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AWAARA (The Tramp) 1951

B&W/170 mins Language Hindi Director Raj Kapoor Produced by Raj Kapoor Story K. A. Abbas Script K. A. Abbas, V. P. Sathe Camera Radhu Karmakar Music Shankar-Jaikishen Lyrics Hasrat Jaipuri, Shailendra Art M. R. Achrekar Lead Players Raj Kapoor as Raj, Nargis as Rita, Prithviraj Kapoor as Raju's father Leela Chitnis as Raju's mother For trade enquiries contact R. K. Films and Studios Chembur. Bombay 400-071

Prithviraj Kapoor and son, Raj Kapoor, play father and son who discover their relationship in a dramatic courtroom sequence. Above: Nargis plays the lawyer who defends lover Raj: right: Prithviraj Kapoor, who suspects his wife (Leela Chitnis) of adultery and casts her out of their home

WHAT THIS FILM IS ABOUT





High tension pervades the courtroom as Rita examines Judge Raghunath in the witness stand about his past. About his innocent wife, whom he threw out of his home, the boy that is born to her. And so we are told the tragic story of both father and son.

Judge Raghunath is a conservative die-hard who believes that only the son of a gentleman can become one himself and that the son of a criminal can aspire to no better. But this dogmatic belief is shattered in a terrible way as a tragic event takes place... Bharati, the Judge's wife is abducted by a criminal named Jaggu Daku, in retaliation for having been sent to jail by the Judge.



Jaggu returns the wife but as news of her abduction spreads, so does that of her pregnancy—tongues start wagging. And since a principled Judge can hear only so much gossip about his wife, Raghunath throws her out. And in the rain, in a squalid gutter, with Jaggu leering on triumphantly, Bharati gives birth to a son, Raj.

She takes Raj to Bombay and tries to bring him up in a manner that befits the son of a reputed Judge. She puts him into a school, and there he meets Rita. He falls in love even at that young age; at her birthday party when he has no money to buy her present, he plucks her a flower with a sentimental flourish.

Raj is thrown out of school since he cannot pay his fees (though he does his bit by polishing shoes) and he takes to crime. And so he gets entangled with Jaggu Daku, who has been biding his time for just this. It is through his criminal pursuits that Raj once again meets his lady love. Rita, now orphaned, lives with Judge Raghunath in Bombay. And as true love takes its course, Judge Raghunath frets and fumes, all alone in his large and ornate mansion.

Unable to extricate himself from Jaggu Daku's clutches, Raj kills the criminal. And in the court case that follows, as Rita throws herself body and soul into his defence, at last the truth emerges.



'Awaara': Raj Kapoor as the innocent tramp lured into evil ways by a villain