

## Pop Culture

# DIL VOG

## MR. KABHI KABHI

Rested, Revived &amp; Rockin.

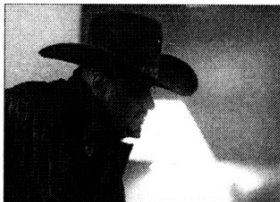
by Veeno Dewan  
APNAG BUREAU VANCOUVER

**W**ho is this guy with a cowboy hat and a dhol slung over his shoulder? You might ask yourself this question when you first see Dil Vog's latest CD appropriately titled "Indian Groove". Flip it over and you'll see the man with no cowboy hat and yes, no hair either.

Dal Hothi, otherwise known as Dil Vog or Mr. Kabhi Kabhi is the first artist to ever remix a classic Hindi song, Dil Vog has been a fixture in the Canadian music scene for a number of years and yes, every one has heard of him.

How could they not when this guy has done all this: performed over 1500 shows throughout Canada, the U.S., U.K. and India with the likes of Nickelback, Chantal Kreviazuk, Matthew Good Band, Maestro Fresh Wes, Colin James, 54-40, Jazzy B, Hari Haran, Apache Indian, Taz, and Malik. A command performance for Prince Charles, Headliner for five years straight for the Vancouver Canada Day Celebrations, appearances on Much Music, Electric Circus, Vicki Gabereu, Breakfast TV and others throughout Canada, the U.S., U.K. and India.

Dil Vog 1st Indian artist to have an Indian video on Much Music, 1st Indian artist to have his Indian songs on Vancouver Radio Z.95.3 and C-Fox. 1st Indian artist



to win the Pacific Music Industries Battle of the Bands, 1st Indian artist to win the National Rock Radio battle of the Bands in Toronto, 1st Indian artist to win top 10 unsigned artist in North America as voted by U.S. A. Musician Magazine and the list goes on.

**But who exactly is Dil Vog and what is his music about? And the question begs, have you ever met a Bhangra artist wearing a cowboy hat?**

**Dil Vog.** I've been around for a while, I started very young, and most people remember me for the songs Kabhi Kabhi, Oy Ah Jo, Den Bhangra Paunda, and Let's

Dance which was a mainstream club hit. It's been a great ride through the years. I've always strived to make bhangra accessible to the West and I think I've made a pretty good dent through my touring and album releases. Along the way it's been an interesting journey with great high points and a few low points that every musician goes through.

**Dil Vog has performed over 1500 shows so far, is that important, the performing aspect?**

**Dil Vog.** Yes! As a performer it's the ultimate to be on stage and making people dance and sing along and just enjoy themselves, the more the audience has fun, the more fun it is on stage. Whether it's a small crowd, a big crowd or even for a film camera while making a video, it's still a thrill. It's what keeps me going.

**Why did you wait so long between cds?**

**Dil Vog.** I had stepped aside for a few years to do some family things and take care of business at home. An evening by chance handshake introduced me to a local Business man, Dave Johl who basically put his money where his mouth is. Many people have told me that I should do another cd but no one was willing to foot the bill. Dave did. I introduced Dave to a long time friend of mine, Roger Levens, who owns Greenhouse studio's, Little Mountain Sound and Song City and has worked with Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Nickelback, Cher, and a lot of other high profile artists. Roger kicked in all the studio time, which showed me that he also wanted this to work and was on the team. We all decided that we wanted to make Bhangra accessible to the mainstream big time.

**Do you perform solo or do you have a band?**

**Dil Vog.** I do some solo shows which feature me on acoustic guitar and a dhol player, but I also have a band that really rocks. It's kind of funny how I found everyone. It's like God presented them to me one at a time for a reason. Mal Kalar plays all the really hard guitar stuff and he let's me handle the easy cowboy chords as he calls them. He really keeps the band in check. Andy Baryer is a young, fantastic, energetic musician and producer who handle a bass guitar like he was born to play it. Rick Dhaliwal plays drums and has played with some of the most popular Bhangra artists in the world. Preet Reyat is solid and fun and has his own Dhol School. When he smacks down those rhythms there is no mistaken that Bhangra has arrived. Rick and Preet together create this Rhythmic assault

that makes you wanna dance. The band sounds great. I'm still looking to add a keyboardist or even an accordion player to the mix. I'm in no hurry, I'm sure he or she will show up just like everyone else did.

**Dil Vog's news album entitled Indian Groove has just been released. What is the story behind that?**

**Dil Vog.** With Indian Groove the point is to have songs that would feature Bhangra rhythms in a way that would be interesting to Indians and Non Indians.

I hear a lot of people nowadays talking about making Bhangra songs and music accessible to the non Indian folk. But I don't see how you can do this unless you make the lyrics accessible and that means some English lyrics. Indian Groove features English, Hindi and of course Punjabi lyrics all based around the traditional Indian instruments, the dhol, dholak, tabla, with synths, electric guitars and drums. I am really happy with the album. I've even put Kabhi Kabhi on it! I wasn't looking to redo that song. It just happened that way. I've always sang it and I've always enjoyed singing it. It's one of my all time favorites. Kabhi Kabhi is just one of those songs that can mean so many different things. If you ever watch the movie, you'll see what I mean. I just love the song.

**And so what is next for you?**

**Dil Vog.** I was in India for a while and there is a lot of interest in what I'm doing, I've signed a great deal with one of India's top progressive labels, Times Music and am in the process of shooting another video to be released in India in December. I'm excited about the prospect of breaking into that market. The album will also be released in the U.S. and the rest of world in the New Year.

Photos by Joti Dhaliwal

**One last question what's with the cowboy hat on the album cover?**  
**Dil Vog.** To keep my head warm!

**Dil Vog Discography**

Albums  
'Dal'  
'Oy Ah Jo' EP  
'The New World'  
'Elephant Head'  
'Indian Groove' 2007

For more info on Dal Dil Vog go to [www.dilvog.com](http://www.dilvog.com)