



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2025

Ali Sethi returns to the Chan Centre for its season finale

*The record-breaking sensation has become a leading
voice of the queer South Asian diaspora*

Vancouver, BC – The **Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia will close its 27th season with Pakistani-American artist **Ali Sethi** as part of its Chan Centre Presents series on **Sunday June 1, 2025 at 7PM**. Sethi makes his triumphant return to the Chan Centre following his sold-out show in November 2024 with electronic producer Nicolás Jaar, where they premiered their collaborative album *Intiha*.

“Ali Sethi’s enthralling music and astonishing vocal range are a mesmerizing and powerful experience to behold,” says Chan Centre Curator-in-Residence Jarrett Martineau. “We are so happy to welcome him back to the Chan Centre to conclude our season.”

Dubbed by *BBC* as “the king of the modern ghazal,” Ali Sethi has captivated global audiences with his mastery of microtonal singing and fresh approach to classical Hindustani music. Sethi’s music bridges generations and genres, drawing on classical forms like qawwali and ghazals while embracing modern sounds and themes.

Though Sethi, a Harvard graduate, first made his mark with his 2009 debut novel, *The Wishmaker*, it was his record-breaking 2022 hit song “Pasoori” that catapulted him to worldwide fame. Sung with fellow Pakistani singer Shae Gill, the song has now surpassed one billion streams, becoming the most watched Coke Studio session to date with over 800 million views on YouTube alone. That same year, Sethi was named one of *Time Magazine*’s “100 Next” for his ability to show us that “differences of culture, language, religion, and gender do not need to be antagonistic; they can, and always have, enriched us, and given us some of our greatest works of art.”

Following “Pasoori,” Sethi collaborated with electronic music producer Nicolás Jaar to create the critically acclaimed album *Intiha*. *The Guardian* named it one of the best albums of 2023 with *Pitchfork* calling it “a moving tribute to the multiplicity of identity.”

Ahead of Sethi’s new album set to release this year, he has released three new singles. The latest, “Maya,” imbues Sethi’s signature genre bending with its reggaeton groove and electro-house sensibility, playfully subverting the boundary between meditation and trance.

General public tickets for Ali Sethi’s performance at the Chan Centre will be available from Friday, February 28 at 10AM.

Event Listing

Ali Sethi

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 at 7PM

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Ali Sethi, hailed by *BBC* as “the king of the modern ghazal,” returns to the Chan Centre for its season finale. The Pakistani-American blew up the charts with his record-breaking hit “Pasoori,” which has now surpassed 1 billion streams and earned him a spot in *Time Magazine*’s “100 Next” list.

A master of microtonal singing, Sethi’s music is a rich fusion of traditional qawwali, ghazals, and modern innovation. Following “Pasoori,” he collaborated with electronic producer Nicolás Jaar on *Intiha*, a “moving tribute to the multiplicity of identity,” (*Pitchfork*) which premiered to a sold-out crowd at the Chan Centre in November 2024. Anticipation is high for his new album, set to release later this year. Ali Sethi is a trailblazing artist who “uses an ancient form of music... to challenge and expand notions of gender, sexuality, and belonging.” (*Time*) With every new song, Sethi not only links past and present, but creates a new future for what the queer South Asian diaspora can be.

Ticketing

Tickets for the general public go on sale Friday, February 27 at 10AM. Chan Centre season subscribers can purchase their tickets now.

Ticket Office: chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Website: chancentre.com

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