

# MISSISSAUGA STUDENT MAITREYI RAMAKRISHNAN TO STAR IN MINDY KALING'S NEW SERIES

## RAMAKRISHNAN IS A FORMER STUDENT OF MEADOWVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Seventeen-year-old

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan was at home with her family this past summer when she received some news that would change her life and career forever.

The Meadowvale Secondary School student had just learned that, out of 15,000 audition tapes, hers had been chosen for a call-back for Mindy Kaling's newest Netflix comedy series.

"Honestly, I don't think it hit me when Mindy told me — it was just super surreal. I couldn't even comprehend how my life would change," she said.

The show, *Never Have I Ever*, co-created by Kaling and Lang Fisher (*The Mindy Project*, *30 Rock*), tells the coming-of-age tale of a first-generation Indian-American teenager.

Kaling had posted an open call on her social media channels after she found the pools of potential actors to be too small, according to an interview with *Variety Magazine*.

Ramakrishnan, who started acting in high school, was encouraged to enter Kaling's open cast call by her best friend.

"We made a day out of it and rented out a little space. It was more of a casual process."

Once she sent her taped audition to the studio, she received a message requesting more footage.

A couple of weeks after



Vinsia Maharajah photo

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan of Mississauga is the star of Mindy Kaling's newest Netflix series, *Never Have I Ever*. The Meadowvale Secondary School student has only been acting for a few years, with her first performance in Meadowvale's rendition of *Footloose*.

that, Ramakrishnan was on plane to Los Angeles for a screening run, to test her chemistry with the actor who would be playing her mother.

After a return back home and one more flight to L.A., Ramakrishnan was on the set to start filming.

It was a straight three-month process where, she says, both the crew and other actors helped each other.

Although she can't comment much on the show it-

self (or her first time meeting Mindy), she says it was a "huge honour and dream to play the lead role" and that she believes her acting has strengthened.

She does admit that the whole process, from auditioning to filming did feel "a little weird," because it all "happened so fast."

As for future plans?

"I'm going to keep trying to get more roles and get more space in Hollywood."