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DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST

India (1969)

Sunday, November 11, 6:15 p.m. CTI Devon Theatre

Director: Satyajit Ray Music: Satyajit Ray

Photography: Soumendu Roy Art Direction: Bansi Chandragupta

Cast:

Soumitra Chatterjee — Ashim Subhendu Chatterjee — Sanjoy

Samit Bhanja — Harinath Robi Ghose — Sekhar Sharmila Tagore — Aparna

Kaberi Bose — Jaya

Simi — Duli

Pahari Sanyal — Sadashiv Tripathi

Aparna Sen — Atasi

115 minutes Black/White

Four friends from Calcutta drive out to spend a holiday in the hills and forests. They bribe a poor caretaker to let them use an estate rest house. They hustle girls, and there follows a series of drunken sprees and adventures with officials, local whores and servants. Through all the casual joking winds the theme of class, power, and money, and manipulation of the poor by money. Ray is commenting on human weaknesses, from sexuality to selfishness; and the gaps of understanding separating people. Yet the film remains a comedy. Ray is most ironic and witty, at the same time showing compassion and understanding for the failings of man.