

York University honors India's 'nightingale' and launches campaign

A Unionville pediatrician helped bring about a significant event for the East Indian community recently. Dr. Rasik Morzaria is co-chair for the fundraising campaign for Indian Studies at York University.

A September 20 tribute dinner and special convocation was held for Lata Mangeshkar and raised \$100,000 towards a goal of \$2 million for an Indian Studies Centre. Says Morzaria, "We'd like to have the centre ready to launch during the 50th anniversary of the independence of India in 1997."



Lata Mangeshkar honored at tribute dinner and special convocation.

And Lata Mangeshkar has assured us she will come back for this launch.

Mangeshkar is India's legendary artist and singer. She performed a concert at the SkyDome September 24, on her Concert of the Century tour of North America. She has been described as India's best loved nightingale who has been cherished for 52 years. During her interviews Mangeshkar said "Music is God's most beautiful creation, but in my belief, music is God and God is music." She added that Canada is a special place because of the respect and love she has received that has overwhelmed her.

The late Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India once

sought the singer out after a concert and said he was so moved by her performances that she made him cry.

York University recognized Mangeshkar for her lifetime achievements as an artist, and for her contributions to contemporary culture as both a performer and role model.

She received a Doctorate of Letters during a special convocation ceremony during the tribute dinner at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre. The ceremony was only the second off site degree presented by the university.

The 12 course dinner was catered by Markham's Sunita Goel of Mayur Foods.

York University's links with India originated in the late sixties and early seventies with the development of Indian Studies and the Faculty of Fine Arts. A strong link was forged between York and the Jamia Millia University in India.

The University and the Indian community joined together to celebrate India's 40th anniversary of Independence at York at an international conference and arts festival.

Her last performance in Toronto was in 1985 when she raised \$150,000 for the United Way of Greater Toronto.

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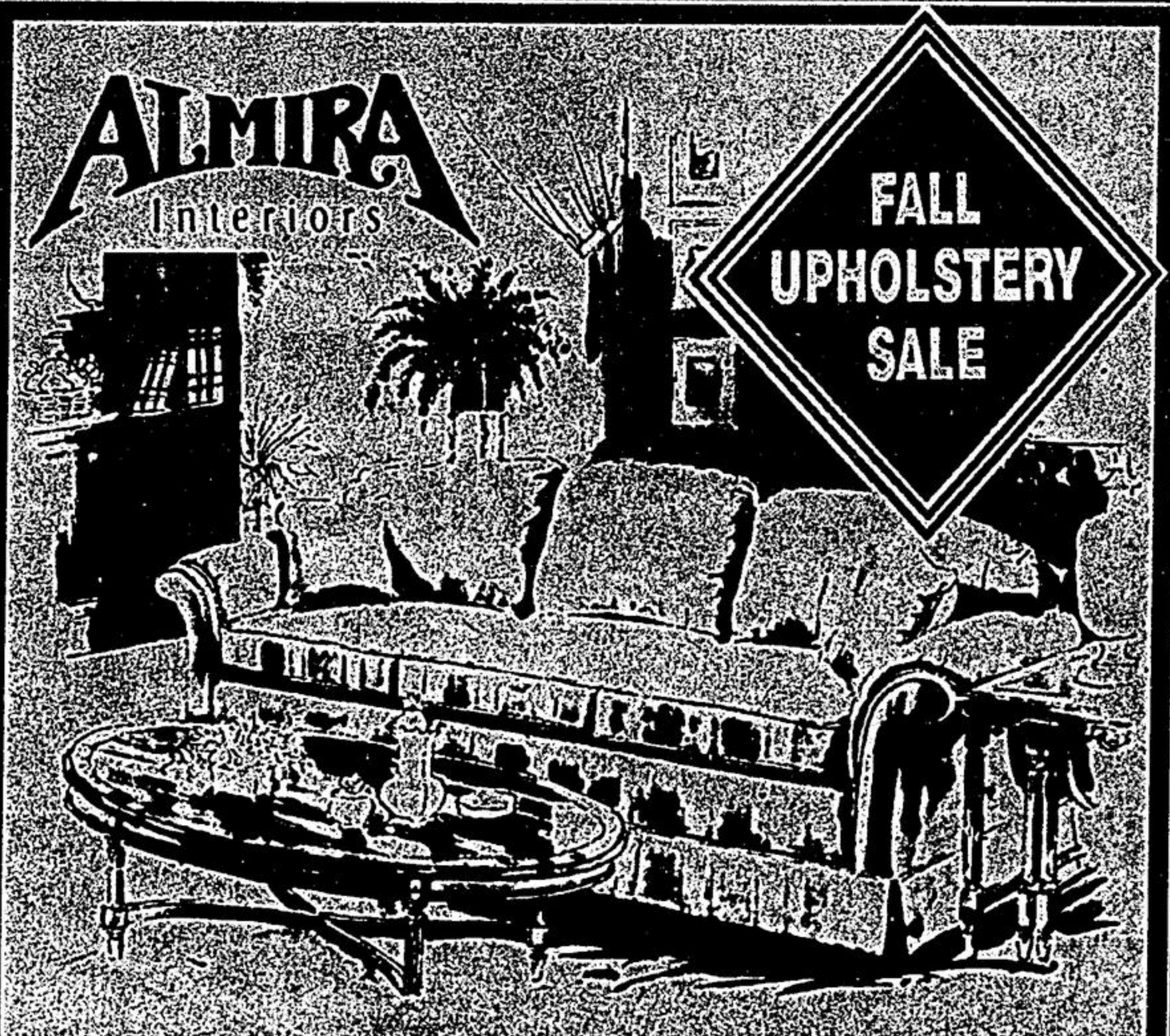
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