

## CONCERT

# South Asian shows to rock Plaza of Nations

Grade 9 blind singer from Delta among more than 100 emerging artists to perform during RBC desiFest

BY KEVIN GRIFFIN  
VANCOUVER SUN

A 14-year-old blind singer from Delta will be among more than 100 of the country's emerging artists inspired by South Asian music performing at an all-day concert Saturday at the Plaza of Nations.

Juggy Jag — a.k.a. Jugpreet Bajwa — will be taking to the stage during RBC desiFest for a 20-minute set at 1 p.m. that will include Bollywood favourites such as *Jai Ho*, the rousing Hindi dance song performed at the end of the Academy Award-winning *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Six months after he was born, Juggy Jag was diagnosed with retinoblastoma cancer. To save his life, both his eyes were removed.

By the age of two he was falling asleep listening to his family's Bollywood songs on the stereo. Two years later, he told his father that he wanted to learn music. By the time he was six, he had performed in front of an audience for the first time: a Canada Day concert in Squamish.

Since then, Juggy Jag has performed on stage more than 350 times. He's just released his first album: *Juggy De Nakhare* which means Juggy's attitude.

Asked to describe the style of music he likes to perform, the Grade 9 student at Seaquam secondary said he was a versatile singer who enjoys performing all different genres, from bhangra and Bollywood to hip hop and rhythm and blues.

As a model, he looks up to Bollywood singer Shankar Mahadevan, known for performing *Breathless*, a three-minute recording that sounds as if it was performed in one breath.

Both Juggy Jag and RBC desiFest are riding the wave of worldwide interest in music from India, sparked in part because of the success of movies



Artists appearing at the RBC desiFest on Saturday include Desi Detour (above) Juggy Jag (right), and Bombay Sapphire (below).



such as *Slumdog Millionaire*.

"People are interested in bhangra and Bollywood because people love to dance," Juggy Jag said in a phone interview. "Once you hear it, your feet start tapping."

Other Vancouver-based artists performing in desiFest include Desi Detour.

Saturday's concert starts at 12 p.m. and goes to 8 p.m. It's the fourth and final stop on a cross-Canada tour that has included Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. At the festival, there

will be a bazaar/market place featuring artisans, traditional South Asian food, mendi artists and dance/music workshops.

RBC desiFest's West Coast stop will include performances by Parichay, Blitzkrieg and Roach Killa along with Jay Deala and Meditating Minds. Other performers include Jazz Mattu, Bombay Sapphire, Amit (Battlekatt) Aujila and his hip-hop band Reign City, and En Karma.

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## MUSIC BUSINESS

# Barenaked Ladies look south for manager

BY PETER BIRNIE  
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The Barenaked Ladies recently left Nettwerk Records to join a Los Angeles management firm. The landmark Canadian band, winner of eight Junos, announced it has switched from Vancouver-based Nettwerk to a new Los Angeles firm dubbed CAM 8 Management.

"We're thrilled to be CAM 8's first signing," said Barenaked Ladies frontman Ed Robertson. "We're putting the final touches on a record we're really excited about and we look forward to hitting the road to support it. It's the start of a fresh new chapter for Barenaked Ladies."

His enthusiasm was echoed by Jordan Feldstein, whose Career Artist Management merged with Rich Egan's Hard 8 Management to form CAM 8.

"Rich and I couldn't be happier that Barenaked Ladies are the first act to sign on to CAM 8," says Feldstein.

"These guys are tremendous musicians, songwriters and performers who have worked really hard to get where they are. Over the years, they've amassed a huge base of devoted fans that have come out religiously to see them on the road. We're looking forward to working with the band to build on the amazing success they've already achieved."

Nettwerk founder Terry McBride, who also saw artist Avril Lavigne leave his label late last year, sounded brief but conciliatory about losing the Barenaked Ladies.

"We wish them continued great success," McBride said in a statement.

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