

## Arts &amp; Entertainment

## Ajay Mehta in Indian-themed Fox TV Show

By ASHFAQUE SWAPAN  
India West Staff Reporter

Actor Ajay Mehta, now a familiar face to U.S. television viewers, thanks to his ubiquitous Anglicized tagline "Cardboard? No, Delicious? Yes!" in a cereal advertisement, did a powerful, dramatic turn in a brief role in a recent episode of the Fox television show "Lie to Me."

The South Asian-themed episode revolved around the mysterious suicides of young immigrant women of Indian descent.

When two women jump off the

same bridge to their deaths, it attracts the attention of investigator Dr. Cal Lightman (British actor Philip Roth), the central character of the show.

Lightman heads a team of experts at The Lightman Group who assist federal law enforcement, government agencies and local police with their most difficult cases.

Lightman can detect the truth by analyzing a person's face, body, voice and speech. When someone strugs his shoulder, rotates his hand or raises his lower lip, Lightman knows he's lying. By

analyzing facial expressions, he can read feelings — from hidden resentment to sexual attraction to jealousy.

As Lightman probes, the truth unravels gradually with many twists. It turns out that the women were Indians whose visas had expired and they were undocumented workers. They were being exploited by a corrupt group with a hidden, lucrative agenda.

In addition to Mehta, several other actors of South Asian descent play cameo roles. Rare for a U.S. television show, there are stretches of Hindi dialogues as well.

As conservative and sometimes strict values of the Indian family of the decedent come in conflict with the aggressive investigation of a series of murders, sports tip, Lightman himself is also troubled personally as he continues the investigation while wrestling with his inner demons as he revisits an old case of a suicide.

There is the odd blip — including an overdone Indian accent — but overall, it's a treat without made along the lines of similar shows like "Without a Trace," "Cold Case," and "CSI" (Mehta has appeared in all three). The show is marked by stylish production values, a dark, brooding ambience, and a fast-paced storyline.

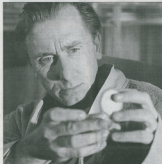
The show is inspired by the scientific discoveries of Dr. Paul Ekman, a real-life specialist who



Ajay Mehta, whose previous television credits include "Law and Order" and "Sex and the City," appeared in a recent episode of "Lie to Me."

can read clues embedded in the human face, body and voice to expose both the truth and lies in criminal investigations.

Ajay Mehta's previous television credits include "Nip/Tuck," "Law and Order," "Sex and the City" and "Frankie's."



British actor Philip Roth, who plays investigator Dr. Cal Lightman, the main character in the Fox television show "Lie to Me."

