

VILLAGE OF DREAMS – Tales From the Gerrard India Bazaar

SYNOPSIS

Village of Dreams explores our collective Canadian identity through the microcosm of the ethnically diverse Toronto business community known as Gerrard India Bazaar. The blend of grocery, jewellery and clothing stores, religious supplies and beauty shops, cafés, restaurants and galleries are owned by a diverse group of South Asian immigrants combined with a recent wave of non-South Asian entrepreneurs. This stretch of East Toronto is a vibrant, expressive, unique and colourful mosaic that is ever changing. Here we see the Canadian dream in action, exhibited by the community's desire for success and passionate entrepreneurial spirit.

Over the year of 2016 we documented the activities, lifestyles, dreams and aspirations of this multi-cultural, multi-racial community. The film asks: How do new Canadians and their communities process their identity when they straddle two cultures, and how does living with one foot in each culture impact their experiences and their lives, both as South Asians and as new Canadians in Canada?