

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Award-Winning Documentary "Emergence: Out of the Shadows" Permanently Preserved in South Asian Canadian Digital Archive

Surrey, BC – December 16, 2025 – Vinay Giridhar's acclaimed debut feature documentary "Emergence: Out of the Shadows" has been permanently preserved as part of the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive, housed within the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley. This milestone recognizes the film's enduring cultural, educational, and historical significance within Canada's South Asian and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

The film is now featured in a comprehensive, dedicated digital exhibit that ensures long-term public access for educators, researchers, students, and community members. The exhibit includes multilingual resources and extensive educational materials, reflecting the film's global reach and impact.

The official exhibit can be accessed here: <https://sacda.ca/exhibits/emergence/>

A Landmark Digital Exhibit

The **"Emergence: Out of the Shadows"** exhibit includes:

- A full synopsis translated into English, French, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, and Portuguese
- The complete documentary with subtitles in English, French, Hindi, and Punjabi
- A Teacher's Discussion Guide for classroom use
- Press kit and official still photography
- A comprehensive list of awards, finalists, and official selections
- Official trailer and social media links
- Cast and crew biographies and photographs
- Distributor information and screening details

A Story of Courage, Family, and Healing

The film follows Kayden, Jag, and Amar as they navigate the fear, isolation, and emotional turmoil of coming out within conservative South Asian families. Their journeys, shaped by tradition, silence, and stigma, ultimately converge around compassion, healing, and resilience. Set within Punjabi Sikh cultural contexts, the documentary highlights powerful moments where parents choose love over rejection, offering hope and inspiration to individuals and communities seeking acceptance.

Tender, thoughtful, and deeply moving, "Emergence: Out of the Shadows" stands as a transformative work advocating for marginalized queer youth and their families.

National and International Recognition

Since its release, "Emergence: Out of the Shadows" has screened at more than 50 established film festivals worldwide, including Academy Award, BAFTA, and Canadian Screen Award qualifying festivals. The film qualified for consideration at the Canadian Screen Awards and received widespread critical acclaim.

It was an official selection at prestigious festivals such as Frameline in San Francisco, Out on Film in Atlanta, and Kashish in Mumbai. The documentary was broadcast nationally on Knowledge Network in British Columbia, TVO in Ontario, and OUTtv across Canada. In addition, nearly 60 community and school screenings were held throughout British Columbia, underscoring its educational and social impact.

A Pioneering Production Model

The film was produced by Alex Sangha, Founder of Sher Pride, who also appears in the documentary. Sangha was an early pioneer in using a non-profit and charitable organization model to produce a social justice and human rights film, creating a pathway for mission-driven storytelling outside traditional commercial frameworks.

Sangha completed the Business for Producers program at the National Screen Institute, gaining the foundational skills and professional framework needed to successfully execute and complete the film. He is a member of the CMPA - BC Producer's Branch and DOC Northwest.

"When we made "Emergence: Out of the Shadows," our goal was not just to tell a story, but to create something that could live on as a resource for education, healing, and social change," said Alex Sangha, Producer, cast member, and Founder of Sher Pride. "Having the film permanently preserved in the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive is incredibly meaningful. It validates the power of community-led, non-profit filmmaking and ensures these stories will continue to reach future generations who need to see themselves reflected with dignity and compassion."

About the Film

"Emergence: Out of the Shadows" is directed and edited by Vinay Giridhar, who also designed the film's official poster (see attached). Giridhar is an award-winning filmmaker as well as a graphic designer and visual artist, bringing a distinct visual and emotional sensitivity to the project.

The permanent inclusion of "Emergence: Out of the Shadows" in the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive marks a significant moment for Canadian documentary cinema, queer storytelling, and South Asian cultural preservation.

Media Contact:

Alex Sangha

Producer of My Name Was January (2018), Emergence: Out of the Shadows (2021), and I, Migrant (coming 2026)

Founder of Sher Pride

Recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada

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Web <https://emergencefilm.net/>

A SHER FILMS
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

EMERGENCE OUT OF THE SHADOWS

A FILM BY
VINAY GIRIDHAR

JUST
ANOTHER
WAY OF
LOVING...



SHER FILMS PRESENTS "EMERGENCE: OUT OF THE SHADOWS" | PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH OUT TV AND SEALORD FILMS CANADA | FEATURING: KAYDEN BHANGU, AVTAR NAGRA, HARV NAGRA, JAG NAGRA, RAJWANT NAGRA, ALEX SANGHA, JASPAL SANGHA | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINE MICHELLE LORD
ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY: BHAVESH CHAUHAN | EDITOR: VINAY GIRIDHAR | MUSIC BY: BEDTRACKS INC. | ADDITIONAL MUSIC AND POST-SOUND BY RICARDO OCHOA
ONLINE EDITOR AND COLOURIST: TYLER F GAMSBY | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALEX SANGHA | CONSULTING PRODUCER: SEAN FARNEL | PRODUCED BY ALEX SANGHA
DIRECTED BY VINAY GIRIDHAR | SHER FILMS IS A DIVISION OF THE SHER VANCOUVER LGBTQ FRIENDS SOCIETY