

"I enjoy working in two countries. It's tough making films anywhere, but it's the way you look at it that makes it enjoyable. Being a filmmaker, I have the advantage of having access to both countries, which I would not have if, say, I was in a 9 to 5 job in Toronto, or New Delhi for that matter. On the one hand, I feel rooted in India, and on the other, I really like Canada. If India gives me passion, Canada gives me the freedom to express it. Belonging to two places gives me a way of looking at things that is not partisan. I like that."

Deepa Mehta

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Fun Facts:

In 1996 India's Bollywood produced 683 feature films (certified), but in the same year Hollywood released 471.

Deepa Mehta

Born in Amritsar, emigrated to Canada in 1973, Deepa Mehta's directing career began in the 1980s with television shows. Her first feature film was *Sam and Me* (1991), which won Honourable Mention by the critics in the Camera D'Or category at the Cannes Film Festival. Her second film, *Camilla*, was released in 1995. In 1996, *Fire* was shown at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it tied for the Air Canada People's Choice Award, going on to screenings around the world. Her second film of the trilogy, *Earth*, based on Bapsi Sidhwa's novel, *Cracking India*, premiered in 1998 to critical acclaim. Filming of the third, *Water*, which is set in Varanasi, has been postponed. What's next? Mehta is now working on a film based on Carol Shields' novel, *The Republic of Love*.



Deepa Mehta Photo courtesy of Deepa Mehta