

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

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RAJ KAPOOR TO INTRODUCE AMERICAN EAST COAST PREMIERE OF
FILM-UTSAV INDIA WITH AWARA AT MoMA OCTOBER 25

FESTIVAL



OF INDIA
1985-1986

Raj Kapoor, the producer, director, writer, and actor described by film historian Elliott Stein as "the showman auteur of Indian cinema," will introduce his 1951 film Awara (The Vagabond) and the American east coast premiere of FILM-UTSAV INDIA at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, October 25, 1985 at 6:00 p.m. PROFILES, Part I of this two-part exhibition in New York, continues through December 15; PANORAMA, Part II, runs from January 24 through February 23, 1986.

FILM-UTSAV INDIA ("Utsav" is the Sanskrit word for festival or celebration) is the cinema component of the Festival of India 1985-1986, a celebration of India's rich cultural tradition by arts institutions across the United States. The opening is a joint venture of The Museum of Modern Art, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, and the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives. The exhibition will travel to ten other sites, including the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, The Smithsonian Institution and the American Film Institute in Washington, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

Raj Kapoor's films integrate music, romance, spectacle, and melodrama into unique narrative forms. His cinematic alter ego Raju, who sang and danced and embodied goodness, was a hero to the Indian people. The seven features presented in PROFILES, including his 1948 movie debut Aag (Fire), illustrate the energy and diversity of Kapoor's work.

PROFILES honors both the classical and modern Indian cinema and concentrates on its unique national characteristics. Besides Raj Kapoor's films, works by V. Shantaram, Guru Dutt, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen are included in the program. V. Shantaram's films show the exotic qualities of studio films of the thirties. Raj Kapoor and Guru Dutt made

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classical musicals in the late forties and fifties. Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen introduced social and political themes to Indian films of the sixties and seventies. In addition, four special documentaries, including portraits of Gandhi, Nehru, and filmmaker Satyajit Ray, will be screened with PROFILES in New York.

PANORAMA will present eighteen recent narrative films that indicate the variety and vitality of India's filmmakers, who produce 750 feature films annually. The films in PANORAMA range from popular melodramas to harsh social critiques. Several features, including those by Kumar Shahani, Saeed Mirza, and Dethan Metha, reveal the evolution of Indian cinema from a national form to one that is internationally important.

The films in FILM-UTSAV INDIA will be presented in original language versions with English subtitles. The Festival of India 1985-1986 is publishing two books, Profiles and Panorama, in conjunction with the exhibition.

FILM-UTSAV INDIA has been organized in the United States by Geoffrey Gilmore, Director of Programming at the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives, with the special assistance of Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Department of Film at The Museum of Modern Art, in coordination with the National Film Development Corporation, Bombay; the Directorate of Film Festivals, New Delhi; and the National Film Archives of India, Pune. FILM-UTSAV INDIA is made possible through a grant from the Ford Foundation and the support of the Government of India.

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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.