

Document Citation

Title	Autobiography of a princess
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Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1975 Oct 08
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Autobiography of a princess, Ivory, James, 1975

Autobiography Of A Princess

(BRITISH-COLOR)

60 minutes of chatter.

Cinema 5 release of a Merchant-Ivory Production. Produced by Ismail Merchant. Directed by James Ivory. Features entire cast. Screenplay, Ruth Prawer Jhabala; camera (uncredited color), Walter Lassally; editing, Humphrey Dixon; music, Vic Flick. Reviewed at N.Y. Film Festival press screening, Oct. 2, '75. (No MPAA rating). Running time: 60 MINS.

Cyril Sahib James Mason
The Princess Madhur Jaffrey
Delivery Man Keith Varnier
Blackmailers Diane Fletcher
Timothy Bateson, Johnny Stuart
Papa Nazruh Rahman

"Autobiography of a Princess" is an extremely talky 60-minute film produced by Ismail Merchant and directed by James Ivory which will air over the public broadcasting tv network soon after its showing at the N.Y. Film Festival.

Film was conceived to shed some light on Royal India, its maharajahs and fabled wealth now that new laws have eliminated most of the feudal ways of years past. By using recently found footage of vintage maharajah activities, Merchant and Ivory, together with scripter Ruth Prawer Jhabala have constructed a story about a princess (Madhur Jaffrey) reminiscing in her London flat with an Englishman (James Mason) who lived in her father's palace for many years.

Stagey chatter seems to go on interminably, brightened only by Mason's perceptive performance as the family friend, one privy to some skeletons in the closet. Ivory's direction is as stilted as the material and the result is boredom. Pic's theatrical prospects are less than bright, though it may play better on television. Don Rugoff's Cinema 5 has it for the U.S. —Verr.