



makes you think

## media release

### TVO ASKS: WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

- **TVO launches *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* – a week of documentaries, dramas and current affairs programs in prime time every night March 22 to 29 exploring the themes of belonging and identity.**

Toronto, March 3, 2009 – There are countless ways in which people define themselves – ethnicity, religion, family, nationality, culture are just a few. Today it is acceptable that the identity we choose can be different than the one we inherited and that identity is different for each individual, family and community. This human struggle to fit in somewhere and find meaning in life leads to the question: Where do I belong? In a province as diverse as Ontario many of us have faced this question.

Beginning Sunday March 22 and running through to March 29 every night beginning at 8 pm TVO presents *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* It's a week of premiere documentaries, dramas and current affairs programs that explore a variety of viewpoints on the themes of culture and identity and our place in society. Stories include different perspectives on the immigrant experience, racism and tolerance, national pride, alternative views of family, and a mind-expanding walk with some of our greatest modern philosophers.

The programming line up includes:

***My New Home*** – North American premiere - Sundays March 22 and 29 at 8 pm

What is it like to start a new life in a country thousands of miles away from home? How would you feel about leaving friends behind and learning a new language from scratch? Three 11-year-olds from Kyrgyzstan, Zimbabwe and Pakistan are about to find out. The cameras will follow over the children over a five-year period, providing a refreshing view of multiculturalism.

***Your Voice*** – Sunday March 22 at 8:50 pm at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com)

Immediately following the first part of *My New Home*, *Your Voice*, TVO's Web TV program for parents will explore the immigrant experience in Ontario. The program will be webcast live at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com). Host Cheryl Jackson and a panel of experts will take viewers' calls toll free at 1.888.891.1195 and emails at [tvoparents.com](http://tvoparents.com).

***White Girl*** – North American premiere - Sunday March 22 at 9 pm

How does the daughter of a white working class woman find sanctuary in Islam? This provocative and emotive drama stars Holly Kenny as Leah, an 11-year-old whose adoption of Islam to escape the pain and strife at home has a profound impact on her family.

***The Agenda with Steve Paikin*** – Monday to Friday March 23 to 28 at 8 pm

Weekdays during *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* TVO's flagship current affairs show will welcome guests to discuss and debate various aspects of fitting in, such as peer groups, ethnicity, culture, religion and nationality.

***Marking Time*** – North American premiere - Monday March 23 to Thursday March 26 at 9 pm

Can true love triumph over the pull of family and friends? In this modern "Romeo and Juliet" tale a small-town Australian teen falls for an Afghan refugee. But is the couple prepared for the cultural and racist tensions that lie ahead?

***Meet the Immigrants*** – North American premiere - Mondays March 23, 30 and April 6 at 10 and 10:30 pm

What's your citizenship worth to you? What many in the western world take for granted is a dream that's out of reach to millions. This six-part documentary follows the stories of immigrants living and working in Britain today and aims to explode the myths and stereotyping of people from abroad living in a new land.

***Linda and Ali: Two Worlds within Four Walls*** – Encore - Tuesday March 24 at 10 pm  
Does adopting a new religion for marriage change who you are? This fly-on-the-wall feature-length documentary drops in on Linda Fain who has swapped her middle-class American life and her Roman Catholic roots for the Shiite Muslim faith and traditions of her husband, Ali Al Saigel.

***Carny*** – Encore - Wednesday March 25 at 10 pm  
Home is where the heart is. Never has this saying been more real than in filmmaker Alison Murray's intimate, gritty and poetic presentation of travelling fairground workers who find a home outside what is considered the usual definition of a family. The documentary is inspired by the evocative photographs in Virginia Lee Hunter's book *Carny: Americana on the Midway*.

***Houses of Hristina*** – North American premiere - Thursday March 26 at 10:00 pm  
When you're plunged into a world with a different language and culture how can you get anyone to see the true picture of you are? This contemplative documentary explores the challenges faced Hristina, a young Bulgarian cleaning woman in Amsterdam who dreams of being a professional photographer but feels she's invisible to the outside world.

***Anita and Me*** - Canadian premiere - Friday March 27 at 9 pm  
What does an intelligent 12-year-old daughter of Punjabi immigrants have in common with a leggy 14-year-old blonde with a rebellious streak? Based on Meera Syal's highly successful novel, this coming-of-age comedy is set in an early 1970s Yorkshire mining village and stars Chandeepp Uppal and Anna Brewster as young girls who form an unlikely bond. Meera Syal (*Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee*) and husband Sanjeev Bhaskar co-star along with Lynn Redgrave

***Allan Gregg in Conversation*** - Friday March 27 at 10 pm  
M.G. Vassanji shares how being a Canadian born in Africa of Indian heritage has influenced him and his work. And bestselling novelist Zoe Heller talks about her book *The Believers*, in which one family is forced to re-examine the political, religious, and cultural beliefs that have held them together and form the basis of their individual identities.

***Saturday Night at the Movies*** - Saturday March 28 beginning at 8 pm  
*Saturday Night at the Movies* looks at films that try to capture the experience of the new immigrant. Both *West Is West* (1987) and *East Is East* (1999) deal with East Indians trying to balance the traditions and ideas of their homeland with the culture of their adopted land. On *The Interviews* immigration expert Nick Noorani and immigration lawyer Guidy Mamann discuss the issues and problems facing immigrants coming to Canada.

***Examined Life*** – World broadcast premiere - Sunday March 29 at 9 pm  
"An unexamined life," said Socrates, "is not worth living." Filmmaker Astra Taylor's intimate and engaging documentary closes out the week of *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* by taking a walk with some of the world's most formidable minds revealing philosophy's power to transform the way we see the world around us and imagine our place in it.

#### **About TVO:**

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to

empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit [www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org).

**Where to find TVO:** Cable subscribers channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV subscribers: Channel 265, Star Choice subscribers: Channel 353. For more information on these and other programs and services, visit [www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org).

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