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The International Dimensions of a North American Idol



StarBuzz Weekly, Toronto—*Celebrity Cultural Critic Samita Nandy Traces the Spirit Behind Vikas Khanna's Popularity*

His popularity is beyond the territories of Canada. It transcends symbols of the nation and its continent. Often symbols of nature construct authenticity while legitimizing boundaries of a nation. For Vikas Khanna, however, authenticity resides in a spirit that most nations seek through their symbols.

Toronto-born Vikas Khanna has performed in over 300 international and local shows in the United States, Canada, Europe, India and the Caribbean islands. These include preeminent festivals such as Mehendi Masala Masti, Luminato, and Bell South Asian Festival in Toronto and television performances on ATN, OMNI, and Geo TV. He has collaborated with a French producer on a private album 'Circle of the Earth.' It is co-produced by one of North America's preeminent producer, Peter Moore. Vikas Khanna's music composition for *Shanti Baba Ram and Children of Hope* is also well received and premiered on CBC channel in April 2010.

The secret to Vikas Khanna's success is staying in tune with his nature and path with passion. Whether he is composing music or modelling, Vikas Khanna communicates a message through his arts: "Do what you love and love what you do." This is possible when we "live in the now," says Khanna. He adds that the message is so "simple that it is easy to ignore." But since he listened to his inspiration, he shared his musical talent with popular Bollywood stars such as Udit Narayan, Vinod Rathod, Manna Dey, Sharda, and Nitin Mukesh on stage. His dream is to keep loving life in the way he does now. He recently won the first runner-up title at the North American Desi Idol competition in Chicago, IL and his first single will be released in June 2011.

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