

R. Paul Dhillon's The Bhangra Generation Makes Its World Premiere This Sunday On OMNI

The Bhangra Generation featuring Jazzy B. will air at the following times:
10PM on OMNI in Alberta
8PM on OMNI in British Columbia

Bobby Nagra & Blueberry Street Films Presents...

An R. Paul Dhillon Film

The Bhangra Generation



dance and music – and expressing themselves through their culture.

Most prominent among the four is international Bhangra superstar Jazzy B (aka Jaswinder Singh Bains), who not too

long ago was just a kid with long hair and earrings when he walked into the office of a Surrey-based Punjabi record label. Today, this Made-in-Canada success story has a huge fan base in India, UK, Asia and North America and is the torch bearer for Punjabi youth abroad; The New York Times has dubbed him "The Michael Jackson of India."

The other three main characters in The Bhangra Generation are:

- **Michael Sunner, better known in local radio circles as "The Indian Lion";**
- **Sonia Basi, who's been dancing since she could walk; and**
- **Rayman Bhullar, who has been playing dhol, an integral percussion instrument in Bhangra music, for over 15 years.**

Modern Bhangra first emerged in the United Kingdom in the 1970s, and soon after began to influence the British club scene where its popularity with second

generation South Asian youth spread throughout Europe and then to the West.

In recent years, Bhangra has been the vanguard for South Asian culture's crossover into the mainstream, sneaking into public consciousness as background music for popular artists such as Britney Spears, and on movie soundtracks (Bhangra played an integral role in Bend It Like Beckham).

Bhangra, which originated as both a dance form and a musical form in the Northern Indian state of Punjab, has become a dominant social force among contemporary Punjabi youth in Canada. Like Bhang, the intoxicating harvest drink for which it is named, Bhangra music has both enthralled and defined its followers: The Bhangra Generation.

The Bhangra Generation (versioned in Punjabi as well as English) was made possible through OMNI's Independent Producers Initiative, a \$32.5 million independent production fund that to date has supported over 200 new documentary programmes.

About The Producers

R. Paul Dhillon

Writer/Co-Producer/Director of The Bhangra Generation — is an award winning South Asian journalist and filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. His production experience is largely focused on South Asian issues and experiences, encompassing commercial and cable television as well as film. Dhillon's debut feature film Sweet Amerika was released earlier this year.

Bobby Nagra

Co-Producer of The Bhangra Generation – has been an executive pro-

ducer, producer, concert/music producer/ promoter and Indo-Canadian television programming pioneer for over 20 years. As Jazzy B's mentor and former producer, Nagra has played a key role, not only in this documentary, but also in Indo-Canadian/Punjabi entertainment circles. His first Punjabi tele-feature, Watno Dur (Away From Home), also marks the first Punjabi film to be produced in Canada. In addition to collaborating with R. Paul Dhillon on The Bhangra Generation, Nagra was producer of Dhillon's English language Canadian debut feature, Sweet Amerika.

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