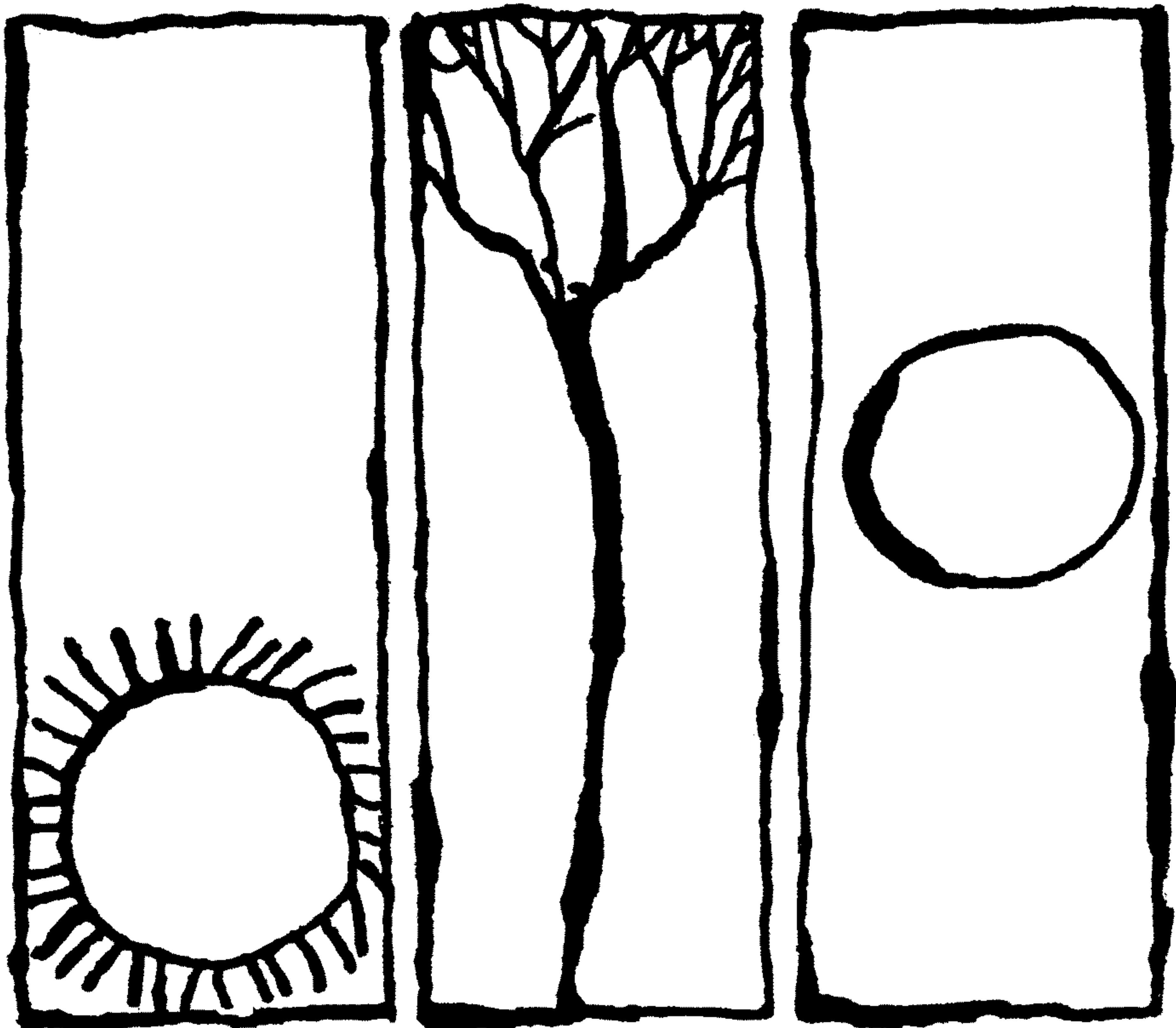


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SATYAJIT RAY'S
**ARANYER
DIN RATRI**

DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST

DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST
A Cinema Guild Release

CREDITS

Director Satyajit Ray
Screenplay Satyajit Ray
Based on a story by Sunil Ganguly
Director of Cinematography Soumendru Roy
Art Director Bansi Chandragupta
Film Editor Dulal Dutta
Music Satyajit Ray
Producers Nepal Dutta and Ashim Dutta
India, 1970. Black and white, 120 minutes. Bengali dialog with English subtitles.

CAST

Ashim Soumitra Chatterjee
Sanjoy Subhendu Chatterjee
Harinath Samit Bhanja
Sekhar Robi Ghose
Sadashiv Tripathy Pahari Sanyal
Aparna Sharmila Tagore
Jaya Kaberi Bose
Duli Simi Garowal
Atasi Aparna Sen

SYNOPSIS

Four friends from Calcutta, Ashim, a promising executive, Anjoy, Labour Officer in a jute mill, Hari, a sportsman, and Shekhar, a jobless parasite with a yen for gambling, leave the cares of the city for a holiday in the forests of Palamau, in Bihar. On arriving, they rent the forest bungalow by bribing the caretaker. The same evening, exploring in the woods, the friends reach a local wine shop. While they sit drinking, an attractive tribal girl, Duli, comes to them begging for money to buy drinks. Hari, attracted to her, gives her a large tip.

Next morning, Shekhar wakes up to the sound of female voices. Outside, he spots two sophisticated young girls promenading in the woods. Excited but disbelieving, the friends later confirm the news from Lakha, a local errand boy. With a little luck, the holidaying foursome reach the cottage where they introduce themselves to the Tripathi family -- father Sadashiv, daughter Aparna, widowed daughter-in-law Jaya and her eight-year-old son, Tablu. Ashim is immediately attracted to Aparna, who, however, has reservations.

In a series of later events, the boys find themselves caught in a complex mix of relationships. Ashim, particularly, begins to lose his grip over the group. At this stage, the conservator of forests arrives and orders the boys to vacate the bungalow they had acquired illegally. The situation is saved by Aparna, whose father is an old friend of the conservator. The officer apologizes.

At a village fair later, which they all attend, Shekhar gambles as always. Hari finds Duli and runs off with her. Ashim takes Aparna away from her sister-in-law and Sanjoy, left alone with Jaya, has to escort her back to the cottage. Hari makes love to Duli in the woods. Later he is beaten up by Lakha whom he had earlier falsely accused of having stolen his wallet. Jaya feels humiliated after her failure to seduce Sanjoy. Aparna and Ashim are friendlier than before. But when the girls have to leave abruptly, to attend a wedding in Calcutta, the boys have nothing left to do in Palamau. Their holiday is over.

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