

## Aga Khan Museum Launches *This Being Human* Podcast on January 26

*Pioneering arts and culture series hosted by journalist Abdul-Rehman Malik showcases leading Muslim voices shaping the world today.*

TORONTO, CANADA (January 25, 2021) – The [Aga Khan Museum](#), North America’s first and only museum dedicated to showcasing the arts of Muslim cultures and the contributions of Muslim civilizations to world heritage, announced today the details of its upcoming podcast, *This Being Human*. Hosted by award-winning journalist and educator [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#), this 26-episode bi-weekly series explores the kaleidoscopic, global experiences of modern Muslim life through the prism of arts and culture.

Launching January 26, 2021, [This Being Human](#) is one of the first arts and culture podcasts devoted to amplifying the voices of leaders redefining what it means to be Muslim in today’s rapidly changing world. Among Malik’s first guests will be game-changing cultural luminaries such as art collector and impresario Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, two-time Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, and author and *New York Times* contributing op-ed writer Wajahat Ali.

“The launch of *This Being Human* could not be timelier,” says Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, Interim Director and CEO of the Aga Khan Museum. “It tells remarkable stories about remarkable people whose diverse cultures and contributions, as well as their spirituality, are often misunderstood, misrepresented, or indeed ignored altogether. It is our hope that *This Being Human* will succeed in opening listeners’ minds to their wide-ranging contributions, creativity, and humanity in our globalized world today. We consider it an important and innovative resource in the growing on-demand audio realm.”

“My journalism sits at the intersection of faith, culture, and social justice, and for over 25 years, I’ve tried to tell stories that go beyond easy clichés and hackneyed stereotypes,” says host Abdul-Rehman Malik. “*This Being Human* is about having conversations that matter with extraordinary people who are shaping the world we live in. After all, Muslim stories are human stories.”

Toronto’s [Antica Productions](#), one of North America’s largest independent podcast studios, is producing *This Being Human*. Each 20-to-40-minute episode boasts expert storytelling and thoughtfully cast interviews that are smart, funny, gripping, and surprising — offering a deep dive into the extraordinary lives, ideas, and contributions of the featured guest. Relevant contemporary soundscapes, news clips, and music are imaginatively woven into the interviews.

The podcast’s name nods to “The Guest House,” a poem by the globally beloved 13th-century Iranian poet Rumi. “Rumi’s poem encapsulates the goals and the spirit of this project perfectly,” Al-Khamis says. “With *This Being Human*, as with all of our public programs, we aim to spark curiosity, connection, and an openness to people and experiences that may be new to us. The medium of podcasting, paired with Abdul-Rehman Malik’s gifts as an interviewer and his fascinating guests, will allow the Museum to engage its global audiences in an innovative way around our mandate of promoting pluralism, inclusion, and hope.”

*This Being Human* will be accessible for free on the Museum's website and wherever podcasts are available. The first season features conversations with guests including:

- Episode 1: WAJAHAT ALI – *The New York Times* contributing op-ed writer, CNN contributor, author, and playwright
- Episode 2: SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINYOY – Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and human-rights activist
- Future episodes will feature:
  - **SULTAN SOUD AL QASSEMI** – United Arab Emirates-based commentator and founder of the Barjeel Art Foundation
  - **CRAIG CONSIDINE** – Rice University sociologist, interfaith advocate, and author of *The Prophet of Love: A Catholic's Note on Prophet Muhammad*
  - **OMID SAFI** – Duke University professor of Islamic Studies and founder of Illuminated Courses, a spiritually focused series of educational videos and tours
  - **KEVORK MOURAD** – Syrian-born, New York-based visual artist, animator, live-drawing performer, and contributor to Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble

#### **ABOUT THE PODCAST**

***This Being Human* (bi-weekly; 26 episodes x 20-40 minutes)**

**Launches Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

**Host:** [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#)

**Executive Producer:** Stuart Coxe, Antica Productions

**Available on iTunes, Spotify, and other podcast streaming services**

#### **SUPPORT**

The Museum wishes to thank Nadir and Shabin Mohamed for their leadership support to develop and produce *This Being Human*.

#### **ABOUT THE HOST**

Writer, filmmaker, educator, and pop culture aficionado [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#) is currently the Postgraduate Associate at Yale University's Council on Middle East Studies. He was also the artist-in-residence at the Doris Duke Foundation's Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Design and Culture, where he curated a series called "What is Muslim Culture?" His most recent documentary is "The Muhammadan Bean: The Secret History of Islam and Coffee." His work has appeared on BBC Radio, Radio 4, Radio 2, and the World Service, and in countless online and print publications. He is a Toronto native and is an enthusiastic Aga Khan Museum supporter.

#### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY**

[Antica Productions](#) is one of North America's largest independent podcast studios. Recent shows include: *Lost Kids* (NBC/UCP); *Revisionaries with Michele Romanow* (Audible); *Seven Truths with Tanya Talaga*

(Audible); and *Hustled* (*Toronto Star*), which Apple listed as one its favourite Canadian podcasts of 2020. 2021 will see the launch of several new Antica co-productions, including the much-anticipated *Translators* with the Black Eyed Peas and two podcast dramas for the CBC.

**ABOUT THE MUSEUM**

The [Aga Khan Museum](#) in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum's mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto's Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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**FOR PRESS INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Meryl Cooper**, [meryl@theCOOPERationinc.com](mailto:meryl@theCOOPERationinc.com), 917.974.0022

**Kelly Frances**, Marketing and Communications Director, Aga Khan Museum, [press@agakhanmuseum.org](mailto:press@agakhanmuseum.org), 416.858.8735