

Breakaway

IN THEATERS THIS FALL



Camilla Belle as "Melissa" Vinay Virmani as "Rajveer"

Pamela Sinha as "Jasleen" Gurpreet Ghuggi Singh as "Uncle Sammy" Anupam Kher as "Darvesh" Sakina Jaffrey as "Livleen" Noreen DeWulf as "Reena" Russell Peters as "Sonu" Rob Lowe as "Coach Winters"

Breakaway

FEATURE SHEET

Form: Feature Film

Genre: Family, Cross Cultural, Comedic Drama

Runtime: 95 min

Date of Completion: June 30th, 2011
Expected to be Premiered at TIFF
(Toronto International Film Festival) September 2011

Country of Production: Canada

Country of Filming: Canada

Production Budget: \$12M CDN

Producers / Fund Source: Hari Om Entertainment, First Take Entertainment
Whizbang Films, Caramel Productions
Don Carmody Productions, TeleFilm Canada
CBC TV (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

Distribution: Canada – Alliance Films
India – Hari Om Entertainment
All other international territories currently available

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LEAD CAST

Vinay Virmani as Rajveer Singh

Russell Peters as Sonu

Camilla Belle as Melissa Winters

Anupam Kher as Darvesh Singh

Rob Lowe as Coach Dan Winters

Sakina Jaffrey as Livleen Singh

Gurpreet Ghuggi as Uncle Sammy

Noureen DeWulf as Reena

Cameo Appearances Akshay Kumar

Aubrey “DRAKE” Graham

Chris “LUDACRIS” Bridges

Breakaway

SYNOPSIS

BACKGROUND: BREAKAWAY, is a cross-cultural hockey drama set in the Indo-Canadian community in suburban Toronto, Canada. The movie is a full action, colourful, humourous, heart-felt musical. The setting is an obstacle-strewn love story with a dramatic quest for the hero. It's also a keenly observed cross-cultural drama in the same classification as Bend It Like Beckham and Slumdog Millionaire with a hero caught between a family's traditional expectations and a dream to make it big in the national sport of an adopted country.

STORY: RAJVEER SINGH is twenty- one-year-old young man dreaming of a professional hockey career. We open with him dreaming of scoring a game-winning goal, followed by a moment of bliss as beautiful girls surround him. Rajveer has the talent to succeed but faces many hurdles. Being of an ethnic minority Rajveer struggles to succeed in a traditional white-man's sport. He is conflicted as his father wishes that he give up his quest of pursuing a hockey career and devote his life to his religion and family business.

Raised a traditional Sikh, Rajveer was forbidden as a boy to cut his hair and had to wear a turban. Wearing a turban prohibited him from participating in hockey. In his early teens when he refused to follow his family's religious traditions and beliefs. He removed his turban and cut his hair to become more accepted in his adoptive country. Tensions heighten between Rajveer and his religiously devout father over the path he chooses.

Rajveer has been obsessed with hockey since his childhood. He demonstrates a natural talent for the game and continues to improve. As time runs out, he takes matters into his own hands and creates an all-Sikh hockey team. These young men begin their journey of ethnic conformity and social acceptance.

BREAKAWAY is about a young mans journey to find himself in a new adoptive land. BREAKAWAY is a fun, action-filled sports comedy bringing a dash of Bollywood entertainment to Canada's favourite sport.



Breakaway



Robert Lieberman - Director

Robert Lieberman made his mark in Hollywood, with his acclaimed family drama, *Table For Five* (1983), starring Jon Voigt. Lieberman went on to direct and produce many successful film and television shows for major Hollywood studios. In 1996, Lieberman directed the box office hit, *D3: The Mighty Ducks*, the most successful film of the franchise. He has also directed numerous popular television shows such as, *Brothers & Sisters*, *Dexter*, and *The X-Files*.

Feature film credits include:

D3: The Mighty Ducks
Fire In The Sky
The Tortured
Final Days of Planet Earth (MOW)
Second String (MOW)
Red Skies (MOW)
Netforce (MOW)
Titanic (MOW)
The Craft (MOW)
All I Want For Christmas
Table For Five

Walt Disney
Paramount Pictures
Twisted Pictures
Hallmark
TNT
USA Network
ABC
American Zoetrope/CBS
ABC
Paramount Pictures
Warner Brothers

Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
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Director



Breakaway

Vinay Virmani as “Rajveer Singh”



Vinay Virmani was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. A graduate from York University, he has studied method acting at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute of Theatre and Film in New York and has worked closely with the Second City School in Toronto. He also has been an understudy with the New Group Theatre in New York. Virmani debuts as the lead actor and writer of the feature film “BREAKAWAY”.



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Russell Peters as “Sonu”



Born in Toronto, Canada, **Russell Peters** is a global comedy rock-star and internet sensation. His Youtube clips have been viewed over 60 million times and he has performed to sold-out crowds from Toronto's Air Canada Centre, to New York's Madison Square Garden, to the Sydney Opera House to London's O2 Arena where he established a new attendance record. Over the course of his twenty-year career, he has headlined comedy festivals throughout North America and has performed sold-out arena tours worldwide. Peters has appeared on Showtime, Comedy Central, HBO, the CBC, BBC, CTV, CNN, TBS, CBS, ABC and NBC. Peters DVD releases, *Outsourced* and *Red, White and Brown* have sold in excess of 300,000 units.

In 2009 and 2010 he was listed on the Forbes list of top earning comedians in the United States along with Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld. Peters' first book, *Call Me Russell* was a number one bestseller and his new DVD / special, *The Green Card Tour LIVE* from the O2 Arena will be released this summer.

He had a recurring role in the Canadian sitcom *Lord Have Mercy* and hosted his own BBC chat show *Network East Late*. His movie credits include the comedy *Quarter Life Crises*, *My Baby's Daddy* and the martial arts flick *Tiger Claws III*.



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Camilla Belle as “*Melissa Winters*”

At age 24, **Camilla Belle** is an internationally acclaimed actress. In 2005, Belle starred in three independent feature films. She garnered acclaim for her work opposite Daniel Day-Lewis in *The Ballad of Jack and Rose*, directed by Rebecca Miller. She joined the ensemble cast of *The Chumscrubber*, also including Ralph Fiennes, Glenn Close, Jamie Bell, Allison Janney and Carrie-Anne Moss. She then starred with Elisha Cuthbert and Edie Falco in *The Quiet*, which premiered at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival.

Belle will next begin production on Bruce Beresford's *Zebras* opposite Ryan Kwanten. She also recently starred in the sci-fi thriller *Push*, opposite Djimon Hounsou, Dakota Fanning and Chris Evans, as well as *10,000 BC*, directed by Roland Emmerich. Belle previously starred in the hit remake of the 1979 thriller *When a Stranger Calls*, which opened at the top of the box office in February 2006. In addition, she co-starred in *A' Deriva*, a feature in her native language of Portuguese, which has been released in Brazil and France so far and starred opposite Kevin Spacey in *Father of Invention*.

Belle has also made quite a splash on the fashion scene. Her sophisticated style has been lauded by some of the top fashion magazines in the world, including her being named one of *Vogue's* best dressed of 2006. She was previously the face of Vera Wang's Princess fragrance campaign, as well as Miu Miu's Spring 2006 collection.



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Anupam Kher as “*Darvesh Singh*”

Anupam Kher, regarded as one of the finest actors of Indian cinema with over 400 Indian and international films to his credit. He is also one of the few Indian actors to achieve international recognition, with the smash hit film *Bend It Like Beckham*. In 2004, the Government of India honored him with the prestigious Padma Shri award for his contribution to Indian cinema. Kher has been the recipient of many prestigious international film awards and honours throughout his tremendous career.

Awards:

2006 - National Film Award - Special Jury Award: Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara

2004 - Padma Shri by the Government of India for his contribution to Indian cinema.

1993 - won - Best Comedian: Darr

1992 - won - Best Comedian: Khel

1991 - won - Best Comedian: Lamhe

1990 - won - Critics Award for Best Performance: Daddy

1990 - National Film Award - Special Jury Award: Daddy

1989 - won - Best Comedian: Ram Lakhan

1988 - won - Best Supporting Actor Award: Vijay

1984 - won - Best Actor: Saarangsh



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Rob Lowe as “Coach Dan Winters”

One of **Rob Lowe**’s earliest roles came in the 1983 TV movie *Thursday’s Child*, for which he received his first Golden Globe nomination for “Best Actor in a TV Movie/Miniseries”. Lowe made his film debut in *Schoolboy Father*, followed by *Class*. His breakthrough came in 1983, when he and Estevez were cast in *The Outsiders*, which remains one of his most famous roles. Lowe played the role of Sodapop, the brother of the main character Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell) in the movie. Lowe and Estevez reunited in *St. Elmo’s Fire*, making them the two more popular boys of the Brat Pack. He followed it up with *About Last Night* and the 1986 cult sports drama *Youngblood*. He also received a second Golden Globe nomination for “Best Supporting Actor” for his role as the mentally disabled Rory in *Square Dance* (1987)

In 2005, Lowe starred as Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee in a London West End production of Sorkin’s play *A Few Good Men*, the first time the two had worked together since *The West Wing*. Although Lowe had expressed unhappiness about his decreased role on that show at the time of his departure, he has now repeatedly said that any animosity between them is over and that he was pleased to be working once more with Sorkin whose talents as a writer Lowe highly regards.



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Sakina Jaffrey as “Livleen Singh”

Sakina Jaffrey is an Indian American actress. Jaffrey was born in Manhattan, New York, the youngest daughter of acclaimed international actors Madhur Jaffrey and Saeed Jaffrey. She graduated from Vassar College in 1984. Jaffrey appeared with her father in the film *Masala* (1991) and with her mother in *The Perfect Murder* (1988). In 2002 she appeared in *The Truth About Charlie* starring Mark Wahlberg. Along with her son Cassius Wilkinson and daughter Jamila Wilkinson, she appeared in the Kate Hudson film *Raising Helen* (2004).



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Gurpreet “Ghuggi” Singh as “*Uncle Sammy*”

Gurpreet “Ghuggi” Singh is one of the most popular actor/comedians from the North of India. Having acted in some of the most successful films and television programs in India, Ghuggi is a household name with South Asian audiences globally. Ghuggi has been part of international box office hits such as *Mera Pind*, *Race*, *Singh Is Kinng* and the recent smash hit film *Munde U.K. De*. Ghuggi also won the “Has Balige” competition for his performance as a comedian.

Ghuggi travels the world performing to sold out live audiences. His shows have taken place in countries including, Canada, United States of America, England, Australia, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Thailand and Norway.



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Noureen DeWulf as “Reena”

Noureen DeWulf first came into the public spotlight as the star of the 2007 Academy Award winning short film *West Bank Story* in which she played Fatima, a Palestinian fast food cashier who falls in love with an Israeli soldier. In May 2009, DeWulf appeared in the Matthew McConaughey film *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* in which she played Melanie, the Ghost of Girlfriends Present. Her comedic performance received very positive reviews. Also in 2009, DeWulf starred with Sarah Chalke, Maria Conchita Alonso, Garcelle Beauvais, Gregory Harrison, Judy Greer, and Marla Sokoloff in the Lifetime miniseries *Maneater*.

DeWulf appeared in the August 2009 comedy *The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard* as Ving Rhames’s love interest, and in the 2010 film *The Back-Up Plan*, with Jennifer Lopez.



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Akshay Kumar - Cameo

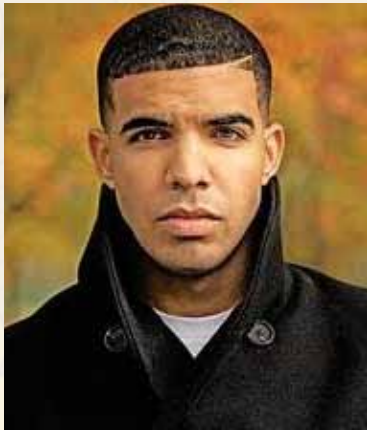
With looks that have inspired countless magazine covers, internet shrines, and a global fan following **Akshay Kumar** is an actor whose very name inspires the youth. Kumar is one of Bollywood's hottest properties and has spent most of the 1990's being lauded as everything from India's version of Jackie Chan to one of the Sexiest Men Alive.

Kumar began his voyage in the field of entertainment in 1993 and has completed over 130 films. Often being compared to India's version of Brad Pitt, his rugged good looks and dare devil persona have allowed him to introduce martial arts into this cinema becoming Bollywood's first true action hero. After starring in continual box office smashes, Kumar is hailed as *King Kumar* in Bollywood and is one of the most sought after actors of his time. His countless cinematic awards are symbols of his contributions to global cinema.



still from BREAKAWAY

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Aubrey "DRAKE" Graham - Cameo / Music Feature

DRAKE is a Hip Hop artist. He was an actor who became known for playing the character Jimmy Brooks on the television series *Degrassi: the Next Generation*. Today, a prominent rap artist, he performs under the mononym DRAKE. He has a close affiliation with Lil Wayne's Young Money Entertainment, before officially signing with the record label in June 2009. His first studio album, *Thank Me Later* has gone platinum in 2010.

At only the beginning of his musical career, DRAKE has already worked with hip-hop moguls Lil' Wayne, Birdman, Kanye West, Eminem, and Jay-Z. With the success of his mixtape *So Far Gone*, DRAKE has earned and been nominated for several awards, including the Grammy Awards. He performed at the 2010/2011 Grammy Award show. DRAKE has won 2 Juno awards and has been nominated for 7 MMVA's.



still from BREAKAWAY

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Chris "LUDACRIS" Bridges - Cameo / Music Feature

LUDACRIS' career can best be described as remarkable. He has sold more than 12 million albums domestically and won three Grammy Awards, thanks to the blockbuster success of such singles as *Stand Up*, *Get Back*, *Number One Spot* and *Money Maker*, all of which had imaginative videos that accented Ludacris' far-reaching imagination and his willingness to stretch the boundaries of what rap videos should look and feel like. With an unrivaled match of lyrical acumen, wit and imagery, LUDACRIS has solidified himself as one of music's premier entertainers.

Although he's best known for his infectious tunes, LUDACRIS has shown that he's equally adept at writing powerful songs with serious subject matter, for example on *Runaway Love*. This versatility and artistic complexity enabled Ludacris to make a seamless transition to acting. His acclaimed performances in film (*Crash*, *Hustle & Flow*) and television (*Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*) have Hollywood and critics alike buzzing about his increasingly impressive screen resume. The recently launched Conjure cognac joins LUDACRIS' Disturbing Tha Peace Records as yet another successful venture of the business mogul.



still from BREAKAWAY

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MUSIC



RDB (Rhythm Dhol Bass)

One of the leading Punjabi fusion bands from the UK, consisting of three brothers Manj, Kuly and Serge, RDB has developed a huge international following for their fusion of Western music with traditional Punjabi beats and melodies. They have ventured into Bollywood and delivered hit numbers in films such as *Namaste London*, *Singh is Kinng*, and *Kambhakt Ishq*. They have collaborated with international artists including, Snoop Dogg, Ne-Yo, Lil Wayne and Flo Rida.



Jassi Sidhu

Since blowing up on the UK Punjabi music scene five years ago, Jassi Siddhu has firmly established himself as one of the finest Punjabi artists. He has not only a UK but a worldwide following. His voice is one of the most instantly recognized voices in Punjabi music and has positively transitioned from a member of pop group B21 to a popular solo artist.

Sidhu has taken the traditional Punjabi sound to a wider audience with his 3 smash hit solo albums. He's also fondly remembered for his score on the *Bend It Like Beckham* soundtrack.



Rishi Rich Productions

Rishi Rich is an internationally recognized producer who's responsible for breaking artists Jay Sean and Juggy D and turning them into two of the biggest names this generation of music has seen. In addition, Rich has produced for some of the biggest names including Madonna, Britney Spears, Mary J Blige and UK artists Craig David, Nathan and Mis-teeq. Rich has been making music since the age of 14 and is credited as one of the most respected and talented producers to date. He was nominated for Best Producer for the 2008 UK Asian Music Award.

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COMPOSER



Sandeep Chowta

Sandeep Chowta is an acclaimed film composer and head of Columbia Records India. He has re-defined the Indian music industry with over 50 feature film credits. The sound of Sandeep Chowta has been called the sound of the future. From spiritual and sensuous, meditative and erotic, his style is diverse and unique with every project he joins.

Chowta's successful and strikingly different soundtracks range from A R Rahman blockbusters background scores. Youth anthems in 2001 and 2002 in the form of *Kambakth Ishq* (Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya) and *Khallas* (Company) respectively, followed by the international successful music of *Hollywood-Bollywood*. He is the only Asian composer to feature amongst songwriters like Sir Paul McCartney, Diane Warren and Natasha Bedingfield and Tata Young, who just released the album *Temperature Rising*, featuring Sandeep.

Chowta's ultimate dream was to develop a new approach to making music with American and international counterparts. He now has launched his concepts, ideas and collaborative efforts, which have been brewing in his creative mind over the years. He is currently working on *Matters of the Heart* as well as several other projects, which features a stellar line up of legends and modern day greats from around the world.

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First Take Entertainment - Producer

Canadian entrepreneur Dr. Ajay K. Virmani is the President & CEO of Cargojet, Canada's largest cargo airline operating a premium overnight air cargo service across North America. Dr. Virmani has bought and sold several businesses during his tremendous business career and has truly defined the word, "entrepreneur." His numerous years in the transportation field in Canada have made him a true leader in this industry. Dr. Virmani was recently selected by Ernst & Young as "Entrepreneur of the Year" and Cargojet was selected as one of Canada's "50 Best Managed Companies".



Dr. Virmani ventured into the film industry in 2002 as the Executive Producer of Deepa Mehta's romantic comedy *Bollywood/Hollywood*. In 2005, he joined hands with Deepa again and became the Executive Producer of the internationally acclaimed and Oscar nominated film *Water*. *Water* opened the Toronto International Film Festival and received international praise. First Take Entertainment is in development with BREAKAWAY, a cross-cultural sports comedy, along with several other potential projects. First Take Entertainment remains committed to producing diverse and unique films.

Dr. Ajay Virmani with Rob Lowe on set of BREAKAWAY



Whizbang Films - Producer

The creative genesis of Whizbang Films emerged in 1999 with the partnership of Actor/Writer Paul Gross and Producer Frank Siracusa. Since the company's inception Whizbang has entertained Canadian and International audiences alike with high quality, award winning dramatic TV series, Feature Films, and Made-For-Television Movies.



Whizbang also provides a production service infrastructure for foreign projects shooting in Canada. Using stabilized relationships with unions, equipment houses, government agencies and the industry at large Whizbang offers the best in producing environments. In its first seven years as a company, Whizbang has service produced over twenty projects representing more than \$100 million of business for Ontario.

Producer Frank Siracusa on the set of BREAKAWAY

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Don Carmody Productions - Producer

Don Carmody (photo) has been producing films for more than 35 years. he became vice-president of production for Cinepix (now Lions Gate Films), where he co-produced David Cronenberg's early shockers *They Came From Within* and *Rabid* as well as the popular comedy *Meatballs*. Following the success of that film, he decided the time was right and headed to Hollywood.

Starting his own production company in 1980, Carmody has gone on to produce the smash hits *Porky's* and *Porky's II*, perennially popular family films like *A Christmas Story* and *The Mighty*, several Chuck Norris films, including *The Hitman* and *Sidekicks*, and cult favorites like *The Boondock Saints*, *Wrong Turn* and *Lucky Number Seven*.

Over the years he has continued returning to comedy with films like the *Weekend At Bernie's* series, *The Whole Nine Yards* and *The Late Shift* for HBO, which was nominated for seven Emmy Awards, three Cable Ace awards and the Producers' Guild of America Golden Laurel. *The Late Shift* won a Golden Globe for actor Kathy Bates and a Directors' Guild Award for Betty Thomas.

Carmody's credits include some 90 films thus far, including many produced for the major Hollywood studios as well as the mini-majors like Lions Gate Films, Miramax and Summit Films. He has worked with major actors including Jack Nicholson, Sean Penn, Hillary Swank, Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Robert Downey Jr., Kevin Costner, Gene Hackman, Danny Devito, Robert De Niro, etc. etc.

In 2002 he was Co-Producer of the hit film musical *Chicago* starring Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere, which won seven Academy Awards© including Best Picture, three Golden Globe Awards including Best Musical or Comedy and the Producers' Guild of America Golden Laurel Award for Best Picture as well as many other awards and honors around the world.

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Hari Om Entertainment - Executive Producer

Akshay Kumar helms Hari Om Entertainment, one of India's premier film production houses. Kumar launched Hari Om Entertainment in 2008, with his internationally acclaimed film, *Singh is Kinng*. In 2009, Hari Om Entertainment joined hands with Warner Brothers producing a Bollywood Blockbuster. Hari Om Entertainment team up for the first time with First Take Entertainment for the feature film, BREAKAWAY. Hari Om continues to work with internationally acclaimed production houses.



Caramel Films - Executive Producer

Founded in 2008 by Producer André Rouleau, Productions Caramel Film is a Montreal based company specialized in the development and production of feature length films for the Canadian and international marketplace. Despite its recent creation, Productions Caramel Film has already shown its great ability in gathering talent and its remarkable vigor and strength by bringing numerous projects to life. Credits include *Polytechnique*, *Die*, *No Good Deed* and *Funkytown*.

Paul Gross - Executive Producer

Paul Gross (photo) was introduced to acting in his early teens, while the Gross family was in Washington. He performed in stage plays such as *Canterbury Tales* and *Faustus*. Acting credits include *Men With Brooms*, *Passchendaele* and *H2O* and successfully directed the movies *Men With Brooms* and *Passchendaele*

Russell Peters - Executive Producer

Russell Peters is a global comedy rock-star and internet sensation.

Clayton Peters - Executive Producer

Clayton Peters of CPI Pictures and Management is the brother and manager of Russell Peters. Clayton oversees all areas of Russell's business and produces all of Russell's live shows and is the creative force behind Russell's TV specials and DVD's. In 2010, Clayton was the co-author of Russell Peters number one bestselling book *Call Me Russell*.

Breakaway

CREDITS

Director of Photography	Steve Danyluk	Written By	Noel Baker Vinay Virmani Jeffrey Schechter & Matt Simmons
Production Designer	Philip Barker		
Costume Designer	Debra Hanson	Story By	Vinay Virmani
Casting Director	Deirdre Bowen	Associate Producer	Pauline Dhillon
Editor	Susan Shipton	Line Producer	Andrea Raffaghello

