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"A Work of Enormous Power, Brilliantly Staged and Photographed!"

—THE NATION

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"BEAUTIFUL...
the people
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come to life!"

—TIME MAG.

Satyajit Ray's Devi

(The Goddess)

His First Film Since
"The Great Apu Trilogy"

THE "WORLD OF APU" STARS REUNITED—
SHARMILA TAGORE and SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE
Presented by EDWARD HARRISON

EDWARD HARRISON
presents
A SATYAJIT RAY PRODUCTION

Devi

(The Goddess)

Starring
SHARMILA TAGORE, SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE
KARUNA BANNERJEE, CHHABI BISWAS

CAST

The Father, KalikinkarCHHABI BISWAS
His son, UmaprasadSOUMITRA CHATTERJEE
Umaprasad's wife, DoyamoyeeSHARMILA TAGORE
The other son, TaraprasadPURNENDU MUKHERJEE
His wife, HarasundariKARUNA BANNERJEE
Their boy, KhokaARPEN CHOUDHURY
BhudevANIL CHATTERJEE
Father of sick boyMOHAMED IBN ISRAEL
Professor JarkarKALI SARKAR
DoctorKHAGESH CHAKRAVARTY
PriestNAGENDRA NATH

CREDITS

SoundDURGADAS MITRA
PhotographySUBHRATA MITRA
Film EditorDULAL DUTT
Production ManagerANIL CHOWDHURY
MusicALIK AKBAR KHAN
Music DirectorAMIYANATH MUKHERJEE
Art DirectionBANSHI CHANDRA GUPTA

Based on a story by Prabhat Kumar Mukherjee
On a theme suggested by Rabindranath Tagore
Adapted, Produced and Directed by SATYAJIT RAY
Running Time: 96 Minutes

SYNOPSIS

Kalikinkar Roy, (CHHABI BISWAS) zamindar of Chandipur, is a man of deep religious convictions and a great devotee of the goddess Kali. He has two sons. The elder, Taraprasad is weak-willed, and anxious not to displease his father lest he be deprived of his inheritance. He has a wife, Harasundari, (KARUNA BANNERJEE), and a five-year-old son, Khoka (ARPEN CHOUDHURY).

The younger son, Umaprasad (SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE), whose newly wedded wife, Doya (SHARMILA TAGORE), is a great favourite of her father-in-law, has little in common with his elder brother. He studies in a college in Calcutta, and looks upon his father's religious ostentation as being narrow-minded and old-fashioned. He hopes to get a job in the city and settle with his wife there, in a more enlightened atmosphere. Doya likes the idea but worries about being away from Khoka. The child is devoted to her to a degree that arouses the jealousy of his mother.

One night Kalikinkar has a dream which leads him to believe that Doya is an incarnation of the goddess Kali.

He proclaims the vision, and the helpless Doya finds herself installed as a deity. Umaprasad, away in Calcutta, is summoned by Harasundari, and arrives to witness the extraordinary spectacle of a sick peasant child being laid at the feet of Doya in the hope of a miraculous recovery.

Umaprasad seeks out his father, has a serious quarrel with him, and threatens to stop the meaningless ritual. But he is unnerved by the news of the sick child having apparently survived through the mercy of the "goddess" Doya.

Umaprasad, however, decides to run away with his wife. The two set out at midnight, but Doya is suddenly seized with a fear of retribution.

"What if I am a goddess?" she asks. "That child survived . . ."

Giving up in despair, Umaprasad has to go back to the city, leaving Doya to resume her life of a goddess. Her fame spreads and the number of devotees increase. But Doya has no peace of mind, and keeps pining for her husband and her simple human existence.

At this point, Khoka falls seriously ill. Harasundari, who never believed in Doya's divinity, would have the child treated by a doctor. But her husband is opposed. The child is brought to Doya, and dies in her lap.

Encouraged by his college professor, Umaprasad returns to Chandipur with the firm determination to free his wife from her bondage. But he discovers that he is too late. The shock of Khoka's death has been too much for Doya, and she has lost her mind.

"APU" STAR SOLVED RAY'S "DEVI" DELAY

Satyajit Ray had been toying with the idea of making "Devi" (The Goddess) which opens . . . at the . . . Theatre, since 1957.

What got in the way of progress each time, he explains, was the casting of the difficult central role of Doyamoyee, who had to be young, beautiful, and exceptionally talented. Moreover, her features had to conform to the classical description of a Hindu goddess.

The discovery of Sharmila Tagore to play Apu's bride in "The World of Apu" automatically solved the other casting problem. "Devi" was begun shortly after the completion of "Apu."

Sharmila was 16 when she was cast and still studying at school, with no definite plans to take up film acting as a career. The Father in "Devi" is played by Chhabi Biswas, who has been the leading actor of the Bengali stage and screen during the last 20 years in character and sophisticated roles.

For Soumitra Chatterjee (Apu), his role in "Devi" was his second screen part and therefore the second consecutive appearance as Sharmila's husband.

Karuna Bannerjee, "Mother" of Apu, plays the elder daughter-in-law of Biswas.

Ray's usual technical crew worked on "Devi," with Subrata Mitra handling the camera and Bansi Chandragupta designing the sets.

Of all Ray's films, "Devi" had the costliest sets. The proscenium with Greek pillars where worship (in the film) was held, was a studio-built replica of a type of structure which was an inevitable adjunct to the 19th century nobleman's palace.

The outdoor locations were found in a village on the banks of the Ganges in the district of Murshidabad on the border of Pakistan, 150 miles from Calcutta. Thousands of villagers were summoned by drumbeats to take part as extras in the early scenes of the immersion of the clay goddess Durga, and the later ones of the pilgrimage to the human goddess, Doyamoyee.

Over a period of 3 months, 45 shooting days were spent on "Devi."



DEVI

Scene MAT 2A

TEAMED FOR DRAMA are Sharmila Tagore and Soumitra Chatterjee, the memorable lovers in the "World of Apu," who are reunited as stars of "Devi" (The Goddess), the new Satyajit Ray production opening . . . at the . . . Theatre. It is Ray's first film since his widely acclaimed "Apu" trilogy.

LOVERS OF "APU" REUNITE FOR "DEVI"

Sharmila Tagore and Soumitra Chatterjee, unforgettable as the lovers in the "World of Apu," the third in Satyajit Ray's trilogy, are reunited on the screen or the first time in "Devi" (The Goddess) which comes . . . to the . . . Theatre.

The new film is also the first to come from Ray since the brilliant film maker's "Apu."

As in "Apu," Sharmila and Soumitra are husband and wife in "Devi." In the title role, Sharmila, under the influence of her religious father-in-law, comes to be convinced that she is a goddess with divine healing powers. The plot turns on the threat that this condition represents to their marriage.

When it was released in India, "Devi" so shocked some government authorities that it was ordered banned from export. It was freed from the prohibition only through the intercession of Prime Minister Nehru himself.



DEVI

Scene MAT 1A

BEAUTIFUL Sharmila Tagore stars in "Devi" (The Goddess), Satyajit Ray's first film since his "Apu" trilogy, which arrives . . . at the . . . Theatre.

ADVERTISING



"DEVI is a haunting experience. Poignant, fascinating to see... a penetrating and moving drama from Satyajit Ray, a man born to make movies!"

—Howard Thompson, Times



THE FIRST MOTION PICTURE SINCE HIS FAMED "APU TRILOGY"

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Starring SHARMILA TAGORE Presented by EDWARD HARRISON

AD MAT 103

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—Thompson, N. Y. Times

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3p # 36244



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—Zunser, Cue Mag.

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—Winsten, Post

"MOST FASCINATING."

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—Beckley, Herald Tribune

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