

COMMITMENT

A short film by Raahul Singh

An Rtiger Productions-Vivamantra Films Inc. Co-production

Total run time: 10 min

MEDIA CONTACT: Raahul Singh | Rtiger Productions
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Produced with the assistance of
The National Film Board of Canada—
Filmmaker Assistance Program



SOUTH ASIAN FILM SHOWS COMMITMENT TO LOCAL TALENT

Vancouver, B.C.—The Vancouver-produced, National Film Board funded short drama "Commitment" highlights the internal conflict faced by Canadian South Asian men seeking to live a life less traditional. While the emphasis is often on women faced with a choice between self-fulfillment and sacrifice, "Commitment" shows the dilemma of a man caught between two demands—a promising dance career, and the woman he loves—seen through a South Asian cultural lens.

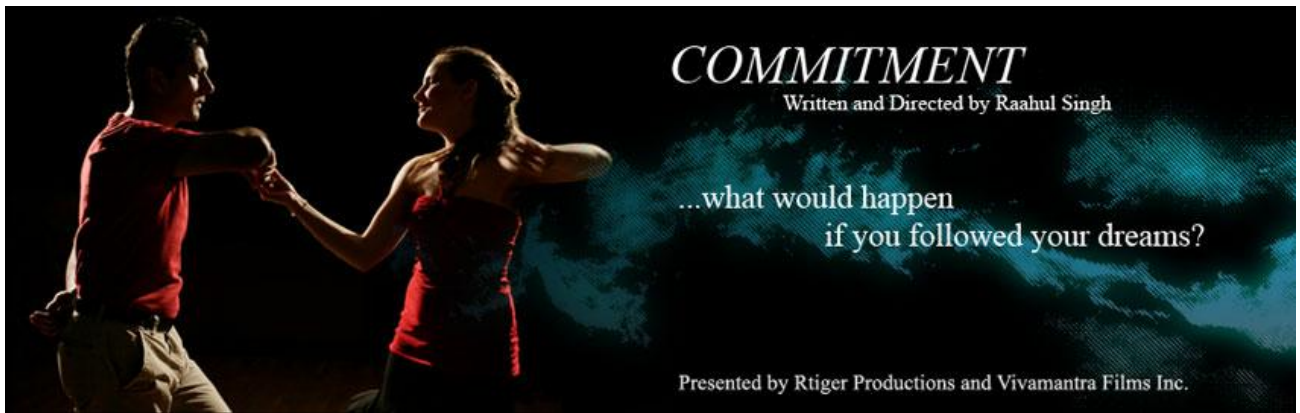
Vancouver-based actor/writer/director/producer Raahul Singh (*The Guru, Bollydouble*) made a point of showcasing the city itself in the film, as well as of tapping the rich, diverse Vancouver talent pool to produce it. "Commitment" was shot entirely on location across Metro Vancouver with local independent producer Baljit Sangra of Vivamantra Films Inc. (*Warrior Boyz*), featuring the cinematography of B.C.-based Black Tree Pictures' Brendan Uegama (*Henry's Glasses*) and the music of popular local Latin band, Orquesta BC Salsa. "Commitment" also has a strong cast of Canadian performers including Leo Award-winner Balinder Johal (*Heaven on Earth*), Dhirendra (*Jinnah on Crime*), Parm Soor (*2012*), Almeera Jiwa (*Bollywood Wedding*), and Naomi Hower (*American Pie: The Book of Love*).

Singh says a personal dream first inspired him to write the script, and is happy test audiences have responded positively to the film: "[Commitment] is basically about someone who has to deal with making a life-changing choice, so both women and men of any background can relate to it."

Sangra, who produced and directed the Leo-nominated documentary "Warrior Boyz"—about how the challenges faced by South Asian youth in Metro Vancouver can lead to gang participation and violence—was happy to support another local project that provides much-needed perspective on the South Asian community.

All of which makes "Commitment" right up the oeuvre of Singh's Rtiger Productions, mandated to produce multidisciplinary, cross-cultural, artistically sound work with mainstream North American appeal. Primarily intended for the festival circuit and limited television distribution, the short is also a prologue to a feature-length version of "Commitment" currently in script development.

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SYNOPSIS

Rahul, a passionate dancer, decides to give up on his dance career to get married to Asha, the woman he loves. He then becomes a lawyer accepting a position in Asha's father's law firm. Years later he wakes up from a dream, realizing he is unhappy.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

"Commitment" is the title, because the protagonist in the story must choose between his commitment to his artistic career and his commitment to his marriage. It's a fictional story, based on my personal life.

I wrote the script in 2001, based on an actual dream I had one night about a woman that I was in love with in real life. I had gone back home to Edmonton, Alberta to be with my mother and sister as we were facing the challenge of losing my father to cancer. My parents, and myself, immigrated to Canada from Fiji when I was a little boy. I was the only one from my family and from my community who decided to become an actor.

Ten years went by and I kept landing acting work in the film industry and working with accomplished directors, actors and producers. I realized that I needed to produce and direct the film myself. The title "Commitment" became a metaphor to get the film made, and to get the monkey off my back.

When I was ready, I got a grant from the National Film Board of Canada. Then a wonderful production team and a great young Director of Photography and Production Designer came on board. Actor friends of mine whom I worked with in other projects were cast without auditioning them, because I knew they would be great. I worked hard in pre-production to direct the film and get it financed, in between auditions, working to support myself, and learning the salsa moves!

Finally when it came time to shoot and the camera started rolling it just flowed out, and came together as smoothly as I had written the script a decade earlier. It was an amazing feeling to finally realize the vision of this simple story, specific to my culture, yet with a universal theme. I am very proud of the talented, Vancouver based multicultural team that helped me make this film, including my mentor and acting teacher, Mel Austin Tuck.

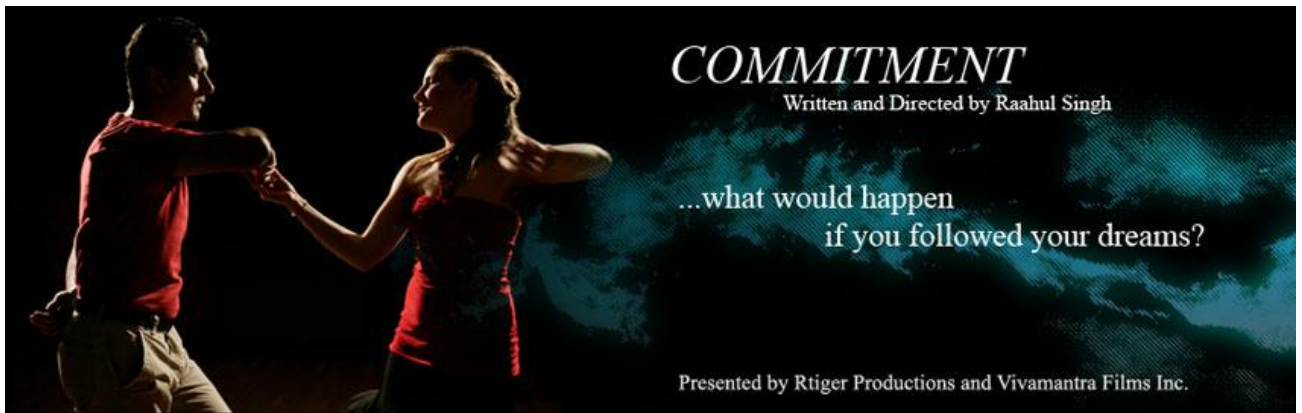
I hope that the film's message is clear and that it is seen by many people on the big screen, as it was quite a journey and labour of love to get this film made.

Raahul Singh

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RAAHUL SINGH
Actor / Director / Writer / Producer

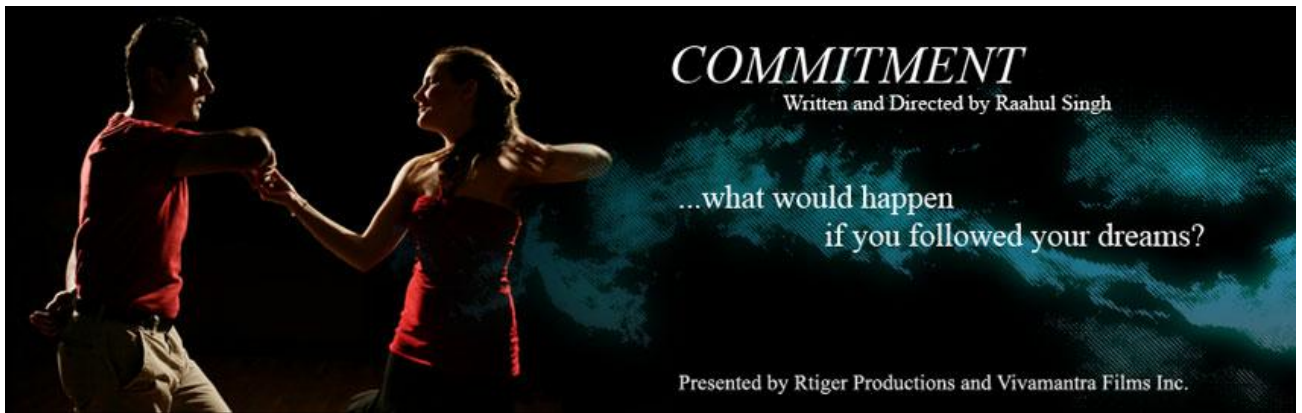


This Actor/Director of South Asian decent was born in Fiji, and moved to Canada as a little boy. Raahul Singh grew up playing ice hockey and watching a lot of Hollywood and Hindi films. He studied business; after graduating, he went on to full time theatre school and studied acting.

Since graduating from theatre school he has been acting professionally in film, TV and theatre throughout North America. Some notable credits include landing a supporting role in the Hollywood film *The Guru*, then as the leading man in the festival award winning independent film, *Bollydouble*, along with a host of US network TV credits including *Stargate SG1*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Supernatural*, and *Fringe*.

Raahul also wrote, directed and co-produced the short film *Commitment* with the National Film Board of Canada, in which he played the leading role. He is thrilled that his film has entered the festival circuit in 2011 and will be coming home to the Vancouver Asian Film Festival in November 2011.

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KEY CREW CREDITS

Commitment: An Rtiger Productions / Vivamantra Films Inc. Production



Producers: Raahul Singh, Baljit Sangra

Co-Producer: Grace Chin

Editor: Alec MacNeill Richardson

Director of Photography/Camera Operator: Brendan Uegama, [Black Tree Pictures](#)

Production Designer: [Javier Badillo](#), Spit Shine Flicks, False Creek Productions

Art Director: Oshy Parasol

(top to bottom, left to right)

1st Assistant Camera: Duncan Vogel

2nd Assistant Camera: Adriana Lademann

Additional Camera Operator/Dolly Grip: Gary Koay

Digital Imaging Technician: Luke Campbell

Storyboards: Andy Milne

Gaffer/Key Grip: Torben Brent Wenneberg

Assistant Director/Script Supervisor: Vincent Ternida

Sound Mixer/Boom Operators: James Schoenig / Dennis Law

Sound Editing/Sound Design: Dave Stephens

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Costume Designer: Raanee K. Khaira, [Crossover Bollywood Se](#)

Wedding Set Design: Polly Ghuman, Art of the Wedding

Key Makeup Artist: [Faye Smith](#)

Key Hair Stylist: Raina Singh

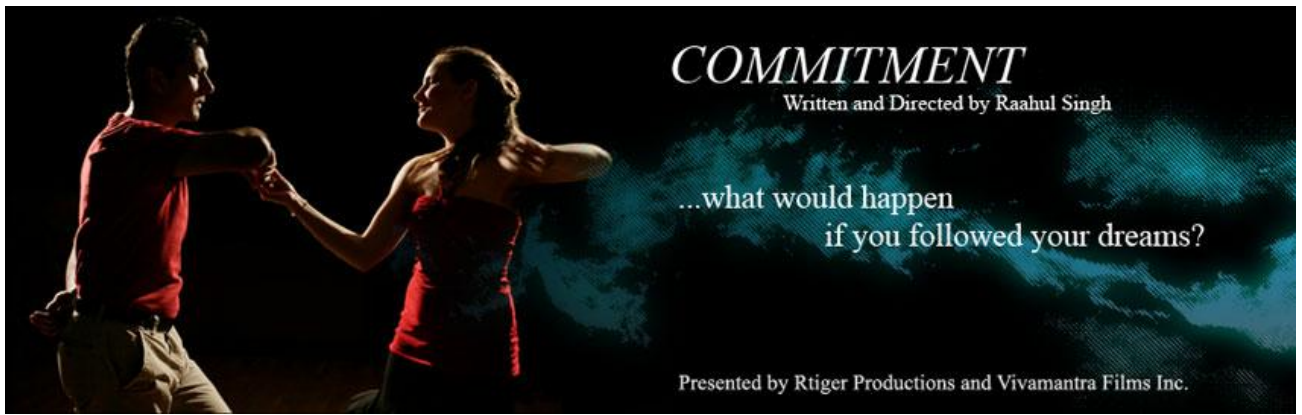
Bridal Makeup Artist: Angela Hira-Dhesi

Stills Photographer: [Jennifer Osborne](#)

Dance Choreographer: Ivan Wanis-Ruiz, [Dance 4U](#)

Casting: Raahul Singh

Extras Wranglers: Michele Nitta, Suzi Petersen



CAST CREDITS

(In order of appearance, top to bottom, left to right)



Asha Patel: Almeera Jiwa



Angela Summers: Naomi Hower



Manakshi: Nina Davidson



Mrs. Lakshmi Patel: Patricia Isaac



Rahul Rampal: Raahul Singh



Mr. Rohan Patel: Dhirendra



Priya/Dancer: Christal Sharma



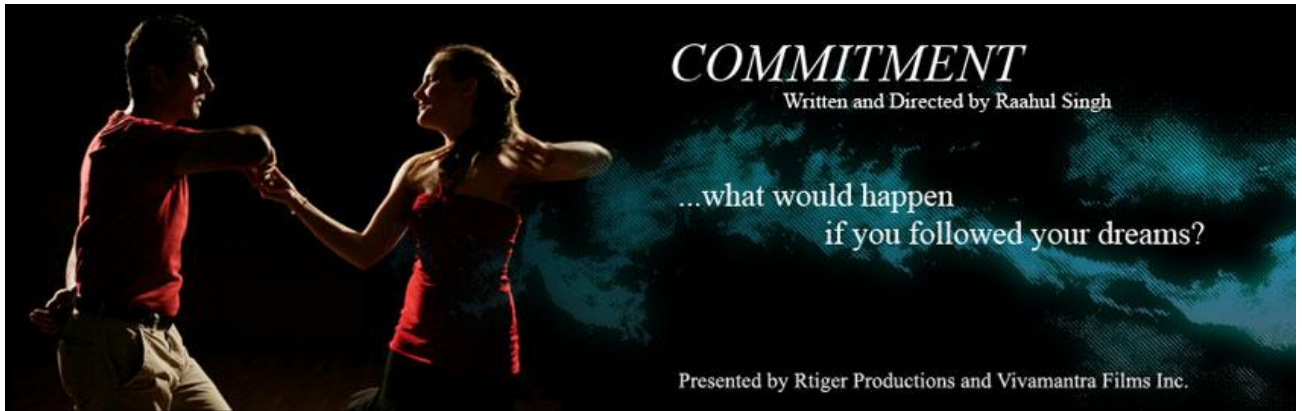
Dr. Jagat Mehta: Parm Soor



Lilly Lee: Grace Chin



Serena Mehta: Mittita Barber



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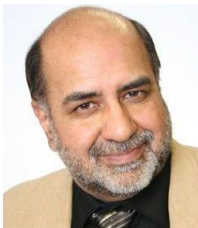
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Grandma Rampal: Balinder Johal



Tabla Musician: Neelamjit Dhillon

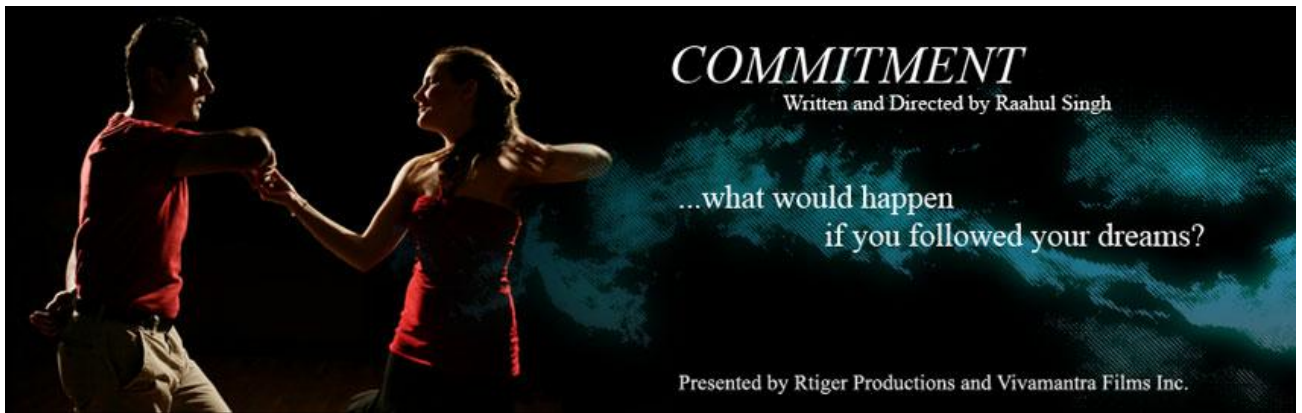


Uncle G: Jasbir Sandhu



Sitar Musician: James Hamilton

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PROMOTIONAL STILLS

All photos Jennifer Osborne Photography

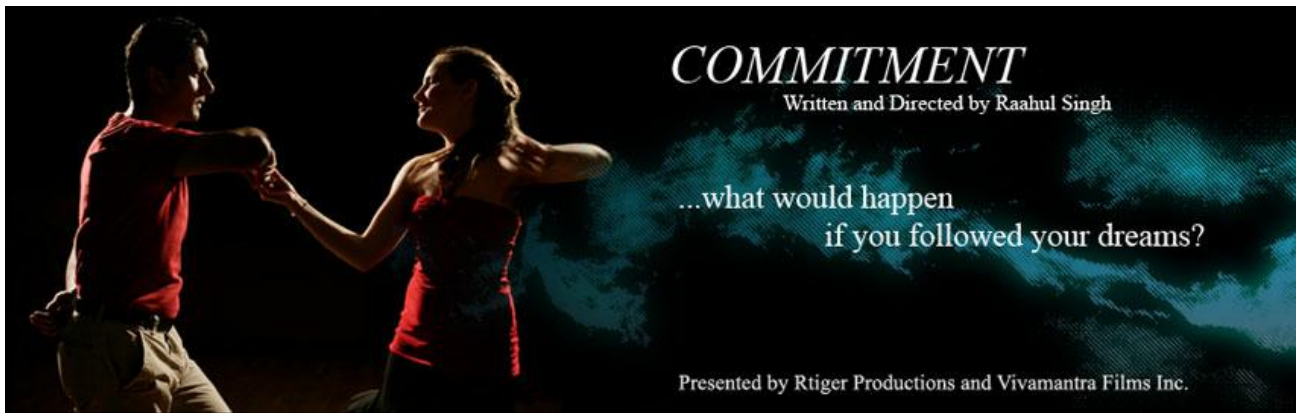


"You just go in there and get the part..."
From left: Manakshi (Nina Davidson),
Rahul Rampal (Raahul Singh)



"At least now you can check off being married..."
From left: Lilly Lee (Grace Chin), Asha
Patel (Almeera Jiwa), Angela Summers
(Naomi Hewer)

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"I see you're finally letting your daughter marry the dancer..."

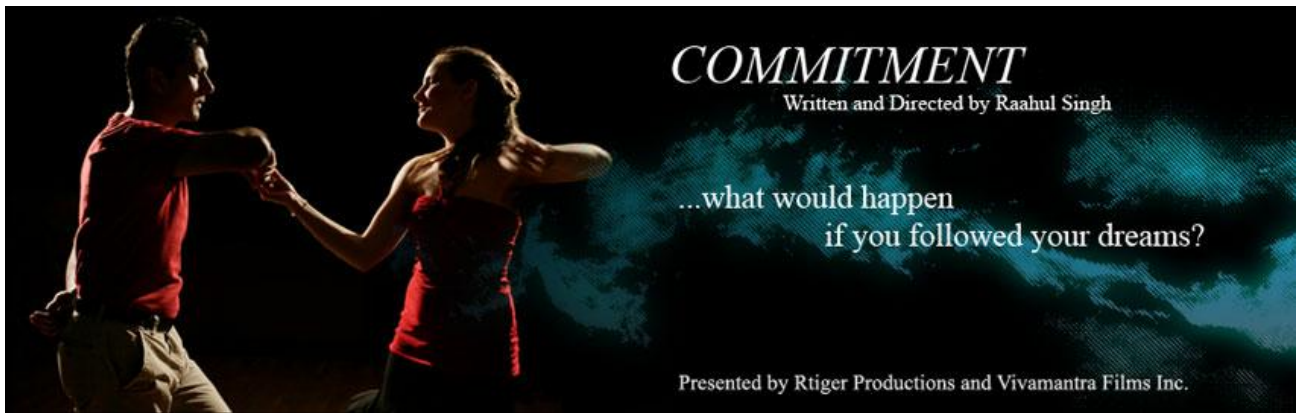
From left: Serena Mehta (Mittita Barber), Dr. Jagat Mehta (Parm Soor), Mr. Rohan Patel (Dhirendra), Mrs. Lakshmi Patel (Patricia Isaac)



"But you promised to make me a dancer..."

From left: Priya/Dancer (Christal Sharma), Tabla Musician (Neelamjit Dhillon)

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"What if...what?"

From left: Asha Patel (Almeera Jiwa),
Rahul Rampal (Raahul Singh)



"I'm fine."

Rahul Rampal (Raahul Singh)

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