

## Aga Khan Museum and TVO venture out of this world with Season Two of *This Being Human*

*Relaunching February 22, the acclaimed interview podcast will highlight boundary-breaking Muslim voices like NASA scientist Farah Alibay and Little Mosque on the Prairie creator Zarqa Nawaz.*

TORONTO, CANADA (February 7, 2022) – *This Being Human*, the Aga Khan Museum’s curiosity-stoking interview podcast, returns on February 22, 2022 with more stirring conversations to transport listeners around the world — and beyond.

Presented in partnership with TVO, Season 2 will feature 21 new episodes and be available on streaming services like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music and on the web at [agakhanmuseum.org](https://agakhanmuseum.org) and [TVO.org](https://tvo.org).

*This Being Human* features a diverse mosaic of captivating guests with distinctive insights on Muslim art, culture, history, and society. These conversations will touch upon everything from prayer and pilgrimage to politics and pop culture, love and education, feminism, film, sports, music, and so much more.

The season’s confirmed guests include:

- Canadian-born NASA systems engineer Farah Alibay, who co-piloted the Mars rover Perseverance as well as Ingenuity, the first helicopter to be tested on the Red Planet.
- Zarqa Nawaz, creator of CBC’s *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and author of the forthcoming novel *Jameela Green Ruins Everything*.
- Mark Gonzales, a futurist, Kennedy Center fellow, and author of the award-winning children’s book *Yo Soy Muslim*.
- Australian-Canadian author, editor, and multidisciplinary artist Fariha Roísín, whose upcoming book *Who is Wellness For?* tackles representation, inequity, and greed in the Instagram-era wellness industry.

Listeners can look forward to the smart, compassionate, and tightly woven storytelling they have come to expect from *This Being Human* and its inimitable host, award-winning journalist and educator Abdul-Rehman Malik. Elevating the bi-weekly podcast further will be a refreshed, more intimate sound and an intensified focus on how to uplift lives and communities in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

“The scope of the stories we’ve explored on *This Being Human* so far has been extraordinary,” says Abdul-Rehman. “Every interview leaves me ever more excited about the possibilities of Muslim culture and identity in the world today. In the coming season, listeners will hear more intimate and personal stories. They will also hear how our guests are navigating the unsettling times we are going through. We don’t just want to know what makes us human, but how we can become better humans – for ourselves and for others. We’ve already recorded a few episodes and they are joyful and heartbreaking, challenging and affirming. It’s exactly what we hoped *This Being Human* would become.”

Bolstered by the success of *This Being Human's* ground-breaking first season, the Museum has partnered with media and education leader TVO to expand the podcast's impact and reach. "TVO's reputation for excellence, creativity, and integrity make the organization an ideal partner for *This Being Human*," said Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, the Museum's Director and CEO. "By working collaboratively, the Museum and TVO will open new windows of discovery for each other's audiences and engage new listeners with human stories that entertain and inform."

"The conversations featured in *This Being Human* bring to life an irresistible spectrum of experience, encouraging deeper curiosity and insight into Muslim culture, thinking, and innovation," says John Ferri, VP of Programming and Content at TVO. "We're excited to partner with the Aga Khan Museum to engage listeners in these ground-breaking interviews and stories that have the power to positively inspire and impact our lives."

Lauded as "terrific, full of insightful interviews with interesting guests" by the *Toronto Star*, *This Being Human* celebrates the diversity and wide-ranging impact of changemakers deeply engaged with what it means to be Muslim. The podcast has only grown timelier and more relevant since its January 2021 debut in light of recent Islamophobic attacks in Canada and elsewhere in the West.

"At the beating heart of the Museum is the belief that art, culture, and conversation are vitally important to shifting attitudes and building bridges across difference," says Dr. Al-Khamis. "And by sharing enthralling personal stories through the medium of podcasting, we can touch more lives than ever before with our message of hope, inclusion, and the power of diversity to bring about a better world."

#### **ABOUT THE PODCAST**

***This Being Human* (bi-weekly; 21 episodes x 25-40 minutes)**

**Season 2 Launches February 22, 2022**

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

**Executive Producer:** Lisa Gabriele; **Senior Producer:** Kevin Sexton, 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, journalist, educator, and pop culture aficionado [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#) is currently lecturer at Yale University's School of Divinity. At Yale, he also leads the Council on Middle East Studies cultural literacy initiative. He was a past 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 work for the BBC was a radio essay for Holy Week entitled "'Behold the Man", a Muslim meditation on a medieval depiction of Jesus. His work has been broadcast 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 TVO**

TVO inspires learning that changes lives and enriches communities. Founded in 1970, we are a globally recognized digital learning organization that engages Ontarians of all ages with inclusive experiences and diverse perspectives. Through video, audio, games, courses, newsletters and articles, we're investing in the transformative potential of education for everyone. Funded primarily by the Province of Ontario, TVO is a registered charity supported by thousands of sponsors and donors. For more information, visit [TVO.org](#) and [TVOkids.com](#).

**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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