawani and others. Friday night opens with a screening of the film *Singh Is King* at 9 p.m. Things continue with the Rock The Coliseum youth concert, runs from 4-11 p.m. and continues on Saturday and Sunday. Organizer Bushra Mahmood was pleased to announce that the Mare would reunite for the first time in four years to perform at the concert. Other bands scheduled to play include The Mel Band, DD/MM/YYYY, Junius and Burning Brides, among others. There are several elements to the festival, including main-street entertainment, visual arts displays and vendors selling a variety of products and food. Prior to the festival, there will be a South Asian Film Festival running June 17-19 at the Central Library. To help build interest in the festival, the Art Gallery of Mississauga has been hosting the Bazgasht: Traditional Methods and Modern Practices exhibit since May. Bazgasht features 51 miniature



Staff photo by Rob B...  
Asma Mahmood, festival director, helps kick off the TELUS Mosaic Festival (scheduled for June 19, 20 and 21) with an art showing last night at the Gallery of Mississauga.

paintings by South Asian artists. The exhibition continues until July 12. For a complete list of festival programming, visit [www.mosaicfest.com](http://www.mosaicfest.com). [cclay@mississauga.net](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net)



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