



## Mosaic 2013: An explosion of South Asian culture

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MISSISSAUGA — In its eighth year, Mosaic 2013 is hitting its stride.

It's the culmination of eight months work for Mosaic director Anu Vittal, who organizes the South Asian festival that was founded by Arshad and Asma Mahmood.

Vittal is carrying on their tradition of inclusiveness.

"It's a celebration of the arts," said Vittal. "We have 122 artists performing and 70 per cent of them are local. We're all global citizens now, and we have worked to make true South Asian culture accessible to the whole community."

Mosaic kicked off last night with a Comedy Night at the Novotel Hotel that featured Toronto's Ali Hassan from TV's George Stroumboulopoulos show, Nitin Mirani from Dubai and headliner Azhar Usman, a former attorney who hails from Chicago.



The TD Mosaic 2013 South Asian Heritage Festival of Mississauga kicked off with a Comedy Night at the Novotel Hotel. In attendance were the festival's founding couple, Arshad Mahmood and Asma Arshad Mahmood.

This year's Mosaic events are multicultural, multinational and able to leap cultural boundaries in a single bound.

For film buffs, there's the three-day Mosaic International South Asian Film Festival of Mississauga (MISAFF).

"Whether it's fiction or documentary, the films we chose for this festival have less formula and more soul and heart," said MISAFF director Arshad Khan. "This is cross-over cinema that will speak to everyone."

The world premiere of Zinda Bhagg, an Indo-Pakistani film from Meena Gaur and Farjad Nabi that's already creating a huge buzz, will take place Wednesday at 9 p.m. at the Empire Theatre at Square One.

If art is your thing, you'll want to explore a show at Port Credit's Promenade Gallery that features works by Pakistani artist Jimmy Engineer, who will attend tonight's opening. The show runs to Sept. 6.

Best known for his paintings that depict the pain of the Partition that created Pakistan and India as separate countries, Engineer is as well known for his humanitarian work, raising money and awareness through his art and marathon walks of up to 4,000 kilometres.

"If ever there is peace in the world, I believe it will come from artists," said Engineer. "I would rather help people than be a great artist."

Thousands of people will fill Celebration Square for various other events taking place on Aug. 16-17.

Rock The Coliseum will see 16 bands performing in the Amphitheatre on both night. There will be a wide range of music performed, from sitar-playing Ustad Anwar Khurshid of Toronto to the award-winning Paul Deslauriers Band that plays the blues. Admission is free.

There will be a host of activities for children including a special play area.

Last but far from least is the food, courtesy of various assorted restaurants, which will range from halal to vegetarian to exotic.

There will also be vendors selling South Asian clothes and accessories.

For information visit [www.mosaicfest.com](http://www.mosaicfest.com) (<http://www.mosaicfest.com>).