

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF THE WANDERING COMPANY: TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF MERCHANT IVORY FILMS

This year marks the twenty-first anniversary of Merchant Ivory Productions, a remarkable and enduring collaboration among producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and novelist-screenwriter Ruth Praver Jhabvala. Their works, which have been made on three continents, encompass short films and features, films made initially for television and for the big screen, fictions, documentaries, and blends of both. In discussing the Merchant-Ivory-Jhabvala team, Vincent Canby of The New York Times has written that their films "speak in their own particular voice. It's a voice that has deepened over the years and become increasingly distinctive.... They remind us that movies need not always stagger us, blow our minds or knock us out to move us deeply..."

In December 1983, The Museum of Modern Art will pay tribute to this extraordinary team of filmmakers with a complete retrospective of Merchant Ivory Productions. In conjunction with this retrospective, the Museum and the British Film Institute have co-published The Wandering Company: Twenty-One Years of Merchant Ivory Films, by John Pym, a senior staff member of Sight and Sound, the British Film Institute journal. Featuring discussions of all of the Merchant Ivory films--from James Ivory's student work Venice: Theme and Variations through this year's Heat and Dust--the book also includes biographies of the filmmakers, a history of their working relationship, and a running commentary by James Ivory himself.

The Wandering Company is profusely illustrated with 120 black-and-white photographs and is available in softcover at \$8.95 through the Museum Store or the Museum's Publications Sales and Service Department.

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