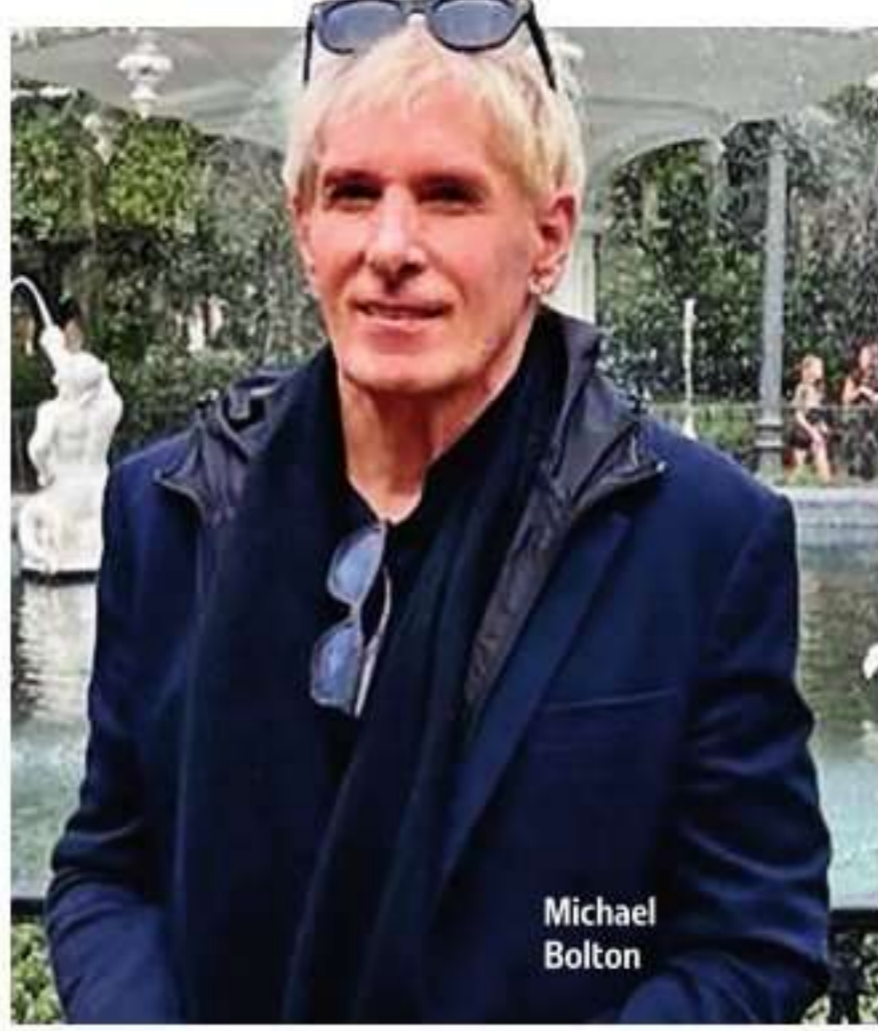


# Michael Bolton reveals he had a brain tumour

In a heartfelt note to fans on Friday, American singer-songwriter Michael Bolton revealed that he was recently diagnosed with a brain tumour and will be taking a break from the stage. Taking to Instagram, he wrote, "Just before the holidays, it was discovered that I had a brain tumour, which required immediate surgery. Thanks to my incredible medical team, the surgery was a success." He added, "For the next couple of months, I will be devoting my time and energy to my recovery, which means I'll have to take a temporary break from touring. I am working hard to accelerate my recovery and get back to performing soon."



Michael Bolton

# Mira Nair, Shaunak Sen join Sundance 2024 film fest jury

Niharika Lal

Filmmaker Mira Nair and documentary director Shaunak Sen have found a place on the jury panel of the Sundance Film Festival 2024, slated to take place January 18-28 in Utah's Salt Lake City. In 2022, Shaunak's film *All That Breathes* premiered at the Sundance fest, where it won the Grand Jury Prize in the World Cinema Documentary Competition. At the 40th edition of the fest this year, Mira will be in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition panel while Shaunak has been invited to be a part of the World Cinema Documentary Competition jury.



Shaunak Sen is in the World Cinema Documentary Competition panel; (right) Mira Nair will be in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition panel



The festival is known for discovering and platforming visionary emerging artists. We cannot do this without our jury, who help us recognise the next generation of independent storytellers  
- Sundance Festival director Eugene Hernandez

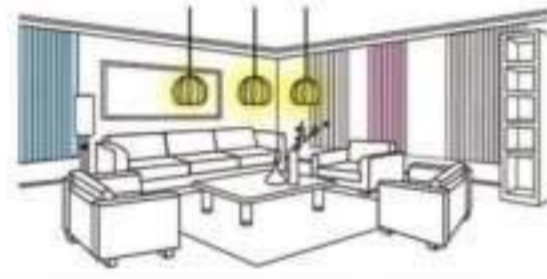


A still from *All That Breathes*

Other jurors in the World Cinema Documentary Competition jury include Mandy Chang, Creative Director of Fremantle's *Undeniable* documentary strand, and Monica Hellström, producer of documentaries such as *Flee* and *A House Made of Splinters*. Shaunak says, "I'm honoured about being a jury member at the Sundance Film Festival. Sundance is a revered, beloved and legendary institution, especially for independent cinema. In my own film and recent career, the high points have often been connected to Sundance. For instance, one of the earliest supports we had gotten was from the Sundance film grant. Thereafter, we were accepted into the Sundance Festival for our world premiere

in the world documentary competition section, and of course, the highest point was when we won the Grand Jury Prize. I feel deeply indebted to the festival and the organisation, of course." The director adds, "What's truly exciting about the jury work is that you sit and watch films picked by a high-calibre programming team. For those nine-10 days, you are watching high-quality films with complete immersion and honesty. So, I can't wait to be in the freezing climate of Park City, Utah, watch films, and experience the festival."

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er-partner and principal architect of an architectural and engineering solutions firm, adds, "Incorporate lightweight fabrics that introduce an ethereal quality. For an enchanting touch,

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## Breathe new life into your home

Want to refresh your home this year? Follow these suggestions for an effortless makeover



intersperse small fairy lights behind the curtain folds so that they emanate a subtle radiance."

**SPRUCE UP YOUR KITCHEN**  
If you wish to create a better-looking kitchen, start by changing the hardware on the cabinets. Opt for materials like brushed brass or polished nickel for a timeless and luxurious touch. Consider matte black or stainless-steel finishes for a modern and sleek aesthetic, suggests Choudhary. She further

details, "Incorporate under-cabinet lighting in your kitchen to showcase decorative items or other details. Put up dimmable ceiling fixtures for a novel appeal. If possible, beautify the main wall with artwork and shelves to play with colour and texture, and incorporate glass-front cabinets with captivating focal points." She also reminds that installing energy-efficient appliances can help you save on utilities and reduce your carbon footprint in the new year.

**EMBRACE SIMPLE ENHANCEMENTS**  
The right plants can make a room look refined. "Let greenery take centre stage with blooms like Brassia and fiddle leaf fig trees. Whether strategically positioned in a bedroom window nook or grouped in a corner of

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■ Saundarya Jain @timesgroup.com  
As the new year motivates people to make positive changes, it's an opportune time to enhance your

space for a better living experience. Contrary to popular notions, this need not be a costly and painstaking endeavour. Here, experts share some simple and affordable ways to refresh your home.

**RESTYLE YOUR WALLS AND WINDOWS**  
To spruce up any room without much hassle, give the walls a makeover. Apoorva Shroff, the founder and principal designer of a design atel-

ier in Mumbai, mentions, "A thoughtfully selected wallpaper can elevate an ordinary space into one that exudes luxury. From understated corduroy prints to striking gold leaf patterns, you can explore extensive options. However, be mindful of the room's colour palette and lighting to achieve a harmonious effect." On the other hand, if you wish to paint the walls, Monika Choudhary, MD and growth strategist of a multidisciplinary design firm, suggests, "Begin with neutral tones as a foundation and then incorporate colour through artwork or decorative accents." For those who want to avoid the inconveniences of a white-wash, it's best to invest in new window treatments to enhance the overall appearance of the space. Choudhary says, "While sheer curtains give a light and airy feel, choose heavier drapes for a more private and luxurious appeal." Vineeta Singhania Sharma, the found-



the living room, these plants can enhance the visual allure of any space and establish a serene environment," remarks Shroff.

Another effortless way to renew your home's aesthetic is by bringing in mirrors. Choudhary opines, "When styled to match the space, mirrors can unexpectedly transform your home. They can bounce light in dim areas and make small spaces look bigger." Nowadays, mirrors in unusual shapes and striking light fixtures are sought after.

**MAKE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ADDITIONS**  
A home upgrade is incomplete without focusing on furniture. Whether you're looking to acquire new items or refashion existing ones, make your home more multifunctional. Choudhary suggests, "Introduce versatile and practical pieces that serve various functions. For instance, consider sofa beds, nesting tables, drop-leaf tables, storage ottomans, or modular shelving units. These pieces can save space, enhance flexibility, and help you declutter. More importantly, look for timeless designs that can withstand

changing trends. Repurposing is also an effective strategy. For example, one can convert an old ladder into a bookshelf or upcycle a vintage trunk into a coffee table." By making these thoughtful interior design changes, you can spend the new year in a home that better reflects your personality and aligns with your needs.

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