

desiFEST Returns With 12 Hours Of Music & Fun

Yonge-Dundas Square to Host Free, Star-Studded Line-Up Of International Talent On June 2nd

TORONTO: The 12th annual desiFEST is gearing up to hit the stage, bringing you the best in rich and vibrant music inspired by South Asian countries! And with winter's prolonged stay, GTA residents will be looking forward to warming up with the hot talent at desiFEST!

On June 2, desiFEST will introduce emerging acts and bring popular favourites together for a star-studded line up at Yonge-Dundas Square for 12 hours of FREE fun! More than 25 amazing acts from across Canada, India, Pakistan, the U.K., the U.S., West Indies and Sri Lanka will grace the stage, performing in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu and more!

Along with the music, visitors can also get a taste of South Asian cuisine at the outdoor food market, experience family fun at the Kids Zone, engage in multiple interactive onsite activations, and walk away winners with countless giveaways. There is some-



thing for everyone!

This year's unique event's presenting sponsor is TD and powered by Telus, making it possible to offer one of Canada's biggest celebrations of South Asian urban culture and beyond, all for FREE!

TD said it is proud to spon-

sor desiFEST and support South Asian music and culture to celebrate Canada's diversity and the communities that enrich our country. "Learning about and experiencing the depths of the various cultural expressions that build the fabric of our society opens doors to an inclusive

tomorrow where we can all feel connected," said Valerie Picher, Associate Vice President of Community Relations at TD Bank Group.

"We're seeing tremendous growth in Canadian talent and this is a great sign for the future," says desiFEST CEO and

founder Sathish Bala. "We aspire to continue supporting the community through more showcases, mentoring, education and finding new sustainable revenue opportunities. Our sponsors and partners play a key role in our success."

ABOUT desiFEST

desiFEST, a unique celebration of South Asian culture, is put on by a non-profit organization dedicated to further developing the culture and art scene flourishing in South Asian communities in Canada.

Since its inception, desiFEST has been a platform that has worked with the South Asian community to share music and dance across genres, enabling young members of the diaspora to showcase their unique desi sound. The festival aims to show the world the vibrant music that comes from those with roots in South Asian countries, while unifying local communities through great music and the celebration of culture.

National Organ And Tissue Donation Awareness Week

OTTAWA:- Green is the official colour of organ and tissue donation, symbolizing the hope organ donors provide to patients in need.

On April 25th, National Green Light Day saw landmarks across the country lit green to commemorate National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week (April 22-28).

From coast to coast these landmarks will remind Canadians of those who have died waiting for transplants, and express gratitude to organ and tissue donors and

their families for giving the greatest gift of all.

"The greatest gift of all was given to me when I received my heart," says Crystal Prowse of Newfoundland and Labrador, who this year celebrates 30 years of life since receiving her transplant at University Hospital in London, Ontario, when she was just 11 years old.

"This gift has given me the opportunity to get an education, pursue a career, get married, and become an aunt."

Crystal's goal this year, in

honour of her 30 years of memories thanks to transplant, is to raise awareness about the need for organ donation.

"There are so many patients in critical need of transplant," says Crystal. "But these are lives that can still be saved. I recognize that conversations about organ donation can be uncomfortable but these are conversations that need to be had."

Approximately 4,500 Canadians are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant and many more are waiting for tissue. Sadly, on

average, 250 Canadians die each year waiting for a transplant. According to public opinion polls, almost 90 per cent of Canadians support organ and tissue donation but only 20 per cent have registered their decision.

This week, Canadians are reminded to wear a green ribbon pin to honour the donors and donor families who gave the gift of life and to acknowledge the thousands of patients in need of a transplant as well as those who have died waiting. All Canadians are encouraged to register their

intent to donate and are reminded to have the important conversation with loved ones about their organ donation wishes. With clear understanding of our donation wishes, our families can make the right decision in the face of tragedy.

Last week, some 400 nurses attended a conference on 'Reaching New Heights: Saving More Lives', organized by the Trillium Gift of Life Network in Toronto.

Register your decision to donate at organtissuedonation.ca or donnezorganestissus.ca.

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