

## RENU MEHTA

Toronto

Zameer Rizvi is a singer, songwriter and composer. The Toronto based musician rose to fame when his debut song Win or Defeat was selected as a theme song by the 2010 Paralympic Games and performed at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. Performing along artists such as Noori, Junoon and John Mayer, the musician sings in multiple languages including English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi and holds a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Western Ontario.

In an exclusive interview with the Indian Express, the musician, who likes to eat shawarmas and olives, speaks about himself, his music, his dreams and future plans.

**Tell us about yourself?**

I live in Toronto but have been raised in five different countries including Libya, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and England. The hospital in Pakistan I was born in was blown up by extremists in Lahore, Pakistan. I have a strong desire to develop my identity since I don't have a country or religion to rely on.

My music began when I formed a band called Dead Shyre with my siblings that taught me the basics of

# An Interview with Zameer Rizvi

recording and production. In 2005, when we moved to Toronto, I once again formed a band performing at local Toronto bars.

My debut single Win or Defeat helped me get nominated as Best Artist at the Toronto Independent Music Awards.

In 2010, my debut album titled From Under the Bleachers was released and I toured Norway, Pakistan, Canada and the US to promote this. I have also released several songs in Urdu and Hindi and the most notable is Teri Yaad, a song dedicated to my father who passed away in 2001.

**What do you think about your own music?**

I'm delusional; I think I'm the best musician on the planet. I feel like I struck gold when I was around 19. I wrote hundreds of compositions. The rest of my life is going to be about producing those compositions and releasing them.

**What comes next in your music?**

I have an amazing video coming out for a song called 'Mind Over Murder' that will get me into a lot of trouble set to be released in February 2011.

**What motivates/inspires you?**

Feelings motivate and inspire me. When I am continually composing, I know that my life is interesting.

When I am not composing, I know that I have to do something to kick start my feelings again.

This one time, I took a big glass jug and threw it against a tree to evoke some emotion. That didn't work, but you get the picture.

**What do you like besides music?**

I like my coffee the color of my knee. I like the color green. I don't like doing things to make others happy. I love to express my thoughts through poetry and melody. Music has taught me how to be a good person.

I'm introverted and sometimes come off as rude or arrogant. I was born into a Muslim family, but I don't take religion too seriously. I'm fascinated by history and culture.

I think mosquitoes will take over the world.

I have tense hip muscles and am working on loosening them up. I've gained weight lately, and I'm experimenting with a few diets. I don't like the no-carb diet because I love my roti and biryani.

**If there was one thing you could change, what would it be?**

I wouldn't change a thing. Well... maybe the concept of monogamy.

**Where do you see yourself five years from now?**

In five years I'll have released two more albums, and gotten in lots of trouble for being blasphemous and

having a wandering eye.

In five years, I plan to be building my dream mansion in Northern Ontario. It will be the shape of a pyramid, and will have my office right on its tip. One level below the office will be my music studio where I will record all my 100 songs, and counting.

**What are your future plans – personal and career?**

I'm getting married soon. She's a sweetheart. I'm getting married because my parents were married and because I think it's the right thing to do. People would think I was weird if I didn't. I'm already called weird, so I want to avoid that perception.

I have a lot of music to record and release. I have a video for a song called 'Mind Over Murder' that will be released in Feb 2011. It will be my best video to date.

**Advise to others?**

Find what you love, then pursue it. Don't pursue something that you're trying to love. Don't care about what others think. Stay true to yourself. Take time to understand yourself and your spirit.

## Popular South Asian channels on Free preview



## STAFF REPORTER

Toronto

Rogers has launched five new South Asian channels for customers, many of them favourites of people from the sub-continent. These channels will be on free preview for viewers.

NDTV Imagine (Channel 840) which covers the Indian entertainment industry, Aaj Tak (Channel 841) called India's 'Best News Channel', and Headlines Today (Channel 842) with its power-packed daily news coverage, are on free preview from now until Jan 24, 2011.

TV One Global Canada (Channel 857), a popular Canadian-Pakistani entertainment channel, can be viewed for free from now until March 16, 2011.

For those who love Cricket, NeoCricket (Channel 844), the world's first all cricket channel broadcasting live directly from India, is also now available on Rogers.

Digital TV customers can simply tune in and enjoy the latest news, comedies, dramas, family serials, music and reality shows.

"We are bringing Bollywood home with a new TV offer for the South Asian community, allowing them to keep in touch with Bollywood movies, songs, entertainment and news," says a press release issued on the occasion.

"The new offer is for \$29.99 per month for six channels for one year. The channels offered are ATN, ATN Zee Cinema, B4U Music, B4U Hindi Movies, FILMY and Star India Gold and this offer is available to both new and existing Rogers Digital TV customers in Ontario. Call 1 877 469 0885 for more information."

## New program aimed at newcomers and culturally diverse youth

## STAFF REPORTER

Toronto

The McGuinty government is helping newcomers and culturally diverse youth enter the job market through mentoring and leadership training in their communities.

The government will partner with established community based non-profit organizations to deliver the Youth Opportunities Program aimed at youth aged 16-24 to enhance their skills and community involvement.

"I'm grateful for Ontario's community organizations. They are full of staff and volunteers who know how best to help the people in their neighbourhoods. We're excited to work with them through the new Youth Opportunities Program to help more young people succeed, because Ontario is at its best when everyone is at their best," says Premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty.

The Youth Opportunities program will fund a minimum of 20 projects across Ontario and priorities include opportunities for youth to gain new skills and experience to help them

prepare for a job or postsecondary education, projects that incorporate culturally diverse youth in their design and delivery and help newcomer youth feel more connected to their community, Ontario and Canada.

Community organizations who wish to apply must submit a letter of intent by 5 p.m. Monday, January 10, 2011 and each project must include either leadership development or mentorship opportunities and groups need to apply to be eligible for funding. Successful applicants will receive up to \$40,000 to support one-year projects.

## Peter Fonseca announced as Federal Liberal Candidate for Mississauga East-Cooksville

## OUR STAFF

OTTAWA

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff today announced the appointment of Peter Fonseca as the federal Liberal candidate in the electoral district of Mississauga East-Cooksville.

"Peter Fonseca's considerable personal and professional accomplishments speak for themselves, and I'm thrilled that he has agreed to run for the Liberal Party of Canada in the next election," said Mr. Ignatieff. "While holding important

portfolios within the McGuinty Government, Peter delivered for his constituents, and now he'll be a key part of the only progressive, compassionate, and responsible alternative to the Harper Conservatives."

"Family-focused policies like Family Care and pension reform put forward by Michael Ignatieff convinced me to join his team," said Peter Fonseca.

"These are the issues that are important to the people of Mississauga East-Cooksville, and I want

to be part of a federal Liberal government that will be a constructive partner with the provinces to deliver on them.

"Thanks to the support of my constituents since 2003, I have been able to serve them and the people of Ontario as Minister of Tourism and Labour," said Mr. Fonseca.

"With the continued support of the people of Mississauga East-Cooksville, I hope to join Michael Ignatieff in a future Liberal government so that we can act on the priorities of their families."

