

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel: 212-708-9400 Cable: MODERNART Telex: 62370 MODART ENTRANCE at 18 W. 54  
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## COMPLETE RETROSPECTIVE OF MERCHANT IVORY FILMS TO BEGIN DECEMBER 8 AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

This year marks the twenty-first anniversary of the founding of Merchant Ivory Productions, a remarkable and enduring collaboration among producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and novelist-screenwriter Ruth Praver Jhabvala. In honor of this occasion, the Department of Film is presenting a comprehensive retrospective, MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTIONS: TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF FILMMAKING, from December 8 through December 30 in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

The Merchant-Ivory-Jhabvala works encompass short films and features, films made initially for television and for the big screen, documentaries and fictional works and blends of both. Many of the most distinctive Merchant Ivory films--including Shakespeare Wallah and the current Heat and Dust--were set and shot in India and focus on the uneasy encounter between Western and Eastern values. Yet this team is equally at home with American subjects, as evidenced by Roseland and The Wild Party, the latter an idiosyncratic view of Hollywood in the 1920s. In addition to their satirical eye for social nuances and their rare literary bent, the Merchant Ivory films also feature a host of memorable performances, both from Indian stars (including Shashi Kapoor and Saeed and Madhur Jaffrey) and such Western performers as Julie Christie, Maggie Smith, Lee Remick, Alan Bates, and James Mason.

The Museum's retrospective will range from works made before the Merchant Ivory collaboration began--among them James Ivory's 1957 short, Venice: Theme and Variations, and Ismail Merchant's 1960 production The Creation of Woman--through excerpts from the work-in-progress The Bostonians, based on Henry James's novel, to be released in 1984. On the opening day of the series, the Museum will

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screen the very first Merchant Ivory production, The Householder, and the 1983 The Courtesans of Bombay, a semi-documentary that marks Ismail Merchant's debut as a feature director.

In conjunction with this series, the British Film Institute and The Museum of Modern Art have co-published The Wandering Company: Twenty-One Years of Merchant Ivory Films, written by John Pym, a senior editor of Sight and Sound. The book is available in softcover for \$8.95 and features 118 black-and-white illustrations and a running commentary written by James Ivory.

The Department of Film gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of American-International Pictures, The Asia Society, Columbia Pictures, London Weekend Television, National Film Finance Corp., New World Pictures, Polytel International, Twentieth Century-Fox, Universal Classics, Walter Reade, WNET-TV, Merchant Ivory Productions, and the British Film Institute.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500. For a recording of the daily film schedule, phone 708-9490.

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 For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 (212) 708-9752.  
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## SCHEDULE

### MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTIONS: TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF FILMMAKING

- Thu. 12/8    2:30 The Creation of Woman. 1960. Charles Schwep.  
Produced by Ismail Merchant. 14 min./The Householder.  
1963. James Ivory. With Shashi Kapoor. 101 min.
- 6:00 The Courtesans of Bombay. 1983. Ismail Merchant.  
With Saeed Jaffrey. 73 min./Excerpts from The Bostonians.  
1984. James Ivory. With Christopher Reeve, Vanessa  
Redgrave, Jessica Tandy. ca. 30 min.
- Fri. 12/9    2:30 Mahatma and the Mad Boy. 1974. Ismail Merchant.  
27 min./Autobiography of a Princess. 1975. James Ivory.  
With James Mason, Madhur Jaffrey. 59 min.
- 6:00 Jane Austen in Manhattan. 1980. James Ivory. With  
Anne Baxter, Robert Powell, Sean Young. 111 min.
- Sat. 12/10    2:30 Shakespeare Wallah. 1965. James Ivory. With Shashi  
Kapoor, Felicity Kendal, Geoffrey Kendal. 125 min.
- 5:00 Roseland. 1977. James Ivory. With Geraldine Chaplin,  
Christopher Walken, Teresa Wright, Lilia Skala, Lou  
Jacobi. 104 min.
- Sun. 12/11    2:30 The Guru. 1969. James Ivory. With Michael York,  
Rita Tushingham, Utpal Dutt, Saeed Jaffrey. 112 min.
- 5:00 The Wild Party. 1974. James Ivory. With James Coco,  
Raquel Welch, Perry King. 108 min.
- Mon. 12/12    2:30 The Delhi Way. 1964. James Ivory. 45 min./The  
Courtesans of Bombay. 1983. Ismail Merchant. 73 min.
- Tue. 12/13    2:30 Bombay Talkie. 1970. James Ivory. With Shashi  
Kapoor, Jennifer Kendal, Zia Mohyeddin, Aparna Sen. 105 min.
- Thu. 12/15    2:30 Shakespeare Wallah.
- 6:00 Mahatma and the Mad Boy/Autobiography of a Princess.
- Fri. 12/16    2:30 Roseland.
- 6:00 Savages. 1972. James Ivory. With Kathleen Widdoes,  
Sam Waterston, Salome Jens, Susan Blakely, Ultra Violet.  
106 min.

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## SCHEDULE, continued

- Sat. 12/17 2:30 Bombay Talkie.
- 5:00 The Sword and the Flute. 1959. James Ivory. 24 min./Hullabaloo Over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures. 1978. James Ivory. With Peggy Ashcroft, Saeed Jaffrey, Victor Banerjee, Aparna Sen. 83 min.
- Sun. 12/18 2:30 Venice: Theme and Variations. 1957. James Ivory. 28 min./The Europeans. 1979. James Ivory. With Lee Remick, Robin Ellis, Lisa Eichhorn. 83 min.
- 5:00 Quartet. 1981. James Ivory. With Isabelle Adjani, Alan Bates, Maggie Smith, Anthony Higgins, Pierre Clementi. English and French dialogue, English subtitles. 101 min.
- Mon. 12/19 2:00 Sweet Sounds. 1976. James Ivory. 29 min./The Five Forty-Eight. 1979. James Ivory. With Mary Beth Hurt, Laurence Luckinbill. 58 min.
- Tue. 12/20 2:30 Quartet.
- Thu. 12/22 2:30 Helen, Queen of the Nautch Girls. 1973. James Ivory. With Helen. 31 min./Adventures of a Brown Man in Search of Civilization. 1972. James Ivory. With Nirad Chaudhuri. 54 min.
- 6:00 The Creation of Woman/The Householder.
- Fri. 12/23 2:30 Venice: Theme and Variations/The Europeans.
- 6:00 Sweet Sounds/The Five Forty-Eight.
- Sat. 12/24 2:30 Helen, Queen of the Nautch Girls/Adventures of a Brown Man in Search of Civilization.
- Mon. 12/26 2:30 The Sword and the Flute/Hullabaloo Over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures.
- 6:00 Heat and Dust. 1983. James Ivory. With Julie Christie, Shashi Kapoor, Christopher Cazenove, Greta Scacchi, Madhur Jaffrey. 130 min.
- Tue. 12/27 2:30 The Wild Party.
- Thu. 12/29 2:30 Jane Austen in Manhattan.
- 6:00 The Guru.
- Fri. 12/30 2:30 Heat and Dust.
- 6:00 Savages.