

The Museum of Modern Art

INDIAN FILMS CONTINUE AT MoMA
WITH PANORAMA JANUARY 24



FILM-UTSAV INDIA, the cinema component of the Festival of India 1985-86, continues at The Museum of Modern Art with PANORAMA, Part II, on Friday, January 24, 1986. PANORAMA, which continues through February 23, includes fourteen recent narrative features, all with English subtitles, that represent the diversity and vitality of the New Cinema of India (complete schedule attached).

Many of the films of the New Cinema are preoccupied with a changing, complex society and the status of women within it. Often made with low budgets and small crews, the films display a thoughtful as well as instinctive understanding of the realities of specific regions and cultures. Indian film critic Raghunath Raina distinguishes the New Cinema by its "definitive set of liberal-humanitarian values, embracing progressive solutions to urgent problems, a sensitivity to the plight of the poor and oppressed, a faith in the ultimate movement of man towards change. Drawing its inspiration largely from the neo-realists, it is a cinema of social significance and artistic sincerity, presenting a modern, humanist perspective, more durable than the fantasy world of the popular film."

PANORAMA opens on January 24 with two features: Adoor Gopalakrishnan's Mukhamukham/ Face to Face (1984) at 3:00 p.m.; and Saeed Akhtar Mirza's Mohan Joshi Haazir Ho!/ A Summons for Mohan Joshi (1984) at 6:30 p.m. Gopalakrishnan's The Rat Trap was shown in NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS. Mukhamukham is about a leader in crisis and the political situation in the director's native Kerala. Mirza, whose What Makes Albert Pinto Angry was shown in the 1981 FILM INDIA, has been a vociferous spokesman for the New Cinema.

PANORAMA includes films by and about women. 36 Chrowinghee Lane (1981), the first film by Bengali actress Aparna Sen, features Jennifer Kendal. The film is a portrait of an aging Anglo-Indian schoolteacher and her loneliness, humiliation, dignity, and courage. Phaniyamma (1982), in the Kannada language, is the first feature of the female director Prema Karanth and is based on the real-life story of a child-widow. In Umbartha/ The Threshold (1981), director Jabbar Patel's protagonist leaves the hypocrisy and lies of her husband and family. In Mahesh Bhatt's Arth/ The Meaning (1983), one of the two women in a man's life leaves her traditional role as wife and chooses independence.

Two other directors who were introduced in the 1981 FILM INDIA program are represented with recent works. Ketan Mehta, whose first film was the satirical Bhavni Bhavai, treats student unrest and the decline in education in Holi/ Festival of Fire (1984), also shown in

NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS. Kumar Shahani, whose 1972 Maya Karpan was noted for its originality and lyricism, directed Tarang/ Wages and Profits (1984), a modern epic of urban India.

Historical figures are the subject of two films. South Indian director Bapu's Thyagayya (1981) is based on the life of Thyagaraja Swami, the revered eighteenth-century Andhra poet, composer, and musician. Adi Shankaracharya/ The Philosopher (1983), by veteran director G.V. Iyer, is based on the life of Shankara, one of the most colorful and towering personalities in the history of Indian religion and philosophy. This is the first film to be shot in Sanskrit.

Both Govind Nihalani's Ardh Satya/ Half Truth (1983) and Manmohan Mahapatra's Neeraba Jhada/ The Silent Storm (1984) use popular formats to convey socially conscious themes. Nihalani, whose Aakrosh was shown in FILM INDIA, focuses on the widespread corruption among the forces of law and order in his current film. In Neeraba Jhada, Mahapatra presents the realities of village existence, where dehumanized peasants still dream of a more fulfilling life.

Highly developed characters mark Maya Miriga/ The Mirage (1983), the debut film of Nirad Mohapatra. Selected for the 1985 Cannes Film Festival's International Week of French Critics section, the film is set in the director's native Orissa and depicts with compassion and restraint the pressures and strains of an extended family.

PANORAMA concludes with films from the Ray family. Sandip Ray's first feature, Phatik Chand/ Phatik and the Juggler (1983), is based on a book by the director's father, Satyajit Ray, who also composed the music. The elder Ray's Ghare Baire/ The Home and the World (1984) closes the program on February 23. The subject of the film, which is based on the 1912 novel by Rabindranath Tagore, is the emancipation of women.

FILM-UTSAV INDIA, which is travelling to eleven other cities in the United States, has been organized in the United States by the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives, with the special assistance of the Museum's Department of Film. The exhibition is directed in the United States by Geoffrey Gilmore, film programming director at the UCLA Archives, with the special assistance of Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Museum's Department of Film.

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For additional press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art 212/708-9752

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FILM-UTSAV INDIA

Part II: PANORAMA; January 24 - February 23, 1986

Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, all films will be screened in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 and will have English subtitles.

- Friday, January 24 at 3:00 p.m.: Mukhamukham (Face to Face). 1984. Written and directed by Adoor Gopalakrishnan. With P. Ganga, B.K. Nair. Malayalam, English subtitles. 107 min.
- Friday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m.: Mohan Joshi Haazir Ho! (Summons for Mohan Joshi). 1984. Saeed Akhtar Mirza. With Naseeruddin Shah. Hindi, English subtitles. 130 min.
- Saturday, January 25 at 2:00: Mohan Joshi Haazir Ho! See Friday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m.: Mukhamukham. See Friday, January 24 at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 p.m.: Thyagayya. 1981. Bapu (S. Lakshminarayana). With J.V. Somaya-julu, Rao Gopala Rao, Rallapalli. Telugu, English subtitles. 140 min.
- Sunday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m.: 36 Chowringhee Lane. 1981. Written and directed by Aparna Sen. With Jennifer Kendal, Dhritiman Chatterjee, Debashree Roy. English. 113 min.
- Friday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m.: 36 Chowringhee Lane. See Sunday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m.: Thyagayya. See Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m.: Maya Miriga (The Mirage). 1983. Written and directed by Nirad N. Mohapatra. With Bansidhar Satpathy. Oriya, English subtitles. 120 min.
- Saturday, February 1 at 5:00 p.m.: Ardh Satya (Half Truth). 1983. Directed and photographed by Govind Nihalani. With Om Puri, Smita Patil. Hindi, English subtitles. 130 min.
- Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 p.m.: Neeraba Jhada (The Silent Storm). 1984. Screenplay and direction by Manmohan Mahapatra. With Hemanta Das. Oriya, English subtitles. 120 min.
- Sunday, February 2 at 5:00 p.m.: Holi (Festival of Fire). 1984. Ketan Mehta. With Sanjeev Gandhi, Rahul Ranade, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri. Hindi, English subtitles. 120 min.
- Friday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m.: Ardh Satya. See Saturday, February 1 at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.: Maya Miriga. See Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m.: Holi. See Sunday, February 2 at 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 8 at 5:00 p.m.: Neeraba Jhada. See Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.: Umbartha (The Threshold). 1981. Dr. Jabbar Patel. With Smita Patil, Girish Karnad. Marathi, English subtitles. 120 min.
- Sunday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m.: Tarang (Wages and Profits). 1984. Kumar Shahani. With Amol Palekar, Smita Patil, Girish Karnad, Om Puri. Hindi, English subtitles. 171 min.
- Friday, February 14 at 2:30 p.m.: Tarang. See Sunday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.: Umbartha. See Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m.: Arth (The Meaning). 1983. Written and directed by Mahesh Bhatt. With Kulbushan Kharbanda, Shabana Azmi. Hindi, English subtitles. 140 min.
- Saturday, February 15 at 5:00 p.m.: Phaniyamma. 1982. Produced, written, and directed by Prema Karanth. With L.V. Sharada Rao, Baby Pratima. Kannada, English subtitles. 109 min.
- Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m.: Phaniyamma. See Saturday, February 15 at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 16 at 5:00 p.m.: Arth. See Saturday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 21 at 2:30 p.m.: Adi Shankaracharya (The Philosopher). 1983. Written and directed by G.V. Iyer. With S.D. Banerjee. Sanskrit, English subtitles. 170 min.

- Friday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.: Phatik Chand (Phatik and the Juggler). 1983. Sandip Ray.
With Rajib Ganguly, Kamu Mukherjee, Haradan Banerjee. Bengali, English subtitles. 110 min
- Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m.: Phatik Chand. See Friday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.: Adi Shankaracharya. See Friday, February 21 at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m.: Ghare Baire (The Home and the World). 1984. Script, music,
and direction by Satyajit Ray. With Soumitra Chatterjee, Swatilekha Chatterjee, Gopa
Aich, Jennifer Kendal. Bengali, English subtitles. Print courtesy of European Classics.
140 min.
- Sunday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.: Ghare Baire. See Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m.