



SHER VANCOUVER PRESENTS

# EMERGENCE

**Out of the Shadows**

*COMING 2021*





FROM THE PRODUCER OF  
MY NAME WAS JANUARY

**15 INTERNATIONAL  
AWARDS**

66 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS





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# Synopsis

*For Kayden, Jag and Amar, awakening to, and expressing, their sexuality within conservative South Asian families was a lonely and terrifying experience. Heart-wrenching and healing, their distinct coming-out paths offer comfort, compassion and inspiration to individuals and communities struggling with acceptance.*

***Success often means setting  
aside long-established culture  
and tradition for compassion,  
love, and acceptance.***






# *Director's Statement*

Emergence: Out of the Shadows can help you understand the lives and barriers faced by gay and lesbian members of the South Asian community in Metro Vancouver. I learned that society tends to alienate, marginalize and even fetishize people of colour, especially members of the LGBTQ community.

*What makes Emergence: Out of the Shadows different is the fact that the film provides a rare insight and voice for the parents of gay and lesbian South Asians.*

The parents address how “coming out” is not only life-changing for their children but also life-altering for the parents who are left with broken dreams and unanswered questions. The film acknowledges the important and extraordinary courage of both the parents and their children in their willingness to fight the traditions and taboos of society.





*This includes the  
“shame” they feel  
in coming out  
and their very  
real and heart-  
breaking fear of  
rejection by their  
close-knit friends,  
family members  
and community.*

The film focuses on the rights of these individuals to live an open and respectable life despite traditional and often strict family values and socio-cultural pressures.

The parents and their children describe their struggles to understand and “emerge” together to embrace, love, and support each other, and reach a higher level of critical awareness and compassion.

—VINAY GIRIDHAR, *Director*



# Alex Sangha

Alex has a Masters in Public Administration and Public Policy from the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, and a Masters of Social Work from Dalhousie University. In addition, he has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of British Columbia. Alex is a Registered Clinical Social Worker and Registered Clinical Counsellor. He currently runs his own private counselling practice in North Delta, BC.

A portrait of Alex Sangha, a man with glasses and a suit, smiling. The portrait is set against a dark background and is framed by a teal L-shaped graphic in the top-left corner.

***Producer  
and  
Cast Member***

# *Vinay Giridhar*

Vinay completed the Digital Graphic Design Program at Vancouver Community College and a Diploma in Classical Animation at Vancouver Film School. His animated short film “Loves Age” was an official selection at the HollyShorts Film Festival in California (an Academy Award qualifying festival). Vinay is the current Art Director and Graphic Designer for a South Asian Lifestyle Magazine. He is originally from Kerala, India and currently lives in Surrey, B.C.



***Director  
and  
Editor***





### ***Avtar & Rajwant Nagra***

Avtar and Rajwant Nagra are devout Sikhs and since finding out that both of their children are gay, they have spent the last number of years being advocates to the LGBTQ+ community and have helped break down barriers in the South Asian community starting with their own circle of extended family.



### ***Jag Nagra***

Jag Nagra is an artist and has been with Sher Vancouver since 2008 where she found a tremendous amount of support and acceptance. She and her wife are proud parents to their two young children. Through her art, she proudly represents her queer and South Asian identities.





***Jaspal Sangha***

Jaspal Sangha is the mother of three grown boys whom she raised largely as a single parent working as a nurse's aide for many years. She is currently retired and has three beautiful grandchildren. She was born in Punjab, India where she worked as a Punjabi Language Teacher. She is a survivor of breast cancer.



***Kayden Bhangu***

Kayden Bhangu is a recent immigrant to Metro Vancouver from Punjab, India. He is the current Vice President of Sher Vancouver and has been involved in running Sher's peer support groups and organizing events. Kayden completed an Associate Degree in Computer Science at Langara College.



# Sponsors





# Supporters







# ***Contact***

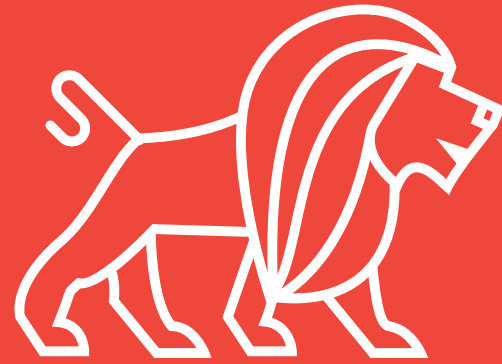
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